



# Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

30 November 2018

## **MEDIA STATEMENT: New Chair of Council commencing 2019**

The Christ Church Grammar School Council is pleased to announce effective from 1 January 2019 Mr Matthew McNeilly will succeed Mr John Poynton AO as Chair of Council and Ms Zoe Yujnovich will be Deputy Chair of Council. Professor Colleen Hayward AM and Mr Hamish Jolly have also been appointed to the Council.

After five years on the Council, and four of those as Chair of Council, John announced his intention to step down earlier this year. John's tenure has coincided with a number of significant developments at the School, including the appointment of Alan Jones as Principal in 2015, an external review of the School's governance model, a number of new appointments to Council and the subsequent adoption of a new strategic plan. In addition, there has been a strong investment in new infrastructure with the construction of the Preparatory School building, River Precinct redevelopment, the opening of the St John's Wood playing fields and the recently announced Aquatic Precinct in conjunction with Methodist Ladies' College. John has also provided his time and expertise in the area of philanthropy as the School launches its most ambitious fundraising campaign in the past 50 years, the 'New School of Thought' project.

The Christ Church Grammar School Council extends a warm welcome to Matthew as Chair of Council next year. Matthew is the owner and Managing Director of Sirona Capital, a leading property development business focused on urban renewal. Matthew is Chair of the School's Foundation, is a member of the Building & Development Committee, a former treasurer of the Old Boys' Association (OBA) and former committee member of the School's Parents' Association. Matthew and his wife Tonia have three sons, Myles, Elliot and Emerson, currently attending Christ Church.

Professor Colleen Hayward AM, is Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University's Centre for Indigenous Education and Research and concurrently holds the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) across the University. Colleen comes from a teaching family with both her parents and two siblings having been teachers, and her father was the first Aboriginal teacher, and Principal, in Western Australia. As a senior Noongar woman, she has been recognised for her long-standing work for and on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

Hamish Jolly is a seasoned senior executive and board member with extensive public and private sector experience including investment development, finance and innovation, renewable energy and technology commercialisation. He is also a member and former President of the School's Old Boys' Association. Hamish and his wife Shereen have three boys, Taegan and Donovan who have graduated from Christ Church and Angus who is currently in Year 11.

### **Media contact:**

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