

# The Friends' School, Hobart

## PART A: REPORT

### Achievements/Activities

The Friends' School started its 137<sup>th</sup> School year of educating children in the manner of Friends schools on 1 February 2023 with 1310 students enrolled. This is significantly up from last year's student enrolment numbers. Of those 1310 students, 212 are new to The Friends' School. The School is hopeful that the pandemic and the public health directives surrounding it are behind us. In 2022, Covid-19 had a significant impact upon the health of our community, with students and staff impacted by periods of time away from School. Luckily, due to the widespread uptake of the vaccine, there were no serious illnesses resulting from the high infection rate that the School experienced.

Both the teaching and co-curricular programs remain centred on combining the Australian curriculum and the School's *Purpose and Concerns* in a thoughtful manner. Each Year group has a weekly Gathering (Meeting for Worship). The School continues to focus on the development and implementation of its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Rodney Dillion, a Palawa elder, spoke with all Year 10, 11 & 12 students at the biannual Peter Underwood Peace and Justice Lecture on the Voice to Parliament referendum. In preparation for his lecture, the students viewed episode 2 of the recent SBS program titled "The Australian Wars" which focuses on the atrocities committed in Tasmania during the colonial period.

The redevelopment projects on the Commercial Road campus are complete resulting in 9 new classroom spaces, break out rooms and additional office spaces for staff and students to enjoy. The renovated WN Oats building will be officially opened on 23 March 2023. The Revell Sports Centre, completed in April 2022, has been a welcome addition to the School's infrastructure.

In 2024, a significant re-organisation of student Year groupings will be implemented. Years 9-12 will convene on the Commercial Road campus and Early Learning to Year 8 will meet on the Argyle Street campus. Extensive plans are underway to make the changes as smooth as possible.

The Board is in the midst of seeking a new Principal to succeed Nelson File who completes his tenure at The Friends' School in January 2024. As soon as a suitable successor is hired, the School will share this information with Friends' and the wider School community. As a note, Australian visa regulations have changed dramatically since Nelson File was first hired in 2012. The current available visa would only allow for a two-year period of employment in Australia (renewable only once) if a suitable international Quaker candidate was found.

### Issues/Analysis

To appoint a new Principal for The Friends' School in 2023 to commence in January 2024.

*Report prepared by: Nelson File, Principal*

**The Friends' School Board of Governors:** Craig Stephens – Presiding Member; Mary Beadle, Deputy Presiding Member and TRM nominee; David Edmiston, Deputy Presiding Member and TRM nominee; Natalia Urosevic, Board nominee; Jen Newton, TRM nominee; Tom Dundas, TRM nominee; Sam Ibbott, Board nominee; Lindsay May, Board nominee; Sarah Sealy, Board nominee; Bruce Henry – Presiding Clerk AYM, ex-officio member; Nelson File, Principal, ex-officio member.