



# PMSA Communique

Quarterly news from the PMSA Group for our school community.

Term 2, 2020

## To our school communities

For all of us, it's been a very unusual start to the year. Who would have thought we would be where we are now when Term 1 commenced in January? But with adversity brings resilience, opportunity and ingenuity and that's what our PMSA schools have shown in recent times. Read below about some outstanding achievements and interesting PMSA Group news.

### Outstanding home learning programs thanks to staff

Students at our four PMSA schools started Term 2 with one big difference and each school has received very positive feedback from students, parents and staff about their Learning from Home programs. Each of our schools' programs have been well-developed, tried and tested and are delivering outstanding blended learning models of the curriculum to students at home - whether they're around the corner, across Australia or overseas.

Co-curricular programs such as music lessons and ensemble rehearsals also continue, as do many clubs, activities and sports training at home. Student well-being, pastoral care and keeping students connected are also a large focus of our schools' programs.

We are so proud of and grateful for our wonderful staff who have worked with such agility, care and passion to put together these programs that are truly standing out from other schools. Please see the video we sent to staff just before the Easter break.



### Prayer for a pandemic *by Cameron Bellm*

*May we who are merely inconvenienced*

*Remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors*

*Remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home*

*Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close*

*Remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips*

*Remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult on the economic market*

*Remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home*

*Remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country, let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,*

*Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.*

*Amen*



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## From the archives – Health outbreaks at PMSA schools

You might be interested to know that throughout the PMSA's long history, we have somewhat 'been here before', with schools agilely adapting with the times. In 1919 when the Spanish flu swept across the world, many staff at Somerville House including the school Principals were stranded at Coolangatta when, like today, the borders were closed.

For Brisbane Boys' College, the Spanish flu didn't have as big an impact on staff and students as the recently ended World War. But school routines at our PMSA schools have been disturbed many other times.

In 1932, an outbreak of polio or infantile paralysis kept students under the age of 10 at home for six weeks at all PMSA schools. According to the Somerville House *Honour before Honours* magazine, the PMSA followed the regulations of the Department of Public Instruction set for the state schools to keep children under 10 at home and the boarding house also closed. To continue the students' education, the principals immediately organised a correspondence course and the papers were mailed out to students at home twice a week as far as Southport and the Darling Downs.

In 1934, a mumps epidemic ravaged Brisbane and the BBC's boarding house was impacted significantly with only three of 54 boarders not catching the disease.

Two World Wars, the Great Depression, as well as these health outbreaks have significantly impacted our schools, but the resilience of the school community has shone through each time.



This photo is a page from the Queenslander pictorial supplement to The Queenslander on 15 February 1919, showing Queenslanders stranded at a quarantine camp at Tweed Heads in NSW following the sudden closure of border. We believe the two women in white at the end of the second row on the right are Somerville House Principals Miss Jarrett and Miss Harker (Source: John Oxley Library).



# PMSA *Communique*

## Farewell to retiring Board members



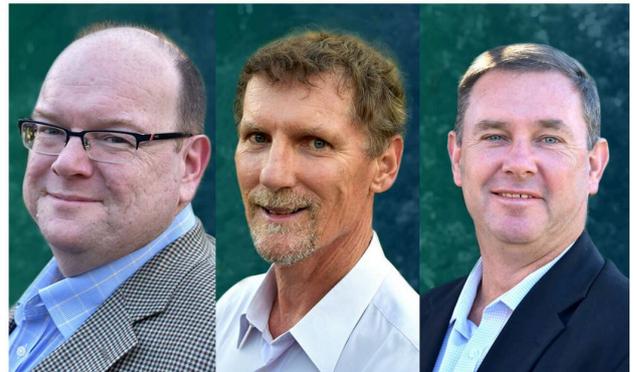
The PMSA Board thanked four retiring Board members – Greg Adsett, Greg Skelton, Con Graves and Greg Braithwaite – in March for their commitment and service to the PMSA.

Immediate past Chair **Greg Adsett** retired following serving his maximum nine-year term and is proud to have been a part of establishing stronger governance, clearer strategy and cultural change for the PMSA. As one of his last duties as Chair, Greg presented PMSA Certificates of Achievement to students at special assemblies in Term 1.

**Greg Skelton** retired from his position following five years on the Board including five years as Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. During his service, Greg also sat on the Appointment and Remuneration Committee for four years.

**Con Graves** retired following his appointment in 2017 and has made a great contribution to the Board. During his time, Con served on the Somerville House Council, the Brisbane Boys' College Council as well as the Policy Committee. He was also instrumental in developing the PMSA's Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

Also resigning his position was **Greg Braithwaite** who was appointed to the PMSA Board in 2018 by the Uniting Church. Greg followed his father's footsteps John Braithwaite who was sat on the PMSA Board and was Chair from 1989 to 1992.



## New member for BBC Council

Experienced lawyer and Old Collegian (1981) **Michael Goss** was appointed to the Brisbane Boys' College Council in March.

Michael has more than 35 years legal experience working in large and small Queensland and national firms on complex matters in banking & finance, insolvency and general commercial law. In addition to his legal expertise, Michael has strong risk assessment and risk mitigation skills.

Michael will apply these skills and his governance knowledge and experience to work collaboratively within the Council in the pursuit of BBC's mission and strategic goals. Michael also takes a keen interest in the development of young professionals in various sectors through structured mentoring.

To see the further details of School Council members, please see their profiles on the [BBC website](#) or [PMSA news](#).





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## Cultural evolution

PMSA Board members, School Council members, Committee members and PMSA Group Office executives came together in early March for a PMSA culture workshop. A key outcome of the governance review, PMSA Chair Morgan Parker introduced the workshop highlighting the importance of evolving the PMSA culture.



## Commissioning of Dr Andrew Cousins

The PMSA Board and Clayfield College Council warmly welcomed and officially recognised the appointment of **Dr Andrew Cousins** as the seventh Principal of Clayfield College in early March.

Reflecting the warm and caring community that is the heart of Clayfield, the ceremony brought together the whole community - students, teachers, support staff, leadership team, parents, past Principals, Old Collegians, College Council members and PMSA Board members - as well as the broader PMSA community and those close to Dr Cousins - his family, mentors, past colleagues and friends.

## Annual Australian Leadership Lecture postponed

The inaugural Annual Australian Leadership Lecture scheduled to kick off Term 2 on Tuesday 21 April 2020 was sadly unable to be held. Designed for our Year 12 students, their parents and mentors, we hope to reschedule later in the year. We will keep you posted.

## More information

If you would like more information about the PMSA or any of these stories, please see our website for news at [pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://pmsa-schools.edu.au), Facebook page [@PMSchoolsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/PMSchoolsAssociation) or LinkedIn page. If you would like to receive information like this Communique straight to your inbox, please let us know your details at [pmsa-schools.edu.au/contact](http://pmsa-schools.edu.au/contact). We also welcome meeting with you directly. Please contact us via email [communications@pmsa-schools.edu.au](mailto:communications@pmsa-schools.edu.au) or phone (07) 3371 0709.

*Sharon Callister*

Sharon Callister, Chief Executive Officer

## About the PMSA

The PMSA owns four of south east Queensland's outstanding independent schools – Brisbane Boys' College, Clayfield College, Somerville House and Sunshine Coast Grammar School. The PMSA was formed in 1918 and is an ecumenical co-operation between the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches to provide education founded on strong Christian values. Operating each school together with a School Council, the PMSA provides the strategy and framework that fosters excellence in teaching and learning, a caring Christian culture, and governance and policy-making support.