Not Shy - but retiring

Although BARRY WEIR (1980—2008 CHS) submitted his paperwork last year, the horizon for retirement looked somewhat distant and too quiet. Although, the nominated last day was Friday 11th April, no word was heard about vacancies, nor placements. One could have assumed that Barry would have a finishing date but be required to replace himself for the rest of the year! Not So.

Out of the remarkable blue from staffing a vacancy was declared, codes presented and a match was made on service transfer in a 2 day turn around.

Last Thursday Kelvin Chan (Evans H.S.) spent the day with members of the LOTE faculty as orientation along with Barry.

As memorabilia from the 40th Anniversary celebrations last year indicated, Barry has received ‘institution status’ at our school. His resume with Carlingford is at this time only, too crammed with excellence and significance to do justice in this newsletter. This will be undoubtedly done at a less rushed occasion to do justice to not only his contribution to Carlo and all the students he has loved throughout these 29 years but to his service to education since 1968.

Kate Stockdale mentioned in this hurried and sudden schedule of ours, that there is an opportunity to gather on Friday 11 April in the Common Room to say farewell. Sometime later a more formal dinner has been mooted and all of us will get an opportunity to have a more appropriate and fitting occasion to celebrate Barry’s achievements in Education, at Carlingford High School, and in particular in the LOTE faculty.

Barry must have memories to speak and write about, no doubt some quite censorial and maybe somewhat delicious.

Thank you Barry for your outstanding contribution for the students at Carlingford High School and for your wonderful, supportive, generous collegiality to staff past and present throughout your years at this school. You will be missed.

Best Wishes to you and your family.
Robert Clarke
Principal

Congratulations Matthew Palmer (Social Science)

Another staff change is to occur at the end of this term. A couple of weeks ago, Matthew was successful at interview for the position of Head Teacher Secondary Studies at Arthur Phillip High School beginning on Day One Term 2. In the relatively short time Matthew has been with us he has worked closely working with students in Stage 4 with the Rock and Water Program, Year 8 Adviser, served as Federation Representative, been a significant collegial member of the Middle Schooling Professional Learning Group forging links with our neighbouring school Roselea Public School and of course a competent professional colleague in the Social Science Faculty.

Matthew Palmer has been an active participant in the life of the school and will be missed. Congratulations and best wishes in your career in Public Education.

Mr Joshua Webb (ex Randwick Boys High School) will be Matthew’s replacement as a permanent member of staff from Day One Term 2.
MARGARET ANNE HEGARTY
As the sixth Principal of the school in 2000, I met Margaret as the Enrolments Officer. She soon took on the role of relieving SAM for the school. The transition was smooth and intelligently planned.

At the time of the redesign of the Administration area Margaret found her strengths. She had had plenty of experience in managing principals, staff and students and good training from her mentors and supervisors to take on the role and put her own stamp on the position. Many staff changes occurred with various members of the administration staff making life choices, going part-time, taking various combinations of leave and having retirement as a realistic goal in the near future. Sometimes to make sense of it all, the Principal had to have a staffing map to know who was working in who’s position and for how long. Nevertheless Margaret managed this complexity ensuring the smooth running of the school’s admin operations and providing a service.

Realistically, Margaret ‘cut her teeth’ on many changes to the way the administration was to be organised in both a physical and organisational sense to best support the school’s community. There were changes in the senior executive and executive where it became Margaret’s responsibility to “train up” executive to the necessary operations of the school. Along with changes in the teaching staff, Margaret’s leadership was also characterised by change and therefore the necessary flexibility and resourcefulness was required of her when changes appeared to constantly occur. It was important to have Margaret as a member of the executive team to contribute to the leadership of the school and work together with the teaching staff in matters of finance, administration and staffing support. This was new a school with increased income, where Margaret was a leader of a staff of thirteen, a leader of a public institution with a turnover of over $3million dollars, of substantial allocations of monies to KLAs and administering monies for the project management of principal projects for the enhancement of the school. Margaret Hegarty has made an incredible contribution to the healthy financial life of this school and I have used the label of ‘Finance Manager’ instead of SAM because to me it reflects the importance of her work, her role in the school and the duties and work hours she has performed throughout the time I have known her. It has also been a pity that between the DET and the PSA the work of people with Margaret’s expertise and responsibility have not either been recognised nor remunerated. Margaret knows her status in my eyes is high, equal and respected and I have appreciated all that she has done for the staff under her responsibility, the school and especially for me.

Essentially Margaret has emphasised through her actions and work ethic a high level of professionalism and interpersonal skills. In any one day Margaret would have countless interruptions, enquiries, complaints and frustrating experiences in a workplace of 100 staff and 1100 students and their families. She is often here well before most staff and leaves later than most. Throughout all this Margaret can still spin a good yarn and find cause to laugh. I would like to believe that she also enjoyed a high level of job satisfaction.

These words are cheap and our English language can be so inadequate when trying to capture my deep level of appreciation and regard for our partnership. We moved fairly quickly to a level of knowledge and understanding about our roles, intentions and motivations that enabled both of us to operate so effectively that we were almost predictable in our assumptions about each other’s viewpoints on school matters. We found accord on matters financial because they were motivated by what’s good for Carlo and for the students we serve. We thrived on a project, on challenges and worked hard on solutions to difficult situations and we did this together and with respect for each other and as people.

Congratulations Margaret Hegarty on a fantastic contribution to education and to Carlingford High School.

Robert Clarke
Principal