

**SKYLINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018
CHAIR'S REPORT**

TUESDAY 19 JUNE, 2018

The last twelve months have seen significant growth in Skyline's

- operational capacity / business management
- number of students
- capacity to attract large and engaged donors
- alumni development and engagement.

The impact of the program continued to be rated extremely highly by students, as they graduated in record numbers from Year 12.

1. Operational / business management

A consultancy report on the organisation structure and functions required to deliver Skyline's vision for the future was conducted in Dec 2017-Jan 2018. Position descriptions and a new organisation structure were approved by the board, along with improvement of many processes in such things as employment agreements and knowledge management.

As a result of the recommendations in this report, the Skyline board conducted a comprehensive talent search for an inaugural CEO throughout the first half of 2018. We were delighted to appoint the highly experienced Ms Jane Sydenham-Clarke to the role in April 2018.

With the new CEO in place, there is a significant reduction in the expectations of board members in terms of operational matters, with the following functional capability being taken over by Jane:

- employment agreements and performance management of staff (excluding the CEO)
- operational planning according to the strategic plan
- financial and budget reporting – monthly and quarterly
- information / knowledge management
- office processes (procedural documentation) and management (including induction, office rental, phone and internet etc)
- evaluation documentation and process
- brand and communications
- website maintenance
- event management

I acknowledge our Program Managers, Olwyn Gray, Jo a'Beckett and Regina Bishop, for the way they have so successfully and professionally built and delivered the Skyline program to its current capacity.

I also acknowledge the work of Alicia Rennie who moved on from Skyline in March this year, along with our two new staff, Annie Harper and Grace Rankin, who have worked tirelessly since the start of the year to develop the donor engagement and partnerships strategy and actions.

These staff changes mean that the board has been able to focus more on governance and strategy, as we seek to attract new directors with skills as Connectors, Evaluators, Business Controllers and designers, Major Donor managers and Communicators.

Geoff Cullen and James Orloff completed their time on the board, and Alistair Mytton joined the board taking on the additional role of Chair of the Governance, Risk and Finance Committee. Mel Honig, our Company Secretary also completed her time on the Skyline board in June 2018, as we welcomed Cameron March to take on this role for the future.

We are absolutely indebted to these Skyline stalwarts who have given so much of their time and support to the organisation.

The board agreed a strategic plan that set ambitious targets for the pilot program in Geelong as well as new students in the two Melbourne programs.

2. Number of students

A pilot program commenced in Geelong, with 9 students welcomed from Northern Bay College and Newcomb Secondary College.

We also recruited 14 students for our new South East program, which commenced in 2018. The overall number of students supported by Skyline bursaries increased from 30 in 2016 to 48 in 2017 to 71 in 2018.

At the end of 2017, we congratulated another cohort of hard working Year 12 students as they graduated from Skyline. All-19 academically gifted and talented students who began the program in 2016 graduated from VCE and transitioned to tertiary education. This cohort of graduates was the largest in Skyline's history. In total 143 students have graduated from the program.

3. Capacity to attract large and engaged donors

The list of Skyline supporters continues to grow, with increased support from individuals, organisations, and Foundations. In kind support for event including the Chair's Receptions in Geelong and Melbourne were significant and valued in the tens of thousands of dollars.

With their support, we have truly raised the bar again this year. We raised over \$600,000 last year and we need to raise at least this much again this year. Of course, we aim to do more than maintain the status quo when there are so many more students in secondary schools who would benefit from Skyline. Skyline Scholarships exist solely through the generosity of philanthropists who choose to support students, either individually, through foundations or through their corporations. My favourite definition of philanthropy is "the love of humanity". So it is actually true to say that Skyline is funded by people who love humanity. The major surprise and delight was the announcement by our financial patrons, Peter and Areti Arvanitis, who presented a cheque for \$150,000 to the students and graduates at the Chair's event in May 2018.

4. Alumni development and engagement

Through the resourceful efforts of Jasmine Isobe with her co-chair, Priyanka Chakranarayan, the alumni group has undertaken professional learning and activities to reconnect with each other at events including the panel of speakers hosted by Social Garden. The alumni is becoming stronger as the connections between them grow through social media, and the number of past students who continue to attend events in support of the next generation of Skyliners is gratifying and growing.

5. Impact

100% of students who responded to the independent I & J Phillips 2018 Evaluation Survey said that the program had made a difference to their lives, with 63% rating the impact as 'significant'. Over 88% credited Skyline as being an influential factor in their VCE success.

With regard to the wider impact of Skyline's Program, 72% of students credited Skyline with having a 'great' or 'large' impact on their parents, and 50% of students felt that the Skyline program had a 'great' or 'large' impact on their schools.

After graduation and entry to the tertiary arena, students continue to highly rate the Program, and appear enthusiastic to remain in touch with Skyline. The Alumni Committee has moved from inception to reality, and the alumni are demonstrating a keenness to improve their knowledge and skills and, importantly, they are volunteering to become part of the support network for the next generation of Skyline students.

The Future:

Skyline's board aims to assist as many students to achieve their academic potential, across Victoria, as is feasible, practicable and sustainable. 2017 represented a new era for Skyline. We not only saw the growth of participant and school numbers; but equally importantly, saw an increased capacity for the organisation to deliver new programs. This included an increase in the number of program coordinators and a new iteration of the program to cater for regional students.

Depending on funding, the Skyline board is canvassing the possibility of an additional program commencing in 2019 in the North- East/ North-West of Melbourne or the Macedon region, which would bring the total cohort of students to 93, just shy of Skyline's strategic plan of 100 students by 2020.

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Our donors are ever more engaged and passionate about our students. This year I would like to highlight and acknowledge two foundation Skyline partners, who have proved to be game changers for us.

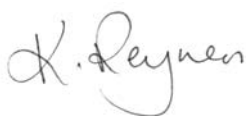
The Rosey Kids Foundation has provided generous financial support to our students for ten years. The Foundation has been instrumental in helping build our Board's capacity to dream big and grow accordingly, with additional funding to build organisational capability. We would not be in the position we are in now, were it not for their faith in us, underscored by substantial financial support.

Oxford University Press has provided dictionaries as graduation prizes since the inception of Skyline, and has sourced nearly all of the VCE textbooks from the publishers, at no cost to Skyline.

The future is indeed rosy for Skyline, as we engage more partners, donors and supporters each month, within the sustainable growth model presented by Directors.

On behalf of the board I sincerely thank all of the Skyline staff, partners, donors and connectors who are helping us to grow and positively impact the lives of more students. We look forward to the year to come, with Jane firmly at the helm, and a sense of confidence in our capacity to grow with grace and professionalism.

Katrina Reynen



Chair
Skyline Education Foundation
