

## 2025 CPPA AGM President's Report

### Andrew Colley

#### Welcome

Good afternoon, and welcome to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Primary Principals Association (CPPA). It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all our members, new members, guests, and sponsors who continue to support the important work of our Association. Especially acknowledge our association members inducted in 2025, Cindy Ahearn, Jay Sutton, Julie Southwell, Justine Smith and Dominika Velebir. And warmly welcome our new members commencing principalship in 2026, Jenny Gorman (St Mary's Kalgoorlie), Rachel Lechmere (John Pujajangka-Piyim, Mulan)

Sarah Williams (St Lawrence Primary School, Balcatta), Jesse Yock (Queen of Apostles School, Riverton), Joanne Scouler (Mater Christi Catholic Primary School, Yangebup) and Jenny Gorman (St Mary's Primary School, Kalgoorlie)

Louise Barber (St Joseph's School, Pemberton) and Clare Bennett (St Brigid's Bridgetown)

#### Goals of the CPPA Association

The CPPA remains committed to:

- Advocating for Catholic primary education and its leaders.
- Supporting the professional and personal wellbeing of principals.
- Strengthening our collective voice within the system.
- Providing meaningful feedback on system initiatives and implementation.
- Fostering collegiality and connection among members.

#### Activities of the Association

Spread statewide we have limited opportunities to gather as a collective however days like today at our AGM and our two members' days held this year offered an opportunity to enhance our collegiality.

#### Members Day 1 – Artificial Intelligence

Held in collaboration with CEWA's Teaching & Learning Digital Team, this day featured Adam Spencer, whose insights into AI sparked rich dialogue. Special thanks to Caitlyn Caputi for outlining CEWA's system direction with AI, helping us understand the evolving landscape and its implications for our schools.

#### Members Day 2 – Wellbeing

Hosted in Mandurah, this day focused on wellbeing- *Thriving through Challenge and Change*, led by Paul Salmon from Springfox. The event provided a refreshing opportunity for reflection, connection, and renewal. The overnight format allowed deeper engagement and strengthened regional ties. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many valuing the balance of professional input and personal restoration.

### Strengthening Our Collective Voice

This year, we've seen continued significant governance changes within CEWA Ltd, including the appointment of a new Executive Director. These changes presented new opportunities for collaboration and influence. The Association has actively sought member feedback to inform our response and ensure our voice is heard in shaping future directions.

Our Association structures—including the timing of meetings, collation of regional minutes, and Pillar reports—continue to support this work. Issues raised through regional meetings are escalated via our Pillars and Secretariat, ensuring targeted action.

### Pillar Activity and Progress – 2025

We acknowledge and thank our Pillar Representatives for their dedication and leadership:

#### **Catholic Pillar – Advocating for Faith-Based Leadership and Mission**

The Catholic Pillar continues to support Catholic primary principals in their ministry as leaders of faith-filled communities. In 2025, the Pillar focused on strengthening pastoral care and connection, fostering a deep sense of belonging within regions and across the Association. A key achievement has been the expansion of onboarding and mentoring processes for beginning and short-term principals, ensuring they are welcomed and supported from the outset. The Pillar also led efforts in recognising significant life events—such as marriages, illnesses, and bereavements—through personal outreach, reinforcing the Association's commitment to care and community.

#### **Primary Pillar – Focusing on Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Student Outcomes**

The Primary Pillar advocates for equity and excellence in Catholic primary education, ensuring the voice of principals is central in shaping curriculum and pedagogy. In 2025, the Pillar worked closely with the CEWA Early Years Team, contributing to strategic planning for early childhood education and a testing framework. A significant achievement was the collaborative exploration of emerging technologies, including the implementation of a Learning Management System to support teaching and learning. The Pillar also provided targeted feedback to the Teaching and Learning Directorate, influencing system-wide improvements and ensuring that primary school contexts are well represented in decision-making.

#### **Principal Pillar – Supporting Leadership Development and Wellbeing**

The Principal Pillar is committed to nurturing effective and healthy leadership across Catholic primary schools. In 2025, the Pillar played a key role in engaging with the Leadership & Wellbeing Directorate to support the rollout of the CEWA Principal Wellbeing Strategy. A major achievement was the advocacy for principal wellbeing initiatives, ensuring that the unique pressures of school leadership are acknowledged and addressed. The Pillar also promoted the use of the 'Duties and Responsibilities of Principals' document as a foundation for professional learning, helping to shape leadership development opportunities tailored to the evolving needs of principals.

#### **Association Pillar – An Association of Support**

The Association Pillar embodies our commitment to being an association of support, promoting open dialogue, the exchange of ideas, and collegiality—both within CPPA and in collaboration with other principal organisations and Catholic Education WA. In 2025, the Pillar has played a key role in facilitating connections across the system, ensuring that the voice of Catholic primary principals is heard and valued. A significant focus has been on liaising with CEWA to offer timely support and guidance to principals in areas such as Work Health and Safety, Information and Communication strategies, and financial and resource management. These efforts have strengthened our collective capacity to respond to change, advocate for our schools, and ensure that principals are well-informed and well-supported in their leadership.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the **CPPA Executive** and volunteer principals who generously give their time and expertise to participate in Pillar meetings throughout each term. Your contributions are invaluable—whether it's advising on key issues, responding to system initiatives, or engaging in meaningful dialogue with CEWA Directors and Team Leaders. Our communication through our newsletter each term aims to inform our wide principal network of the activities of each pillar and provide context about where our advocacy is being placed.

This collaborative effort strengthens our capacity to represent the voice of Catholic primary principals with clarity and purpose. Your commitment ensures that the Association remains a trusted and constructive partner in shaping the future of Catholic education.

A special initiative this year was the development of an organisational chart to clarify how the Association communicates and works with our various stakeholders. This tool enhances transparency and supports feedback loops on new initiatives and their effectiveness in primary settings.

We also sought alliances with peer associations—CPPA, CSPA, CAPA, and CDPA—to amplify our voice on shared concerns and opportunities on these matters.

### Regional Meetings

Our regional meetings remain the lifeblood of the Association. They provide a space to celebrate successes, share challenges, and support one another. The role of principal can be isolating, and these gatherings offer vital connection and uplift.

Thank you to those members who volunteered to be regional representatives this year, organising your local meetings and leading the conversations on CPPA business and matters of importance in your schools. Your minutes are tabled at our executive and discussed in depth noting areas the association executive can assist. Taking the pulse of our networks notes around 85% attendance of all Principals to these meetings, highlighting the importance and value that this network provides.

### Looking Ahead – 2026 50th Anniversary

Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the CPPA. This milestone invites us to reflect on our legacy and look forward with renewed purpose. Planning is underway to celebrate this occasion meaningfully with you our members

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Catholic Primary Principals Association, we are proud to announce the reintroduction of the CPPA Conference, to be held at Crown Perth on 22–24 July 2026. This milestone event will be a time to honour our past, celebrate our present, and look boldly to the future of Catholic primary leadership. The conference will feature inspiring keynote speakers, opportunities for professional learning, and moments of spiritual and collegial renewal. A special focus will be placed on reconnecting with CPPA Alumni, acknowledging the legacy of those who have shaped our journey. Planning is already underway, with the Executive actively working to ensure this event is both memorable and meaningful for all who attend. We look forward to gathering as a community to reflect, reconnect, and reimagine the future of our vocation.

In looking back, I also highlight the work of our association alumni and thank Mr Shane Baker for his role in social event organisation, and communication with our growing list of retired principals. It has been pleasing to see this group grow and continue to share their friendship and collegiality into retirement.

#### Acknowledgements

Today we acknowledge those members concluding their principalship heading to other ventures and retirement. We acknowledge their contribution to our association, and their significant and meaningful work in their schools and communities within our Catholic Primary School network.

Mark de Kluyver, Elizabeth Browner, Jonnine Lamborne, Greg Martin, Andrea Millar, Darren McDonald and Gabrielle Doyle

Including those unable to attend today, Ondine Komnick, Paula MacKenzie, Velma Erskine and Phil Rossiter

I especially thank our association executive for their generosity for contributing to the life of the association on top of their roles as busy principals in their schools. Today I would like to acknowledge the work of the 2025 CPPA Executive: Vice Presidents Mitch Bristow, and Adriana Coniglio; Treasurer, Santino Giancono and Secretary, Nicola Lee; Nic Gaglia, Ben Will, Angela Hegney, Coby Rhatigan, Emma Bell and Andrew Gammon.

Santino Giancono, our outgoing Treasurer, completes his term after three years of dedicated service. We thank him for his stewardship and commitment. Santino's attention to detail in all planning matters and gift in marketing and styling will be greatly missed.

Liv, our Executive Officer, continues to be the backbone of our operations. Her professionalism, alignment with our values, and tireless work behind the scenes—drafting communications, liaising with stakeholders, and organising events with meticulous detail—are deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and more influential Association.

As we approach the end of another dynamic and rewarding school year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work you do every day in leading your communities with faith, courage, and compassion.

May the Christmas season bring peace to your hearts, joy to your families, and rest to your spirits. I hope the holidays offer you the chance to reconnect with loved ones and recharge for the year ahead.



On behalf of the CPPA Executive, thank you for your continued commitment to our shared mission. We look forward to walking alongside you in 2026 as we celebrate 50 years of the Association's legacy and leadership.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a smooth, joy-filled end to the school year.

Warm regards,

Andrew Colley  
President, CPPA WA