From the Principal

One thing is for certain. When you begin to undertake a school-wide planning process, people are not short of ideas for the future. If a mark of a good school is the capacity to self-analyse and consider improvements, especially when much of what you do is going well, then Pembroke is well marked. Over the past term, many Parents, students and Staff have been providing reflections on the School Aims, their challenges and ways the School can improve its ability to meet them. We are not short of feedback—in fact, we have it in abundance. It is reassuring and constructively critical, and I thank those of you involved for providing it.

It is interesting to consider how Pembroke should feel and look when it turns 50 in 2024, which is only 12 years away. I am very conscious that decisions made now will be tested in 2024—how well they have stood the test of time and how well they have managed the many influences they will bear along the way.

Equally, it is fascinating to think about what may not be done. As a 50-year-old School, what is it reasonable to expect Pembroke to have that it may not have now?

As the planning process unfolds over the next year and ideas for the future move from ‘nice ideas’ to good, robust and concrete plans, the Pembroke Community will be called upon to rally around future developments in all manner of ways. It has done so in the past and I am sure it will continue to do so in the future. I think it is a wonderful and exciting time to be associated with the School and I look forward, in the not too distant future, to conveying more explicit information in relation to our planning.

We have not sat idly by in the meantime. There are a number of capital projects, for example, that are being planned for later in the year, and there are some that have already been completed. We are thrilled with the improved KCLC stadium. The new timber floor and renovated walls and ceiling have really made a huge difference to the quality of the facility. The renovations on the Principal’s house are well underway. Classrooms in the Junior School have been transformed with new wall linings and reinstalled windows and ceiling panels to light them up and maximise sunshine coming into the rooms. The additional teacher accommodation and work spaces at Old Watulunga are also near completion.

Plans have been developed for an extension to the Old Scholars War Memorial Pavilion (OSWMP) to provide improved changing spaces for our Old Scholars’ sporting teams. Plans are also available for renovated classrooms in the Mellor/Slade building in Middle School, King’s campus. It is hoped that the classroom renovations will be completed by early next year, and the additions to the OSWMP during next year. The Middle School has also received improved and additional staff preparation spaces.

Capital developments are the most conspicuous evidence of change and improvement but certainly not the only or necessarily the most important. However, it is good that, during this phase of transition from one Principal to another, and while the School takes the opportunity to assess future possibilities, there remains a commitment to completing a range of smaller capital works that improve the quality of our School and in some cases address longstanding resourcing issues.

Mr Thomson
Principal