



# Cynthia Maiden

## St Joseph's Primary School, Hopetoun

*Enhancing Family Engagement, Governance and Stewardship*

The power of Cynthia's leadership is in identifying meaningful ways for members of the St Joseph's school, parish, and wider communities, to contribute to student learning and school life, by creating opportunities for them to connect, both directly and indirectly.

Over the past 10 years, Cynthia has nurtured wonderful relationships across the Hopetoun community leading to family engagement that goes 'beyond effective' to 'collaborative and powerful' with a ripple effect that engages the wider community.

Cynthia has developed supportive, collegial relationships with the State P-12 school and early childhood facilities, driving them to work together to attract teachers, staff, and families to the community - and keep them - by making them feel part of the community from the outset.

St Joseph's is a small school and Hopetoun is a small community of only 600 people. However, Cynthia has turned the idea that small numbers mean less support 'on its head'. Through embracing and engaging the wider school and town communities, the members of the community go above and beyond for their school.

This past New Year's Eve, the St Joseph's Parents and Friends raised almost \$9,000 at a one-night fundraiser!

This community spirit is also embraced by the students, living what they experience, and through what is role-modelled by their own family's involvement.

Cynthia's legacy and commitment to the learning and care of students and staff and her community is so strong, that when she has been absent, delegations are asked for by her staff - such is their desire to keep the community that Cynthia has brought together 'going and growing.'