



## MICHELLE GOLDFINCH'S JOURNEY OF SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS

Michelle Goldfinch's journey with All Saints Catholic Primary School is a testament to her dedication and love for the community. Her connection to the school began in 1997 when her daughter started at All Saints, and Michelle volunteered her time to support the school. "I was heavily involved with the P&F Committee and even became President," she shares. "We had so much fun and brought families together. We hosted everything from fetes to chocolate and bulb drives. But my favourite memory is the 'Shave Off' we organised to support the McGuinness/McDermott Foundation."

That particular fundraiser stands out as one of her proudest moments within the community. "We put out a challenge to the community: if they could raise \$500, a few dads would shave their heads. We ended up raising over \$5,000!" she laughs. Even the then-principal, Mr. Bruno Viecelli, jokingly promised to shave his head if they hit the target. Sure enough, with parents, kids, and even The Messenger newspaper getting involved, the entire school watched as Mr. Viecelli and several parents—including Michelle's husband, and ESO Craig Goldfinch—had their heads shaved in front of everyone. "It was such a proud, funny moment, and Tony McGuinness from the foundation even came to an assembly to accept the donation," she recalls.

In 2014, Michelle's role at All Saints shifted as she officially joined the staff as an ESO. She started working with the junior classes and eventually moved on to the upper grades, including Year 6. "I've worked in Year 7, Year 6, and Year 5 over the years, but the last few years, I've focused on Year 6 and run the QuickSmart Numeracy Program," she explains. Michelle's role has been diverse, as she also took on the Uniform Shop Coordinator position, always happy to pitch in wherever needed.

When reflecting on the changes she's seen, Michelle fondly recalls a different time. "The oval had no fencing, and children played freely at recess and lunch." She laughs, "It's hard to imagine now! No fences, no worries—definitely something you wouldn't see today!" But times have changed, and she's noticed a shift in how parents engage with the school. "There's not as much parent involvement now, which I miss. Back then, families had more time to volunteer and be a part of school life, but with everyone busier these days, it's harder for parents to get involved the same way," she reflects.

Michelle has witnessed All Saints expand significantly. "We've added more buildings, more staff, and of course, more students. It's much bigger than when my children attended, but it still has that close-knit community feel."

Throughout her time at All Saints, Michelle has been an essential part of both the school's history and its spirit. Her contributions, whether as a volunteer, a P&F President, or an ESO, reflect her deep connection to the school and its community. As she looks back on her many roles and memories, Michelle's story is one of joy, service, and lasting impact at All Saints Catholic Primary School.