

# Our Strategic Plan reflected in History.

(Part 4)

**2015**

## **Of Storms and Chalkboards**

### **WE**

In 2015 the unimaginable, unanticipated and unfathomable occurred around the Hunter and Lake Macquarie region. A severe storm event, classified by some as cyclonic, hit the area and caused schools to be shut for up to a week. How does this relate to our school improvement plan and strategic direction plan for 2019 onwards?

As the storm unleashed its fury, the community surrounding Brightwaters took the first course of action. They saw to the needs of the others who were part of the “village”. Brightwaters is built on a foundation of community. The future of our community has its foundations laid in its history of care and love for each other. The families see each other as members of that community and together they are raising the next generation who will take the lead within that community. The storm demonstrated that the resilience of each of the community members was such that the impact was shared and thereby lessened.

2019-2022 will provide further opportunities to grow as a community which places value on the wellbeing of each family and child and undertake the learning journey together.

### **TELLING**

The storm raged furiously for 24 hours during which time communication was at best limited, if not totally absent. Families whose wider family lived outside the affected areas were well informed by media of all that was unfolding. Yet we, who lived locally, had no way of letting them know we were OK. Our local community demonstrated their ability to consider the needs of others and found ways to let others know in the “outside world”.

Brightwaters foundation is built upon a desire to impact the local and broader community/world. Partnerships are valued in how we *connect and contribute beyond our gates, the practical ways in which we serve others and use the skills and knowledge gained throughout the learning journey at Brightwaters.* The storm showcased the limitations of technology and our reliance on electricity in the day to day living. *Here at Brightwaters we knew that since we had blackboards, bright open classrooms and pencils and books we could continue teaching and learning – business as usual.*

In 2019-2022 the ability to communicate using the best of technology, combined with the time-honoured approaches, will be a focus for this generation to showcase what they know and how far they have progressed on their learning journey.

## EXCELLENCE

It was astounding to witness how reliant we had become on the everyday use of electricity and ability to communicate conveniently and with ease. During the storm there were numerous difficulties around the supply of cold storage food, hot water and lighting. Those very things we took for granted, we found difficult to do without for more than a day.

Foundational to every student's learning journey at Brightwaters is that which we may take for granted: the ability to read, write and make sense of numbers. The educators (teachers and staff) at Brightwaters are committed to being continually engaged in their own learning journey so as to bring the best to the ones they lead and teach. When events occur, the students who undertake their learning journey at Brightwaters can be assured of having the ability to independently, yet collaboratively, think and work with a determination to not only survive, but thrive and be creative innovators and shine especially during tough times.

2019-2022 will see the students and staff consider what are the essentials and "basics" of learning and build foundational educational stones upon these. We will then engage and be creative as 21<sup>st</sup> century learners in how we then use these skill and learning attitudes.

## WANTING

No one wanted that storm. No one wanted trees to fall or houses to be damaged. Yet out of that damage and aftermath, there was an immense amount of time and effort spent building from new and considering what was most important. The upside from this was an investment in the future.

Foundational to Brightwaters is the willingness to consider what God wants for our school and community and move from that point onwards.

2019-2022 is a time when we continue to question where to next? What next? How do we move there? Growing our school numerically is a priority but growing it well is a necessity. 2019 is year for **exploring possibilities**. It is a key objective that our endeavours seek to expand opportunities for our children and to further our influence and voice in education.

The 2015 storm was a catalyst for change across the Lake Macquarie and Hunter region.

2019-2022 will be a time when change occurs. All living things grow and change. This is a concept that children as young as 5 learn. Our Brightwaters school community will be experiencing this over the coming years (2019-2022). And just as growing things need essentials, like food and water to survive and thrive, our school community will thrive when placed in a greenhouse of prayer and Godly wisdom.

We saw how God blessed the community through the storm, we will anticipate the blessings He has for us as we step out in faith and He makes our plans come to fruition.