



# **Penrith International Friendship Committee**

## **2017 Annual General Meeting**

# **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

## **November 2016 to October 2017**

Welcome to the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Penrith International Friendship Committee (PIFC).

I was elected to Council for the first time at the 2016 Council elections and I was pleased to be appointed by the Mayor to the position of Chairperson of the PIFC shortly after my election.

It has been wonderful to witness the hard work and continued commitment of all PIFC members over the last year and I would like to congratulate each of you on your achievements. In particular I would like to acknowledge the dedication of long time member and past secretary Ann Platnovic who resigned earlier this year. I would like to thank Ann for her years of service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

The annual Fujieda Student Exchange Ambassador Program, PIFC's most prominent and rewarding program, was once again a success this year. I would like to thank each and every committee member involved in this exchange, its success is due to your hard work and dedication.

This year the Committee endorsed four applications for the exchange program; with chosen students representing Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School, St Marys Senior High School, Penrith Selective High School and Xavier College.

The reciprocal program commenced at the end of July with six exchange students from Fujieda visiting Penrith. While in Penrith the Fujieda students enjoyed an engaging itinerary organised by the PIFC. They loved their stay and were excited for the Penrith students to visit Fujieda in late September/early October.

The Fujieda International Friendship Society (FIFS) also delivered another successful itinerary which the Penrith students enjoyed. I know we are all proud of the way they represented Penrith City throughout their trip.

The PIFC is a voluntary committee and it takes time and effort to run programs and run them successfully. These activities could not be achieved without your hard work and commitment. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by myself, the Council and the students and families who are rewarded by annual PIFC programs.

Unfortunately my time with the committee has come to an end. As we move into 2018 I want to wish you all the very best with your continued efforts as part of the PIFC and I look forward to hearing about your many successes over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Duke', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Councillor Aaron Duke**  
**Chairperson - Penrith International Friendship Committee**