

# SUPPORTER Q&A WITH PHIL MCCARROLL

Phil McCarroll is the founding Chairman of the Mater Dei Foundation Fundraising Dinner Committee. During his tenure, the Mater Dei Dinner has become a “must attend event” which has raised an incredible \$2 million.

*Q How did you first become involved with Mater Dei?*

**A** My late wife Kelva and I were involved in the Mater Dei Golf Day from its inception. When Debbie Gates joined Mater Dei I had a meeting with her to discuss pulling together a Committee of community minded people to organise an Annual Dinner that would raise significant funds to support capital purchases, extra staff and activities that had no government funding.

*Q You have moved away from Camden, why have you stayed loyal to the cause?*

**A** Mater Dei is so much more than simply a School, it is a family and our McCarroll Clan, through Kelva's original connection, feel very much a part of that family. When I have the opportunity to meet with the students I always come away invigorated and this keeps you connected. Additionally when we formed our Fundraising Committee we established goals that we wanted to achieve so I have wanted to see these goals reached.

*Q What have you learnt since you began your connection with the school?*

**A** There are three lessons that come to mind; the first and very valuable lesson is to live in the moment, the students are so good at that. The second lesson is the power of love that the families and the staff show on a 24/7 basis. It is easy for me to breeze in and out of their lives for short visits but for the parents in particular, this a very challenging lifetime commitment. The third is the amazing things a group of passionate and enthusiastic people can achieve when they have goals and set their minds on reaching them, supported by a great community.



*Q What are you reading right now?*

**A** I usually read two books at a time; one a business book and the other a thriller; currently I am reading Start Up Nation by Dan Senor and Saul Singer which is a fascinating look at the economic miracle that 7.1 million Israelis have created and the thriller I just finished is Zero Day by David Baldacci.

*Q If you could be another person for a day, who would you choose?*

**A** I am really happy with who I am but if I was to fantasise, the first thing that comes to mind is the lead singer in one of the big rock bands. I would think the adrenalin rush of performing in front of a huge crowd would be amazing!!