

# SUPPORTER Q&A



**R**ichard and his wife Jo have been supporters of Mater Dei for many many years. He is one of those people who quietly contributes in many ways, attending Dinner, playing Golf, supporting our Two Blues program and our regular giving program. He is a great ambassador, sharing his interest and affection for Mater Dei with his networks, by inviting them to events, and recently bringing a team of his staff to learn more about us and attend our Performing Arts concert.

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

**A** Being a lifelong resident of the Camden region, Mater Dei is one of those organisations that seems to be part of the “fabric” of the local community. Having said that my first memories of any involvement with Mater Dei is from my primary school years at Narellan Public School. A student from Mater Dei (I wish I could remember her name) used to join in our class for one afternoon a week.

**Q** What have you learnt since you began your connection with Mater Dei?

**A** Every interaction I’ve had with Mater Dei, whether it is a visit to the school or hacking around the annual golf day, is a time for self-reflection. You gain an appreciation for the challenges faced by so many and the responsibility that the rest of have to provide these kids with every opportunity to reach their potential.

## WITH RICHARD DRINNAN

**Q** Do you have a favourite story to tell about Mater Dei?

**A** Maybe not a favourite story, but certainly a repeated theme. I’m amazed that each and every time you visit the school the children go out of their way to make you feel so welcome – they are so engaging. If there is a standout performer here, it would have to be Beth, who graduated in 2015 – she was able to make you feel like you were the most important person on this earth!

**Q** Who are the most inspiring people you have met?

**A** I’m regularly inspired by young people doing great things. Two that stand out are Daniel Flynn, the co-founder of the ThankYou Group and Marita Cheung, technology entrepreneur, founder and CEO of 2Mar Robotics. Type their names into your favourite search engine and be inspired!

**Q** What is your mantra?

**A** I’m going to borrow one from Daniel Flynn – “impossibility is only someone’s opinion, not a fact”. It would seem to fit well with Mater Dei. From a personal perspective, I just try to make a contribution and get involved. I’m also a big believer that persistence and resilience will bring rewards – any Cronulla Sharks fan can testify to that!

**Q** How do you like to spend your leisure time?

**A** My leisure time is largely consumed with family, my wife Jo and our three kids – Laura (13), Toby and Emma (11 year old twins) and whatever activities of theirs happen to be on at the time. I also try to make time to keep fit through running and cycling and Jo would also say I spend too much time in front of FoxSports!

**Q** Which five people would you invite to dinner?

**A** I love an entertaining dinner party – could I have the cast of Seinfeld in character? Maybe Frank and Estelle Costanza could join us for coffee and dessert.