

# SUPPORTER Q&A

James Regan is the recently elected Chair of the Mater Dei Foundation and a member of the Mater Dei Development Program Committee. When not busy running his highly successful accounting practice, Regan's Accountants, at Bringelly, James can often be found on his property looking after his racing pigeons, some of whom participate in the annual Mater Dei Great Pigeon Race, an annual fundraiser which James organises.

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

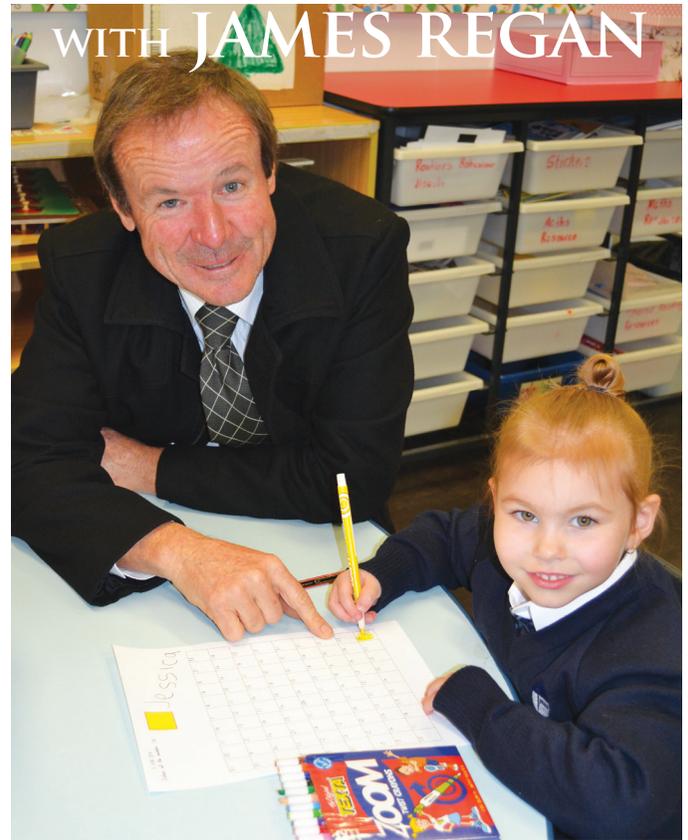
**A** Some time ago, I was introduced to Mater Dei by Debbie Gates. Debbie has been a client, and now good friend, for many years and it was her exuberance about the place that got me interested. Barbara, my wife, and I decided to join the Foundation initially as a way to support the kids at Mater Dei. We then started attending a few of their fundraising events and got to know the people associated with the School and the Early Intervention Program. Shortly after, I was approached by Steve Muter (the then Chair) to join the Development Program Committee. The connection has only strengthened from there.

**Q You have stayed loyal to the cause for some time. Why?**

**A** We are all confronted at various stages with trials and tribulations, however the children and families of Mater Dei are confronted with trials every day and most of the time you wouldn't know it, as they just get on with it. By staying involved with Mater Dei, if those of us who have it "easy" can lend a hand in just a small way, we may be able to help in assisting to make the lives of those children and their families just that little bit easier.

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

**A** The funniest story is definitely the School Captain's speech at the luncheon at the Golf Day in 2012. I had met Joel a few times and he was well known for his outgoing nature, but he absolutely blew us all away and had us all in stitches - a great memory! Last year, I had the opportunity to accompany many of my clients and friends who support my Pigeon Race on a Corporate Tour of the School and Early Intervention Program, and this has probably been my proudest moment since being involved with the school. To share that experience with family and friends was terrific.



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

**A** The association with Mater Dei has taught me to take and embrace everything we can get out of life. To be positive in all we do and to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

**Q Who is the most inspiring person you have met?**

**A** My wife Barbara is an awe inspiring person. She has endured a couple of major health setbacks over the past 10 years, but responds by attacking life "head on". I just follow her lead and feel good about myself.

**Q What is your mantra?**

**A** To be positive and treat others as I would like to be treated.