

SUPPORTER Q&A



Q How did you first become involved with Mater Dei?

A I was introduced to Mater Dei when I came to work at Wakeling Automotive as Paul Wakeling's personal assistant. Paul spoke about raising funds for various community groups, but how he spoke about Mater Dei struck a chord with me. He has been involved for quite some time and speaks with pride about what has been achieved at the school through the efforts of everyone involved in fund raising.

I was thrilled to be asked to volunteer at the Annual Golf Day.

Q What have you learnt since you began your connection with Mater Dei and what keeps you coming back?

A At the Golf Day I see the generosity of our local business community and how genuine is their support of Mater Dei.

The highlight of the day for me comes after the golfers have finished their rounds, when the school captains say thank you. This is when you see the emotion in the room, knowing that the funds raised will improve the lives of these special children, providing opportunities that may be denied them otherwise.

I need to keep my box of tissues close at hand during the speeches. The emotion has not lessened over the years.

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

A Wakeling Automotive is part of the Mater Dei Structured Workplace Program. When our first placement was imminent, all staff were made aware that our student was to be safe and cared for during their visit. I asked the team to organise a roster so the student would have a work buddy each day. One of the team stepped up and offered to look after all the students who would come to us. He took full responsibility, and happily one of the students he trained went so well he's now a full time employee. He discovered his talent – he is a perfectionist – and he works in vehicle preparation where we need a perfectionist to keep our vehicles showroom ready.

Q Who are the most inspiring people you have met?

A Apart from all the lovely students at Mater Dei, the people who inspire me most are those who overcome adversity, remain humble and teach us that life is what we are served so we make of it what we can. It starts and ends with us.

Q What book or movie has had an impact on you?

A One biography which has remained a favourite is Nancy Wake and her exploits during World War Two. I admire her bravery and tenacity interlaced with her sense of humour.

Q Which five people would you invite to dinner?

A Winston Churchill, The Duke of Edinburgh, Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton and Abraham Lincoln. Imagine the conversation...!