

PHILIP'S DEDICATION

I dedicate my efforts in writing this book to my wife Faye. She has been a stalwart comrade throughout the 37 years of challenges we have faced in inventing a better kind of schooling. She deeply understands the unfortunate effects that unexamined schooling practices can have on young humans. She has always taken a strong and clear stand on choosing a better way. She has continuously brightened up the school space with her warm personality. And she has never despaired – not even once.

I also dedicate this work to my seven children – Timothy, Naomi, Nicholas, Jeremy, Sean, Mary and Catherine – who have supported the work and the hopes of Fitzroy Community School. They did this in the early years through actual school-keeping work – such as preparing the rooms, above and beyond the duty of a regular student; then by faithfully and consistently exemplifying the spirit of FCS to their fellow students and their parents; and now, decades later, by continuing as stalwart supporters and contributors to the school.

Faye and I rejoice in the fact that our oldest child and first pupil, Timothy, has become the second generation principal of FCS. He has learned much of his craft through countless discussions over decades at our family dinner table.

We are delighted that Tim is ably supported by his siblings, and by fellow past pupils and friends of the school too numerous to

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name, who contribute beautifully to school life in many capacities. The dominant family example is Nick, Tim's brother, who serves in sport, Chinese, maths and English.

We are grateful for the personal dedication of the several splendid teachers who have been with us for decades – Jeannette, Sam, Nikki, and others. We have been blessed with good teachers.

We are grateful too, to the many courageous and thoughtful parents of FCS, who, especially in the earlier years, have trusted us with their children when all we had to offer were our dreams.

We must also acknowledge the contribution of the grandparent generation – not all of them actual grandparents of our pupils – who have ably and generously contributed to our extended-human-family social environment.

In our wars with bureaucracy over the years, we are grateful to the occasional officer of the State, Local Council, Health Commission, etc, who chose to look beyond the usual box-ticking obsessions, and saw the bigger picture – individuals who chose not to sabotage the real achievements that they saw before them.

And finally, we celebrate the hundreds of young people who have come through our school, and have responded so beautifully to what we tried to give them.

POC