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MERCY *Ed*

The Newsletter of Mercy Education ABN 69 154 531 870



BLESSING & OPENING OF THE EMMANUEL CENTRE, WARRNAMBOOL

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EDITORIAL

The final edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter for 2016 features a number of significant celebrations that have occurred at our Mercy schools in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Importantly too the edition focuses on many social justice events and programs that permeate the teachings and practices in our schools.

After seven years of deliberation, planning, design and finally construction, the Emmanuel Centre was opened and blessed by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR DD, Bishop of Ballarat. The 1500 seating capacity auditorium will provide a wonderful gathering space for students and staff and become a central multipurpose community hub for all associated with Emmanuel College Warrnambool. The generosity of the local community in raising \$1.9m to support the \$9.5m Centre was outstanding and gratefully recognised by College Principal, Peter Morgan, and former Board Chair, Felicity Melican in their formal addresses at the Opening. Peter Morgan also recognised the visionary and preliminary work of former Principal, Phil Morison, in bringing this dream to a reality.

We acknowledge the outstanding leadership and mentoring of Santa Maria College Principal, Ian Elder, and congratulate him on receiving the prestigious John Laing Professional Development Award for 2016 by the Australian Association of Principals. Ian's passion for the education of young people and his ability to empower aspiring leaders has been a hallmark of his career and has been greatly appreciated by all at Santa Maria College during these past six years. We also congratulate Catholic College Bendigo on hosting the most enjoyable and successful annual Frayne Speech Festival. It was another memorable event to celebrate the 140th Anniversary year of the Sisters of Mercy's arrival in the Sandhurst Diocese. We also thank 2016 CCB College Captain, Sam Kane, for his reflection on what a Mercy education in Sandhurst has meant to him.

As the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has come to a close, we feel blessed with the gift granted to us by Pope Francis and trust and pray that we may continue to be inspired and enriched by this gift in the years ahead. I wish you much joy as we await further blessings with the coming of the Christ child in the weeks ahead.

Eugene Lynch
Editor



Sharing Faith, Hope & Love

CELEBRATION OF EMMA OPENING

THE EMMANUEL CE

From Little

Emmanuel College Warrnambool celebrated 25 years of the Emmanuel name on 18 November with the official opening and blessing of the Emmanuel Centre. The largest building project in the College's 144-year history, the \$9.5 million Centre received no government funding.

Like the Sisters of Mercy who arrived in 1872 with no supplies, land or building, having been asked by Bishop Goold to set up a Mercy community and school, the College turned to the community for help. The community saw the need and responded generously, turning a vision into a reality and contributing \$1.9 million towards the project to date. The generosity of the community demonstrates a strong vote of confidence in the College and its future as a leading provider of education in the district.

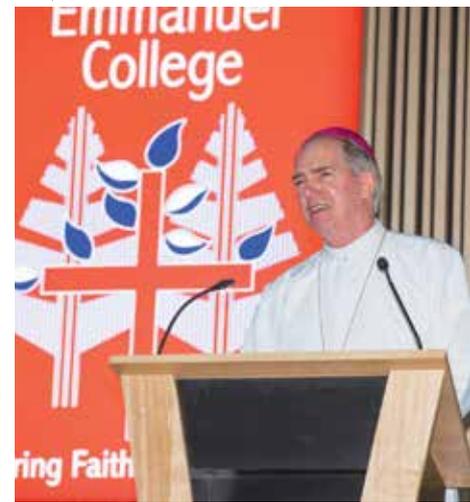
The vision for the project evolved from an in-depth look at the educational needs of students into the future after a period of extraordinary growth saw the student population of the College double in a ten-year period. Seating 1,500 people the Centre is the largest facility of its type in the South-West region. It is much more than an auditorium comprising: two sports courts, stage, mezzanine level for conferences or group training, commercial kitchen that can provide dinner for 800, gym, learning areas, staff areas and change rooms, first aid room and an Industrial Skills Centre below the auditorium.

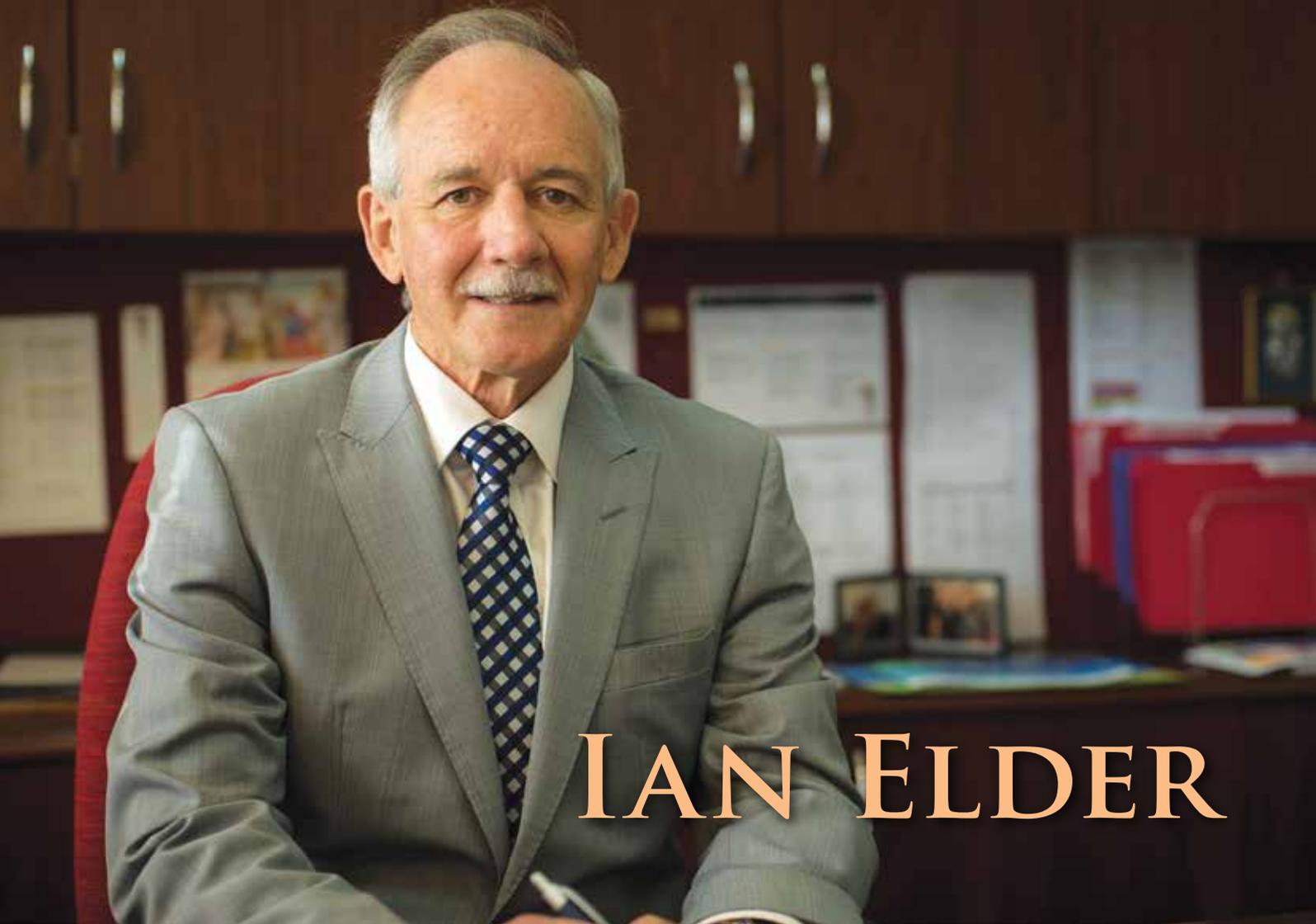
Bishop Paul Bird blessed the building while Emmanuel College Inspiring Alumni member, Felicity Melican gave the opening address. Other speakers included Principal, Peter Morgan, Capital Appeal Committee Chairman, Brian Callaghan, and College Captains, Isabella Mahoney-O'Donnell and Joseph Brady. The Emmanuel Centre is more than a group of visually pleasing installations, it is also a work of storytelling that shows the relationship of Emmanuel College to country in its location between the Great Southern Coast and the edge of the Western Basalt Plains. The shape of the forecourt area reflects the shape of the windows in the Convent building. Within that area, three installations help to tell the story of Emmanuel College.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMMAUEL COLLEGE AND THE CENTRE: FROM A VISION TO REALITY

FROM A VISION TO REALITY

Things, big things grow





IAN ELDER

PRINCIPAL - SANTA MARIA COLLEGE



Recently, and with great pride, the community of Santa Maria College congratulated Principal, Ian Elder on being awarded the John Laing Professional Development Award for 2016 by the Australian Association of Principals. This award was presented for “his exceptional leadership and his commitment and confidence in developing leadership in others”. Ian was described in the citation as “a person of great energy with a comprehensive knowledge of contemporary education leadership”. He was described as innovative, ethical and strongly committed to the care of both students and colleagues.

Ian has mentored 6 principals and 14 deputy principals in Catholic education and has always shown an amazing ability to identify and develop leaders from among his colleagues. There are currently 20 leaders in Catholic schools (6 principals and 14 deputy principals) that he employed and fostered at a lower promotional level. Many more have also benefitted from his mentoring and coaching.

In recent years Ian has shown significant commitment to the professional development and growth of all staff at Santa Maria College. Ian is a passionate leader who places students and their wellbeing at the centre of his leadership practice.



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE MERCY HERITAGE CENTRE

Appropriately, as 2016 is the Jubilee Year of Mercy, on Thursday 22nd September, St Brigid's College celebrated Mercy Day with a Mass officiated by Bishop Donald Sproston, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth in the grounds of Lesmurdie House. The good Lord certainly smiled on us as heavy rain held off allowing us to bless our newly renovated Mercy Heritage Cottage which had been ravaged by fire the previous year. Special guests included our Sisters of Mercy, Frs Michael McMahon OMI and Michael Separovich who concelebrated the Eucharist, Mercy Education Directors Tony Wheeler and Mary Retel, our Architect Peter Garvey and Interior Designer Michelle Coster, Mercy Ethos Educator Craig Dowsett, Nell Draper and her family. Nell was one of the original 1929 boarders and was supported on the day by family members, Diane Spinks and Kevin Draper (Nell's children), and Megan Leeming (her grand-daughter). This sensitively renovated Mercy Heritage Cottage will be a perpetual reminder to future generations of the journey taken by the Sisters of Mercy, their foresight and generosity of Spirit which we now enjoy as our beautiful St Brigid's College Campus. The morning was filled with ceremony and reverence.





2016 FRAYNE

On Friday 26 August, and as part of their 140 year anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy in Bendigo, Catholic College Bendigo, as hosts, welcomed fourteen Mercy Education schools from across Australia to the 2016 Frayne Speech Festival.

This prestigious Festival established in 1996 and named after Mother Ursula Frayne, espouses the values that Catherine McAuley upheld. What a wonderful occasion to experience some inviting Victorian Central Goldfields hospitality and to enter into a spirited competition of voice, public speaking and debating, fostering a sense of unity across the schools. The level of competition was vibrant and exciting with a strong sense of collegiality, true friendship and high intellect.

Organization for such a major event as the Frayne Speech Festival takes an enormous amount of planning and our sincere thanks go to Festival Co-ordinator Ms Carmel Smith, who, together with her team, ensured outstanding success. Mercy Education congratulates all participants for their commitment and their outstanding performances, as individuals and as team members. Thirteen schools attended from Victoria,

including metropolitan and regional schools, and were joined once again by students from St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie in Western Australia.

There was much excitement as winners and runners up were announced and awards and prizes presented by Mercy Education Board Chair, Lucy Molony.

2016 WINNERS

Debating – Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, Victoria

Voice Choir – St Aloysius College, North Melbourne, Victoria

Public Speaking – Pauline Chiwawa, St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie, Western Australia

Debating – Best Overall Speaker – Ashleigh Brooks, Sacred Heart College, Kyneton

RUNNERS UP

Debating - Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

Voice Choir - Catholic College Bendigo, Bendigo

Public Speaking - Akyra Tran - St Aloysius College, North Melbourne



Public Speakers: Pauline Chiwawa and Akyra Tan

SPEECH FESTIVAL



Debating Team: Emmanuel College Warrnambool



Debating Team: Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg

The level of competition was vibrant and exciting with a strong sense of collegiality, true friendship and high intellect.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE ST



SEEDS OF JUSTICE REGIONAL CONFERENCE 25 & 26 AUGUST

The Regional Seeds of Justice Event was held at Araluen camp in Anglesea on August 25 and 26. The theme of the event was "Speaking for Those Who Are Kept Silent". The theme was especially pertinent to the guest speakers who were from ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans)

Forty students from six Mercy schools joined together to discuss the difficult issue of Human Trafficking and heard keynote speakers: Sr Therese Power RSM and Liz Payne speak about Australia as being a point of destination for trafficked persons and the powerlessness felt by these men and women and children. Globally, the students learned about child slave labour and unhealthy factory conditions in third world countries.

Particular changes which were initiated at the Seeds Regional Event included each student leaving with a pledge card which had a QR code on it. The code linked to a site with the presentations and clips shown during the event. There were also links to the Mercy story and ethos as well as ACRATH. This

initiative will help students and social justice coordinators access the information they need quickly and easily when they return to school and promote awareness of the Human Trafficking issue.

Through liturgy, music, reflection and interaction, the eight staff and forty students from Mercy Regional College Camperdown, Damascus College Ballarat, Emmanuel College Warrnambool, Trinity College Colac, Notre Dame College Shepparton and Sacred Heart College Kyneton gained new insights and made new friends.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

On the 8th of August, ten Year Ten students from Santa Maria College, alongside students from Aranmore, Mercedes and St. Brigid's, embarked on a Seeds of Justice conference in Safety Bay. The theme for 2016/17 is Eco - Justice "Saving our Common Home." We had the opportunity to listen to Nigel Haywood from Catholic Earth Care. He educated us about different Eco-Justice issues that included the destruction of our environment. The presentation was eye-opening and we learnt a lot about how our planet is being mistreated.

With partners, we walked around the gardens of the Conference Centre and shared our opinions on what our family, friends and peers think of us and our future. This was interesting to see how others interpret the world and got us thinking about how others may think of us. Back inside, we split into groups and brainstormed what environmentally friendly aspects our schools are involved in, what we could have, what could be improved, and then put into place how we could improve these issues and raise awareness of the problems facing our 'common home'. The ideas really got us motivated and inspired to make a difference in our own communities.

After lunch, we drove to the Naregeburp Environment Centre and learned about conservation and the use of the earth's

STUDENT CONFERENCE



Principal Marg Blythman, surrounded by staff members and students from St Joseph's College Mildura



SOJ committee member and AMI staff member, Sue Moran, surrounded by students from the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy

resources in a sustainable way. After dinner we experienced a wonderful Mass with Fr Hugh. The Mass was reflective and meditative and we learned about forgiving and apologising for the hurt we had received and caused to others and to God's creation. After Mass we made rosary bead bracelets made out of recycled wool and magazine strips.

After an early start and delicious breakfast, we climbed aboard the bus and went to Shoalwater Bay to plant seedlings on the coastal dunes. The purpose of this activity was to stabilise the dunes to prevent dune erosion. Volunteers taught us how to plant the seedlings and put bamboo poles and plastic around the plants to protect them from wind and collect moisture to water the plants. It was a very rewarding and therapeutic experience, even though the weather was quite windy and we got a bit wet.

Coming back to the Centre, we split into our school groups and brainstormed our particular school's needs and what we could do to improve our environment. For Santa Maria, this included paper recycling bins, LED lights, Earth Day, air conditioner and heater use, sustainable waste usage and other ideas that we are inspired to put into place in the following Seeds of Justice meetings.

Lastly, we used recycled plastic soft drink containers to pot seedlings in soil that had little notes we had written for the future. In the concluding ceremony we received our Seeds of Justice badges and finished off with a pledge, prayer and thank you's. Tired but excited for what was to come in the following terms, we drove home and thought about all the experiences that we had undertaken. We made lots of new friends and enjoyed being part of planning to sustain our environment in God's Creation.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE - EVENT 2 - 'HOMELESSNESS - FINDING A MERCIFUL RESPONSE'

Seeds of Justice Conference 20 & 21 October, 2016

The second Seeds of Justice student event in Melbourne was again enthusiastically embraced with 26 students and 6 staff from Mercy colleges from Melbourne and as far away as Mildura. The Conference began with keynote speaker Sean Thornton, together with co-hosts from Anonymous X, an organisation in Melbourne consisting of a team who all share a common belief, that "we can make a difference and together create a change for the homeless and less fortunate". Later in the day, participants had the chance to deepen their knowledge by participating in an activity workshop gaining inspiration from the dedicated presenters who seek to make a change and are successful in doing so.

On the second day keynote speakers, Fr Harry Prout FMS and Sam from the Olympic Village Exodus Community, which has been active in the Olympic Village, Heidelberg West area since 1998, spoke of the group's attempt to meet and the importance of identifying the emerging needs of local residents. The live-in members of the Exodus Community volunteer their services to the Community and its ministries and are currently supported by 50 volunteers.

Students were inspired and challenged to make a difference.

"This program has opened my eyes to the issues in our community. People have inspired me to take action and doing whatever I can to help out people in need".

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE



From left, Emmanuel College DP Brian Brown, Presenter Jason Newman, CCI National Client Manager, Mick Newell and MLMC Principal, Phil Morison



From left, MLMC DP John Rodgers, presenter and MLMC Alumni Belinda Spong, MLMC DP Liz Keogh and MLMC DP Michael Johnston

PALS' SEMINAR

– 9, 10 & 11 NOVEMBER



The final Deputy Principals' Seminar for 2016 was warmly hosted by Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale, Victoria. College Principal, Phil Morison and his staff welcomed Deputy Principals from Mercy Schools in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. The preparation and organisation of the three-day seminar by MLMC Deputy Principals, Michael Johnston, Liz Keogh and John Rogers was outstanding. We also acknowledge and appreciate the support of Catholic Church Insurances (CCI) in providing our legal presenters for the seminar.

Sr Elaine Wainwright RSM, Emeritus Professor and current member of the ISMAPNG Executive Leadership Team, commenced the Seminar on Wednesday evening with a keynote presentation on an ecological perspective of Holy Scripture. The theme for day two 'Legal Issues in Schools' was a most engaging day with sessions presented by Principal Lawyer - MST Lawyers - Ms Belinda Spong; Public & Professional Liability Specialist - Mr Jason Newman and Workplace Relations Specialist - Mr Paul O'Halloran.

The theme for day three 'A focus on Mount Lilydale Mercy College' saw the group addressed by the Deputy Premier of Victoria, Honourable Minister James Merlino, State Member for Monbulk, Minister for Education, Minister for Emergency Services and a former collegian of MLMC. Participants also enjoyed the presentation by staff and students of the McAuley Farm project and were blessed to be able to conclude their time together with a Eucharist celebrated by Fr Simon Grainger PP.



SATURDAY 24 – WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 2016

The 2016 Biennial AMSSA Student Conference, warmly hosted by Sydney's 5 Mercy schools, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College - North Sydney; Our Lady of Mercy College - Parramatta; Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College – Burraneer; Catherine McAuley Catholic College – Westmead and Mercy Catholic College – Chatswood, attracted sixty-seven students and fifteen teachers from other Mercy schools around Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The theme for the conference was 'Bridges of Mercy' with the conference inviting students to take 'a step closer to becoming bridges of Mercy'.

Throughout the Conference participants engaged in a variety of prayer experiences, listened to outstanding keynote speakers addressing current Mercy issues and went on a pilgrimage through Sydney. Ideas were shared and friendships built.

On the last full day of the conference students participated in a range of justice themed sessions which were designed to encourage reflection and action for justice. This included a Justice Market where students shared what they were already doing in their own schools to promote justice. After the market, attendees were given time to workshop ideas from the Justice Market that may work in their own college communities. It is hoped that upon returning to school after the holiday break these participants might be able to successfully implement some new justice initiatives.

"The balance between work and fun which Catherine McAuley wrote about when she said 'dance every evening' was certainly embraced throughout the five days"

[We acknowledge extracts from the AMSSA November newsletter article by Kerri-Anne Ramsay]





MERCY SECONDARY EDUCATION (AMSSA)



CELEBRATING

140
years
SISTERS OF MERCY
SANDHURST



Photo: Jenni Kennedy, Media & Public Relations, Catholic Education Office, Sandhurst

THE PRIVILEGE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

140 years ago, this year the Sisters of Mercy, led by Mother Aloysius Martin, began educating young women in Barkly Street Bendigo, spreading the words and teachings of Catherine McAuley, centered on messages of hope, compassion, and respect. Although times have changed, new technology has arrived and methods of teaching have developed, the same strong message of Mercy and of believing in the goodness of young people, still stands at the forefront of the faith-based community in this diocese, and continues to inspire every student who passes through the doors.

Since 2011, I have had the privilege of being a part of Catholic education in the Sandhurst Diocese at Catholic College Bendigo where the Sisters of Mercy began their teachings in 1876. Now six years later as I am about to graduate, I am still in awe of all the opportunities I have been afforded, as well as the remarkable journey I have been on, simply from being a part of this loving community.

For me Catholic education in Bendigo centers around community and the loving, vibrant, and social justice-driven environment that greets each student when they enroll, and of which, like myself, they're called to grasp and spread into the wider world once they graduate. Community to me is one of the most vital aspects of our world, not only within schools but in every facet of life. I believe that is something which Catholic education fosters at its forefront. It's about teaching students how every one of us, as a community, can contribute to the

wider community in a positive way, truly upholding the dignity of all human beings.

For me, this love of community which I've been granted throughout my schooling, centers around one moment of my education which has since inspired me to live my life in an entirely different way, and also to appreciate and respect everything, and everyone, no matter what. Last year, I was privileged to travel with nineteen other students and staff on an immersion to Samoa; a country in the South Pacific with a population of nearly 200,000 people, where we became truly immersed in the culture, faith, and love of life of the Samoan people. Before we left our immersion group began a fundraising campaign within our school community, where we worked hard to raise money to take with us – not to reduce our own expenses but to give to our sister schools, Paul VI College and St Theresa's for them to buy supplies and equipment to enhance their learning.

From selling hundreds of chocolates, hot chips every week at lunchtime, bake sales and soup stands at school events, as well as telling people about the cause, we raised over \$7000 in eight weeks which we could then proudly present to these schools in Samoa. I was inspired by this, that our community opened their wallets and gave money to ensure that students in another community over 5,000 kilometers away had a better chance at life. This message hit home while we were amongst these schools in Samoa where we were shown exactly where our College's money has gone over the past eight years since the annual immersion began. We saw with our own eyes how we have been contributing to improving the education of Samoan students.

This struck me. Often in our lives we donate to causes and charities, yet we aren't told exactly where our money is going, or given examples of how it is helping people. Yet in Samoa we could see firsthand that our money was being put to good use, and that we as a community, had done something to make other people's lives better.

Personally, that's what community within Catholic education means; banding together and helping our brothers and sisters in overseas communities who are in need to truly make sure

STUDENTS IN CELEBRATING THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY



that they "have life, and have it to the full," John 10:10. I feel that within our community, and no doubt in every other Catholic school throughout Australia, donating to help improve the lives of others, doesn't feel like a chore or a duty, but rather a privilege and an honour.

The visionary and Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley, said that "we may hope to get on taking short, careful steps, not great strides," and "we should be as shining lamps, giving light to all of those around." For me, that's what I'll take from Catholic education when I graduate in less than two months' time. A community collectively working towards ensuring that every person can truly live the good news in their lives, no matter who they are, or where they come from. Much like Mother Aloysius brought the teachings of Mercy to the Sandhurst diocese 140 years ago, if we continue to come together as one, be compassionate to others and spread love to help those who really need it, we will be able to ensure that Catholic education leaves a mark on every person who is given the opportunity to be entranced by it for many more years to come.

Sam Kane
College Captain



THANKS & FAREWELL TO PAM



Pam deKort is very excited about the next chapter in her life as she launches into retirement. She has spent much of her working life dedicated to Mercy Education having worked in a number of secretarial roles over fourteen years at Mount Lilydale Mercy College and most recently in the Mercy Education Executive Office at Alphington for the past six years (2011 – 2016). In those twenty years Pam has endeared herself to students, staff, MEL Board Directors and the staff at Alphington.

Pam has been a constant contributor behind the scenes at MEL and has assisted with the preparation of MEL seminars, Seeds of Justice events and numerous other functions. At the recent Seeds of Justice Committee meeting, members commented that while not having met her, they considered her a friend and colleague in preparing for the annual SOJ events. Fittingly we farewell Pam in an edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter, a publication which she has carefully and diligently sourced articles and prepared text and photos for inclusion in the many editions during her time at MEL.

Pam and her husband, Joop look forward to retirement and are especially excited about their move from the eastern suburbs of Melbourne to a sea change at Mornington. There they look to enjoy more time for relaxation and time with their five grandchildren. We also expect to see additions to the trophy cabinet with more medals awarded in the state, national and international Dragon Boat Racing competitions, which have become a passion for Pam and Joop. We wish Pam and her family our best wishes, health and happiness and thank her sincerely for her considerable contribution to Mercy Education.



MERCEDES COLLEGE
Perth, WA
1846



ACADEMY OF MARY IMMACULATE
Fitzroy, VIC
1857



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Geelong, VIC
1860



CATHOLIC COLLEGE BENDIGO
Bendigo, VIC
1876



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
Adelaide, SA
1880



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
North Melbourne, VIC
1887



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Kyneton, VIC
1889



MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE
Lilydale, VIC
1896



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
Mildura, VIC
1906



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE
Heidelberg, VIC
1910



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE
Lesmurdie, WA
1929



SANTA MARIA COLLEGE
Attadale WA
1937



St Ann's College amalgamated to
EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Warrnambool, VIC 1872
Co-sponsored College



MERCY COLLEGE
Coburg, VIC
1965
Affiliated School



MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
Camperdown, VIC
1973
Affiliated School



Sacred Heart College amalgamated to
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE
Shepparton, VIC
1902
Affiliated School



Stella Maris Regional Girls' College amalgamated to
MARIST REGIONAL COLLEGE
Burnie, TAS
1900
Affiliated School



College of Our Lady of the Sea – 1898 / Padua Preparatory House for Little Boys – 1899; amalgamated to Padua College, Mornington 1946
PADUA COLLEGE
Mornington 1946
Affiliated School