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MERCY

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The Newsletter of Mercy Education ABN 69 154 531 870

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

DR AMELIA TOFFOLI
MR CRAIG HOLMES



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EDITORIAL

This edition highlights many of the leadership opportunities recently provided to staff and students across the Mercy Education network. In a change of emphasis and focus, the inaugural *Mercy Education Leadership Day* was held on 12 October at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. The Leadership Day saw a gathering of Principals, Deputy Principals and Business Managers from Mercy Education and Mercy affiliated colleges, CEOs of other Mercy Ministries, MEL Board Directors and Chairs of College Advisory Councils, and significantly a number of Sisters of Mercy who attended and who presented to a captive audience. The Leadership Day was the 'brainchild' of MEL Group Finance Manager, Joe Konyneburg, who delivered a passionate address on how we could and should reach out further to our communities to ensure equitable access to Mercy education for all. Our keynote speakers were excellent and inspiring and the day concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist, enhanced by the beautiful tones of the OLMC Heidelberg choir, followed by a most enjoyable and relaxed Mercy Education Dinner.

Another outstanding opportunity for leaders was the Deputy Principal 'seminar' hosted in early November at Sacred Heart College Geelong. College deputy principals, Sharon Gillett, Gerard Raven and Tanya Malley ensured extravagant Mercy hospitality and planning, and keynote speakers were engaging, motivational and very practical. The seminar was well attended by thirty-three deputy principals who enjoyed the stimulus, collegiality and hospitality.

Students were able to come together to celebrate their regular Seeds of Justice events and this year, the biennial AMSSA student conference was held in Perth and hosted in the beautiful surrounds of Santa Maria College, Attadale. Students were imbued with the founding Mercy story and challenged on how they can contribute to and keep the Mercy story of compassion and courage alive today.

Finally sincere congratulations and best wishes to Principals, Amelia Toffoli and Craig Holmes, who conclude their significant leadership terms at St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie and Sacred Heart College, Kyneton respectively.

Wishing all the peace and joys of Christmas.

Eugene Lynch
Editor



After fifteen years of principalship at St Brigid's College, Dr Amelia Toffoli will conclude her term as Principal at the end of the 2018 academic year.





FAREWELL AMELIA TOFFOLI

ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE, LESMURDIE WA

Amelia has been a dedicated leader at St Brigid's College with an obvious affection for the Sisters of Mercy, whom she has hosted and consulted in striving to keep the Mercy charism alive and flourishing. In turn, the Sisters have much appreciated opportunities to witness closely how the College has developed over many years, in the spirit of mercy, bringing exciting possibilities into reality.

Amelia has continued to build a community based on inclusion and the cornerstone of her efforts has been to develop a most caring and pastoral environment for the students. She has been fully committed to the provision of resources to assist staff in their teaching and her vision in developing a campus fit for contemporary learning has been a wonderful achievement. Amelia has done a great deal to enhance an existing attractive site with areas for reflection, boarding, recreation and the pursuit of academic excellence.

Amelia clearly identifies with an educational philosophy beneficial for early childhood development and our youngest

learners in the College and this is one of her greatest strengths. In her most recent direction given to this important stage of learning, Amelia has set an exciting path for the development of early learning provision at St Brigid's. Importantly accommodation, personal care and education opportunities for approximately fifty Aboriginal girls studying in Years 7-12 have been major priorities for Amelia as Principal of St Brigid's.

Amelia is passionate about education, in particular Aboriginal Education, Languages and the Early Years. She is a great supporter of Mercy Works and has a deep love for and appreciation of the Sisters of Mercy. Significant milestones include her award-winning doctorate and the celebration in 2018 of 40 years of dedicated service to Catholic Education in Western Australia.

On behalf of the Directors of Mercy Education and the Sisters of Mercy, we thank Amelia most sincerely for her contributions to St Brigid's College. Our very best wishes to Amelia for the years to come as she explores this next phase of her life.

Amelia surrounded by some of the young SBCL learners.



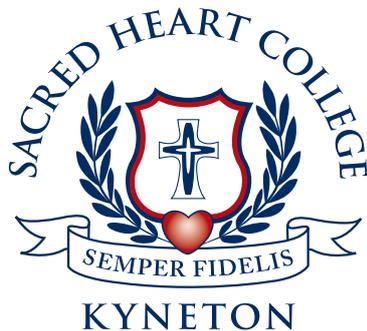
Amelia receiving a 40 year service award is pictured with Debra Sayce, Executive Director Catholic Education WA. Photo courtesy of Janine Sheen Photography





FAREWELL CRAIG HOLMES

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, KYNETON



Mercy Education farewells Craig Holmes as he concludes eight years of principalship at Sacred Heart College, Kyneton.

From MEL Board Chair, Sylvia Williams RSM:

"Craig's leadership at Sacred Heart College has been marked by his commitment to Mercy which has driven his leadership and the strategic direction he has set for the school in his time as Principal. At the end of 2018, Craig will have completed eight years as Principal of Sacred Heart College and in that time he has led the College diligently and with dedication. He has been student-centred in his leadership and has been able to implement contemporary arrangements for learning and teaching resulting in continuous improvement in student outcomes.

Craig has been fully committed to provide resources to assist staff in their teaching. He has done a great deal to enhance the existing attractive site to develop a campus fit for contemporary learning with areas for reflection, recreation and the pursuit of academic excellence.

Directors of the Board of Mercy Education are grateful to Craig for his contribution to Sacred Heart College and wish him well in this new chapter of his professional life as Principal of Thomas Carr College, Tarneit".

From Principal, Craig Holmes:

"While excited by new opportunities to further Catholic education, it is with some sadness that I leave knowing there is so much more to be accomplished. At the same time, it is an opportune time for a new Principal to commence as we are now at the mid-point of our current 2017-2020 Strategic Direction.

I feel honoured to have served the College as Principal over the last eight years as it gave me the opportunity to give back to the community that educated my four children. I look forward to hearing great things about the students and future growth of Sacred Heart College, Kyneton.

I give thanks for the many contributions made by students, staff, families, the College Advisory Council and Finance Committee, Parishes and community, and look forward to them continuing their good work for many years to come".



DEPUTY PRINCIPALS SEMINAR

HOSTED BY SACRED HEART COLLEGE, GEELONG

Thirty-three Deputy Principals from Mercy Education and Mercy affiliated colleges in Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, along with representatives from MEL Directors and Executive staff, gathered at Sacred Heart College, Geelong for a two and half day seminar. The seminar focussed on the theme of Mental Health and Wellbeing and was opened with a warm welcome by College Principal, Anna Negro.

Guest speakers included Margie Abbott RSM who spoke on Wellbeing for Leaders; Kath Tierney RSM speaking on Compassion Fatigue; and SHC Geelong Deputy Principals, Gerard Raven and Sharon Gillett, along with senior staff, who presented on the recent Australian Research Council survey on Principal Wellbeing and the College's approach to student wellbeing, *Wellness for Learning, Wellness for Life*.

The keynote presenter for the seminar was internationally recognised speaker and author, Dan Haesler, who works with individuals, organisations, businesses and the education sector around issues of leadership, engagement, mindset and wellbeing. His sessions were engaging, inspiring, practical and informative and laced with his passion for equity and social justice.

The seminar concluded with the Eucharist being celebrated by Fr Bob Wood in the beautiful Sacred Heart College Chapel. The time spent together by this aspiring and hard working group of leaders was enjoyed socially and professionally by all and we extend sincere appreciation to all at Sacred Heart College for their planning, organisation and warm hospitality.



Keynote presenter,
Dan Haesler



Margie Abbott RSM



Kath Tierney RSM

2018 MERCY EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Mercy Education has a long history of collaborative and engaging professional development with senior executive staff from Mercy Education and affiliated Colleges. Every year we meet three times a year (each) with our Principals, Deputy Principals and Business Managers. For some years we have been considering the concept of bringing all of these leaders together for a single event – thus the Mercy Education Leadership Day was born!

On Friday 12 October at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne, Mercy Education brought together many from the Mercy community, from schools as well as from other Mercy ministries. We were particularly pleased to be joined by a number of Sisters of Mercy who are involved in schools and College Advisory Councils.

Our goal was to provide high quality professional development with a Mercy focus, and an opportunity to



Mercy Education
Leadership Day

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2018

Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne



Organist Kevin Meese, Conductor Gabriella Russo and OLMC Choir

DAY

reflect, celebrate and network together for senior leaders of Australian schools with a Mercy heritage.

In the first session of the Leadership seminar, Joe Konynenburg, challenged us to "Maintain Equitable Access to Mercy Education". Joe's session included a range of practical examples from each State provided by Sisters Carmel McCormick RSM, Janet Lowe RSM and Joan Buckham RSM.

After a presentation by Anne Pate from Mercy Associates Victoria, our afternoon keynote speakers were Berenice Kerr RSM who led us to a bright vision of Mercy "As Shining Lamps" and Frank Brennan SJ who finished up the day addressing the challenges that our Catholic school leaders confront each day, as today's practical face of the formal Church in Australia.

The formal seminar was followed by a special Mass celebrated by Fr Frank held in St John the Evangelist Church. Many thanks were extended to the talented students and staff of Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg, who filled the church with their beautiful voices and singing. It was a great day and a wonderful demonstration of the Mercy family coming together to support, challenge and learn from one another.

The evening concluded with our traditional Mercy Education Dinner where we were able to collectively farewell Dr Amelia Toffoli, the outgoing Principal of St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie.



Frank Brennan SJ



Berenice Kerr RSM





Presentation



Business Managers



Fr Frank Brennan



Jim Watkins and Amelia Toffoli

"It is great to experience the variety and vibrancy of the people in the Mercy ministries in Australia. Congratulations on an excellent event."



Luisa D'Intini, Cantor OLMC



Liz Monahan, Marie Ralph RSM, Paddy McEvoy

"The Professional Learning provided on Friday enabled attendees to step out of an operational space and to reflect on what Mercy Education could and should look like moving into the future. It was informative and reflective."



Eileen Ann Daffy RSM and Kingsley Edwards



Matt Byrne and Ben Fitzpatrick

"I felt I belonged to something bigger than my own school and had a sense of Mercy Education Ltd being a strong support and interested in what happens on the day to day programs in the schools. Thank you."



Annamaria Cream, Fiona Hepi, Joan Buckham RSM, Nicola Lee



Philip Anglin, Joe Konynenburg, Tony Wheeler



Kathy Ryan RSM and Mary Molony RSM



Denise Fox RSM and Deb Carter



Jonathon Stringfellow, Mary Farah and Sharon Gillett



Judith Weir and Kerrie Fraser



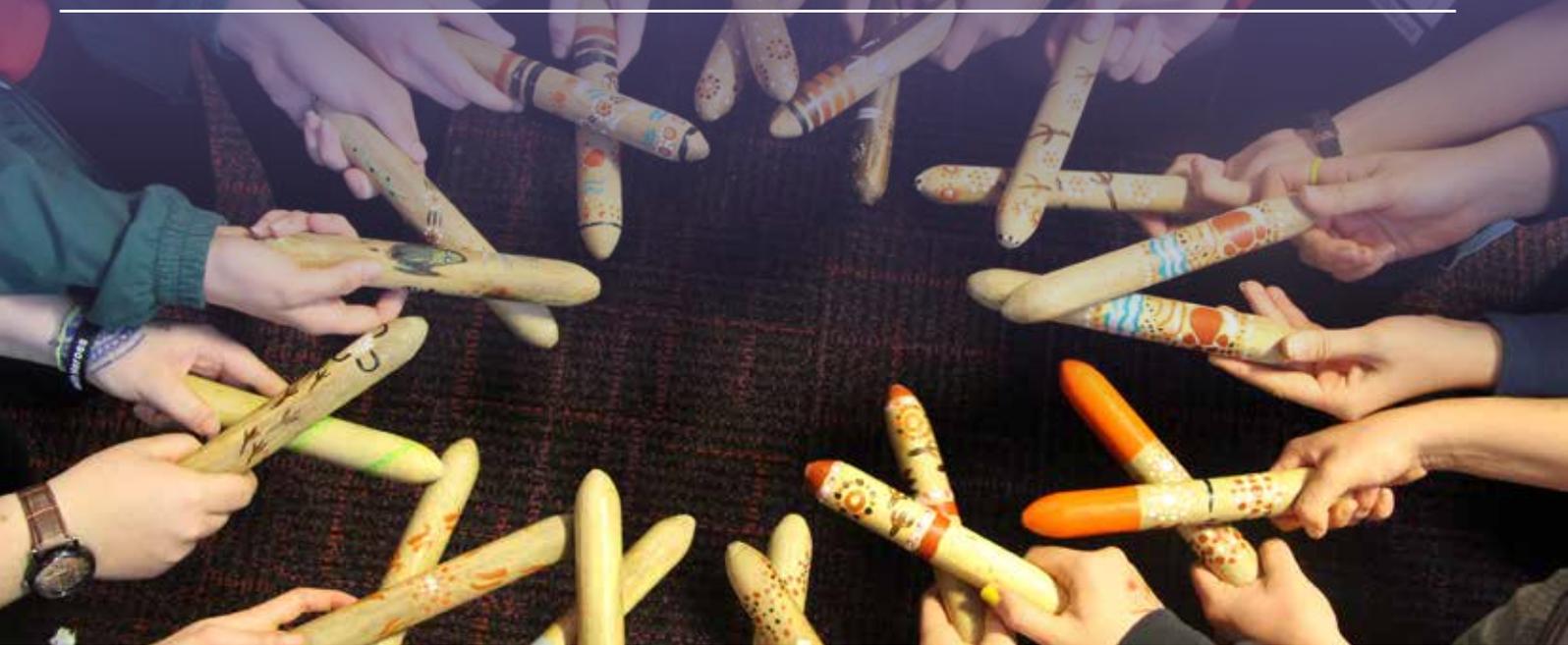
Rachel Valentine and Pauline Cutajar



Mark Hyland

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (AMSSA) STUDENT CONFERENCE

HELD AT SANTA MARIA COLLEGE, ATTADALE, WA 22 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2018



The fifth biennial AMSSA Student Conference honoured the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Australia and the faith and courage of Ursula Frayne. The conference provided an experience in heritage and celebrated the growth of Mercy across Australasia. The story of Ursula and her companions was shared as a powerful example of resilience, tenacity and determination to be mercy for others and encouraged students to animate mercy into the future by responding to local and global needs just as those who had gone before them.

Santa Maria College, alongside Mercedes College, St Brigid's College, Mercy College, Aranmore College and Ursula Frayne College, welcomed students from Mercy Schools across Australia and Papua New Guinea to share in a rewarding Mercy experience.

The Conference was opened by the Principal of Mercedes College, Kerrie Fraser, followed by a moving Acknowledgement of Country by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, who sang their way into everyone's hearts with gracious storytelling of the first people of this land. Students were asked to bring foundation stones from their own communities to honour the humble

beginnings of their Mercy Colleges across Australia and PNG. These stories were shared in the 'Heritage Marketplace' and passionately illustrated the flourishing of Mercy.

Throughout the conference, students were invited to engage and reflect interactively through the Flipgrid App. Students quickly realised they were a part of a committed and passionate group.

A highlight of the conference was sailing up the Swan River to Perth by ferry. Delegates followed in the footsteps of Ursula Frayne and her companions. On arrival in the city they explored on foot how the Mercy story grew in Perth via an engaging game of the 'Amazing Race of Mercy'.

"This conference experience has exceeded all my expectations – the topics discussed were inspiring and very relatable – and the students, staff and presenters I've met have been so warm and welcoming to me. I definitely plan to come back to Perth," said Patience Hahambu, student PNG.

Our Lady of Mercy College student Jessica Berti said, "I have been inspired to share the lessons learned during the conference with family and friends back home in Victoria."

The conference allowed delegates to recognise that we are at a significant time in the ongoing story of Mercy and provided an opportunity for delegates to reflect on their role in the Mercy educational endeavour, mindful of the evolving growth of our community and dedicated to a strong sense of unity with like-minded students in Mercy Schools across Australasia and PNG.

Emma Nofal, Executive Officer AMSSA Student Conference



From 22 – 26 September I had the opportunity to attend the AMSSA Student Conference in Perth. There were students from Mercy Schools all around Australia and Papua New Guinea.

We started the conference with a welcome to country, with two aboriginal locals. They taught us words from their language and encouraged us to #5words – to learn five words from the local language back at our homes; this way the languages will not die out. We then shared stories for our foundation stones that we had brought from our schools. The evening finished with keynote speaker, Brett from the YouTube channel, How Ridiculous, who shared his story of rising to fame and how faith has been present in his life.

On Sunday, we had two keynote speakers and in the afternoon guest speakers. I had the opportunity to listen to a refugee from Iran. He shared his story of escaping, then living on Nauru and the struggle he went through to get refugee status in Australia. My other speaker spoke of women’s empowerment and taught us to create a legacy that we were proud of, no matter how small, and that we can achieve many things.

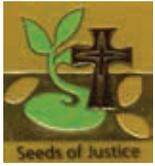
Sunday night we went into Fremantle for a tour of the Fremantle Prison. One of the girls made the comment, “How quickly you bond with people when thrown into a torchlight prison tour”. On Monday we participated in an Amazing Race of Mercy and the day concluded with dinner and a musical quiz night at Mercedes College (the oldest Mercy school in Australia). On Tuesday we had the ‘Heritage Market Place’, which was an opportunity to share things that our schools do, gaining ideas from other schools from around the country.

The trip was an amazing experience; I made friends from all around the country. I engaged in many deep conversations that left me asking questions. This opportunity taught me what we can do in our power with people and that even after we leave school, there will be mercy within us.

Charlotte Brook, Year 10 Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo



SEEDS OF JUSTICE



STUDENT CONFERENCE - MELBOURNE

SUSTAINABILITY: TAKING UNIFIED ACTION

Our second annual Seeds of Justice student conference was held at the Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd November. During the course of the two day event, students and staff from the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy; Sacred Heart College, Geelong; St Aloysius College, North Melbourne; Sacred Heart College, Kyneton; Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale; St Joseph's College, Mildura and Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg met to discuss issues pertaining to sustainability and taking unified action.

The event began with Elizabeth Young RSM, sharing her story, experiences and knowledge with the group. Elizabeth, originally from South Australia, has worked in a number of different areas, including youth ministry, prisons and detention centres. She spoke about the community of Port Augusta and its journey towards sustainability.

A number of placements were on offer to the students during the conference proving to be a major highlight of the two day event. Visits included the Exodus Community in West Heidelberg, the Big Group Hug, 3081

Angels and Ceres Community Environment Park. Students returned with enthusiasm and eyes open to the various community groups and needs in our community. The evening concluded with sharing of their experience and stories, followed by prayer and a meditation session.

On our second day we were continued to be inspired and reflected on the decisions we make in our everyday lives and how we can live out our mercy values within our own communities. Guest speakers for the morning session included three young people from Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) – including the 2017 College captain of Academy of Mary Immaculate, Corin Powell. The session opened the eyes of our young people to the issues of sustainability and challenged them to think about what they can do to make a difference. As one person commented, "This really opened my eyes to the fact that even though I am young, I can do something."

The conference proved to be a great success for all present and each of the students left with thoughts and ideas on how they can incorporate the mercy way into their lives and take further action toward sustainability.



Elizabeth Young RSM



Big Group Hug



3081 Angels



Thumbs up for Australian Youth Climate Coalition



AYCC presenter Corin Powell with students

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Exodus Community in Heidelberg

While we were at the Seeds of Justice Student conference we attended an organisation called, Exodus which is based in the 1956 Olympic Village, West Heidelberg. Exodus is a community centre supported by its local Catholic community and other groups which provide support and an open space for the community members who may be struggling. Our time at Exodus was very insightful and emotionally moving where we heard from local people. We listened to a young couple speak about their troubles and having their children removed. It was incredibly moving to see how the community comes together and supports one another. The community supports one another by having an accessible space where people can talk about the problems they are facing, receiving coping strategies and care. This centre provides a place where everyone is accepted in a space of no judgement.

Lola Derrick-Wright and Ruby Pivetta – Year 10 Academy of Mary Immaculate

The Big Group Hug and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition

The Seeds of Justice event was an amazing two day experience at the Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe. The highlight of the experience for me was the placement we completed in the evening at the Big Group Hug. This is an organisation run by mothers who put hampers and packs of baby goods together for mothers in need. It was really inspiring to see the care and effort the volunteers put into their job; you could tell that they loved what they were doing. We also participated in talks and the most inspirational one for me was the AYCC group activity as it was learning about how to be sustainable and how we can implement new ideas into our schools to make them more eco-friendly. Overall the experience was amazing, eye-opening and fun. I loved socialising with new people from other schools whilst learning lots of important information.

Olivia Spicer – Year 10 Academy of Mary Immaculate



STAGE 2 COURT PRECINCT BLESSING

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, GEELONG



Fr Jim Clarke blessing the new facilities

The College was pleased to celebrate the blessing of Stage 2 of The Court Precinct on Wednesday 17 October 2018. Father Jim Clarke celebrated the liturgy with the theme 'Education: a creative, co-operative and open-ended process; a deeply imaginative and religious process'.



Joining Fr Jim as he officially blessed the building were Principal, Anna Negro; Past Principal, Eileen Ann Daffy rsm; Mercy Education Chief Executive Officer, Christopher Houlihan; College Advisory Chair, Philip Anglin; Chair of the College's Planning and Facilities Committee, Anthony Baldasso; Regional General Manager Catholic Education Melbourne, Western Region, Robert Aron; Principal Consultant, Tony O'Byrne and Sacred Heart College Ministry Assistant, Rhys Lowther.

Stage 2 now provides innovative and collaborative learning spaces for our students, including five general learning areas, two science laboratories and multiple art studios. In addition, the new development has three makerspaces: fibre and fabric, multi-media, and 3D/2D art.



BLESSING & OFFICIAL OPENING PERFORMING ARTS & TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, NORTH MELBOURNE

We have an ever-increasing understanding that education is a life-long pursuit for all our young people and our role is to provide opportunities for our students to pursue their interests, to grow their talents and to be exposed to a world of possibility.

Contemporary designed learning facilities improve not only the school's physical environment but also its learning culture. St Aloysius College, which commenced in North Melbourne over 130 years ago, is devoted to developing girls into young women of wisdom and faith, who are committed to pursuing excellence in all areas.

On Thursday 11 October, the newly refurbished Arts & Technology Precinct was blessed and officially opened. The ceremony was attended by Federal Government Representative and Senator, The Hon Scott Ryan, as well as representatives from the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Education Limited, Catholic Education Melbourne, Clarke Hopkins Clarke Architects, members of the College Advisory Council, members of the College Leadership Team and Arts and Technology staff. The Plaque was unveiled by Eileen Ann Daffy RSM and Senator The Hon Scott Ryan.

The refurbished building will be a place where our students will build their capacities and their aspirations with the support of their teachers. So this humble project marks another milestone in the development of our College. This building is a symbol of hope for the future, interwoven with great memories of the past. This is a potent mix which will ensure that St Aloysius College continues to develop our community leaders for tomorrow.

Mary Farah – Principal



Hon Senator Scott Ryan
with Principal, Mary Farah



Hon Senator Scott Ryan with Eileen Ann Daffy RSM



MERCEDES COLLEGE
Perth, WA
1846



ACADEMY OF MARY IMMACULATE
Fitzroy, VIC
1857



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Geelong, VIC
1860



Catholic College Bendigo renamed in 2018 to
CATHERINE MCAULEY COLLEGE
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



CATHOLIC COLLEGE WODONGA
Wodonga, VIC
1979
Affiliated School



BUNBURY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Bunbury, WA
1973
Affiliated School



SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

ECO SISTERS CO-CURRICULAR GROUP RECEIVE A VISIT FROM WA PREMIER, HON MARK MCGOWAN

On Friday 30 November, Principal, Jennifer Oaten welcomed to Santa Maria College, Hon Mark McGowan, Premier of Western Australia; Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Environment; Hon Simone McGurk, Minister for Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services; and Hon Lisa O'Malley, Member for Bicton. The purpose of the Ministers' visit was to see the environmental initiatives established by the Eco Sisters co-curricular group. The Eco Sisters group, which has been led by Science teacher, Hannah Fay, aims to promote a sustainable College environment and develop College recycling strategies.

Head Girl, Emma Robinson, and Head Boarder, Amy Treasure, greeted Premier McGowan and his party before heading to the Super Lab to share discussions with the girls on the projects and initiatives the College has implemented. The students showcased initiatives such as plastic bottle recycling, use of non-plastic containers and straws in the College café program, community planting projects, making beeswax wraps in place of plastic wraps, hotels for bees, foreshore clean up and use of Keep cups.

"I am very proud of all of the girls who were involved today and the wonderful work they are doing in protecting our earth", said Premier McGowan.

Each special visitor received a gift bag, put together by the students, which included a metal straw, two beeswax wraps, a bamboo toothbrush and a Keep cup.

Hon Simone McGurk, Hon Lisa O'Malley, Jennifer Oaten, Hon Mark McGowan, Hannah Fay, Hon Stephen Dawson and students from Santa Maria College

