2007 marks a significant year for the Sisters of Mercy as the Melbourne Congregation celebrates the **150th anniversary** since Mother Ursula Frayne, companion of the Foundress, Mother Catherine McAuley, arrived in Melbourne in 1957.
It is a privilege to present this Report, and to chair the Board of MSEI, in this joyful year of celebration of 150 years of Mercy Education in Victoria. To share in the two Eucharistic celebrations, one honouring the arrival in Melbourne of the first sisters, under the leadership of Ursula Frayne, the other marking the anniversary of the foundation of the Academy of Mary Immaculate, was to be reminded of a heroic and courageous past, to experience a vibrant present, and to look forward with trust and confidence to a future of new challenges and possibilities.

**New Board Members**

We were delighted to welcome three new members to the Board in 2006: Mr Mary Moloney rsm, Mr. John Shannon and Dr. John Brick have all brought to the deliberations of the Board, extensive experience in education, great wisdom, and a strong sense of the values of Mercy education. For the first time new members were welcomed to the Board with a mini-induction programme devised and presented by Deputy Chair, Dr. Annette Schneider rsm.

The Annual Mercy Dinner in October 2006 gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation of retired Board members. Sr. Sylvia Williams rsm, Associate Professor John Ozolins and Sr. Therese Power rsm.

**Mercy Spirit and Ethos**

A major responsibility of the Board is to ensure that the spirit and tradition of Mercy permeates our educational enterprise.

A highlight of 2006 was the first international Conference of Mercy Educators held at Malahide, Co. Dublin. I was privileged to represent the Melbourne Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy at this conference, along with a large contingent from Australia, which included four Melbourne Principals, Mary Moloney rsm, Jeff Burn, Bernard Dobson and Liz Monahan. The strong dynamic of the conference was the shared commitment to the Mercy tradition and ethos and a shared passion for transmitting that through educational practice, valuing compassion, respect and a concern for social justice. It was wonderful to witness the breadth of the Mercy world, which encompassed places as diverse as Belize, South Africa and the Philippines.

The fourth Formation Program in Mercy Ethos took place in April this year at Baggot Street under the leadership of Madeline Duckett rsm and Annette Schneider rsm. Once again there were participants from a number of ministries and reports of the program have been very favourable. Our most recently appointed Principals, Ms. Julie Ryan and Mr. John Arthurson, took part in this program as well as recent appointments, Principals, Ms. Julie Ryan and Mr. John Arthurson, took part in this program as well as recent appointments of VCE Coordinators in Mercy and affiliated schools.

Networking and Professional Development

The opportunity for net-working continues to be a strength of Mercy Education. Principals combined two of their meetings with the opportunity to visit another school. The hosts school were Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, and St. Aloysius College, North Melbourne. Speakers at the Principals’ meetings included Mr. Liam Division, Director of Religious Education for the Ballarat Diocese and former principal, on the role of Principal as faith leader, Sr. Carole McDonald discussing the support of schools for projects in East Timor, and Sr. Margaret Moore introducing Young Mercy Links.

Business Managers visited Mildura for a highly successful Forum, Deputy Principals attended a seminar on stress management, and Religious Education Coordinators met to discuss matters of mutual interest. For the first time a meeting was held of VCE Coordinators in Mercy and affiliated schools, at the request of the coordinators themselves. A formation program with Sr. Madeline Duckett and Sr. Carole McDonald was held for staff involved in the Seeds of Justice program.

Members of School Advisory Councils attended a seminar with speaker Cheryl Sullivan, Director of the Regina Coeli Community, and reflected on the significance for an educational setting of this insight into another Mercy ministry.

Once again the Frayne Speech Festival, held at Notre Dame College, Shepparton provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop and refine their skills of debating, public speaking and voice choir, and to mix with students from other Mercy schools. It is obvious that the standard of public speaking improves each year, and that this festival encourages the confidence that will enable our students to play a significant part in public discourse.
The Seeds of Justice program continues to educate students in issues of justice and social consciousness so that they can be informed participants in the community. Principals and Board members were delighted to hear Sr Margaret Moore speak about the development of Young Mercy Links which will provide an opportunity for networking among Mercy alumni with a concern for social justice.

**Capital Development**

Two of our schools have completed major capital projects this year, and another is under way. At Mount Lyciate Mercy College we have seen the blessing and opening of the Doyle Centre, incorporating a Multipurpose Gymnasium, which provides a space for the academic and social activities of students. At the same time, Geelong College has seen the completion of its new Performing Arts Centre, which is a state-of-the-art facility.

**Legal Issues**

The Board is aware that schools have become more liable to face legal challenges in our more litigious society. Two claims on behalf of students with special needs have been taken to the Equal Opportunity Commission. While one matter was settled by mediation, the other is still ongoing, and has caused considerable stress for the Principal and staff concerned. The school has been reliant on the advice of our Legal Consultant, Mr Jacob Droge, in this matter, and has also received excellent advice and support from Mr David Hugill of the Catholic Education Office. An employment issue in another school has been settled by conciliation.

In view of the increased likelihood of litigation against schools, the Board was pleased to hear that our Executive Officer, Eugene Lynch, had been offered sponsorship by the Catholic Education Office to enrol in the Graduate Certificate in Education Law at Australian Catholic University. We are appreciative of Eugene’s willingness to broaden his education in this area.

**Policies and Procedures**

The Board is currently undertaking a review of its policies and procedures to ensure consistency of format and continuing relevance. We are planning to develop our own web-site on which the policies will be published, allowing for ease and economy in updating.

**School Councils**

The Board is appreciative of the work of the School Councils and especially those who have not accepted nomination as MSEI representatives on these Boards. As a number of our representatives have recently concluded their terms, we have made many new appointments. The Board has expressed its appreciation of Di Della, Joyce, long-serving Chair of the School Council of St Joseph’s, Mildura and Mr Adrian Adolph, Chairman of the Sacred Heart Kytonet Council, and have noted with great sadness, the death of Mrs Barbara Teahen, former Chair and long-serving member of the Academy of Mary Immaculate Council.

**Acknowledgements and Thanks**

May I conclude this report by declaring my gratitude and appreciation of all those who have contributed to making this another fruitful and faith-filled year in Mercy Education. I am grateful for the trust, support and friendship of the Sisters of Mercy, and in particular of Congregation Leader, Sr Kath Tierney, whose energy, warmth, wisdom and good humour are a great gift to the Board. I thank my fellow Board members for their generosity in undertaking tasks on behalf of the Board, and for the wisdom, experience and skills they are so willing to share. Particular thanks to Deputy Chair, Sr Annette Schneider for her unwavering support, and for her creative thinking about new ways to improve our practice in providing supportive and enlightened governance to schools.

Our Financial Consultant, Mr Jeff Knott, is a great friend of Mercy, and we are grateful for his wise and well-informed advice regarding financial matters. The considered advice of our Legal Consultant, Mr Jacob Droge, has also proved invaluable in the course of this year. I thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

The work of the Board is constantly facilitated and energised by the work of our Executive Officer, Mr Eugene Lynch. His efficiency, integrity and understanding of constant improvement in practice are invaluable to the effective functioning of the Board, as is the strength of his commitment to Mercy Education. I am most appreciative of his friendship, humour and support.

**Conclusion**

The Board is aware that its role is to provide support for the educational enterprise of the schools. It is the Principals, their Leadership Teams and their staff who put into practice every day the ideals of Mercy Education and who provide a climate of love and trust in which young people can flourish and grow, and become people who bring to the world the values they have been challenged by. On behalf of the Board I congratulate and thank the Principals and staff of our schools for the way in which they bring the light and love of Christ and the spirit of Catherine McAuley to their students.

Ms Patricia Ryan OAM

This year, 2007, we honour and celebrate Mercy in a special way. It is 150 years since Ursula Frayne arrived in Melbourne along with two other Sisters of Mercy to establish a foundation in Fitzroy. In March 1857, Ursula, Anne Xavier Dillon and M Joseph Sherlock, arrived to take up residence in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy. Within six weeks of their arrival, they opened a school on the site. This school flourishes today — Academy of Mary Immaculate. It is the oldest girls’ secondary school in Victoria and it has been providing education for girls continuously since that opening on 20 April 1857.

We have been richly blessed as we ponder this history and as we acknowledge the excellence in education that is offered in all our educational facilities today. We are not called to be pioneers in the same way that Ursula was called. But we are called to that same dedication, to leadership that will inspire and call both commitment in others, to a deep relationship with our God and an authentic living of the Gospel values.

The challenges which present in each school setting are many and varied. Together we strive to set goals which are realistic and achievable while, at the same time, encouraging our students to attain the potential which is within each one.

Our Mercy story is rich, belonging to a past, lived in this present time and alive with possibilities for the future. The foundations for the future are built on the day-to-day experiences of now.

One of the blessings which has been evident in this 150th year has been meeting the past students of our schools who came to the Anniversary Mass in March. Many of them are teachers now themselves and they are so grateful for the education which they received in Mercy schools. They carry the Mercy story which was passed on to them by the educators of their time.

On behalf of the Congregation, I acknowledge all those who form our school communities. Thank you to the Principals for your commitment and leadership in Mercy Education.

I am also very grateful to the members of the School Councils who offer guidance and support to the Principals to exercise their role.

To the staff in each school, thank you for the dedication to your tasks and for your commitment to the students.

The Board members of MSEI are extraordinary in their involvement. Their wisdom, expertise and selflessness are evident in their dedication and their dedication to Mercy education. Thank you to Patricia Ryan, Chair of MSEI, for her leadership and her representation of the Congregation in educational forums. Thank you to each member of the Board.

To Eugene Lynch, thank you for so much. Eugene’s particular skills in managing so many tasks at once and providing guidance and direction to school Principals is greatly appreciated.

I pray that our God of Mercy will bless each one and that the spirit of Catherine will continue to inspire us and call us forth.

Sister Kathleen M Tierney RSM

**“Our Mercy story is rich, belonging to a past, lived in this present time and alive with possibilities for the future. The foundations for the future are built on the day-to-day experiences of now.”**

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Ms Patricia Ryan OAM
Academy of Mary Immaculate
Fitzroy

2007 is a very special year for the Academy of Mary Immaculate with the celebration of our 150th Anniversary. The College began on April 20th, 1857 with the enrolment of six pupils and, while the number of students has increased over the years, the College has remained on its first original site in Nicholson Street, although, of course, with considerable building and facility development having taken place. An anniversary such as this one is an appropriate time to pause and reflect on what has been achieved over the years. At the beginning of this year, at the launch of the 150th celebrations, staff were asked to reflect on a number of questions and these were further explored at the Staff Professional Development Day at the end of Term 1. Questions such as:

- How has our past history shaped us?
- What of the past do we want to take into the future?
- Would Mother Ursula Frayne be proud of the College she sees today?
- Have we remained true to her legacy and our heritage?
- What does it mean to be women and men of Mercy?
- Is the Spirit of Mercy a lived reality at the College?

Big questions but ones that must be asked as we move forward into the future and ones that will continue to be pondered on now and in the future. I believe our initial discussions give us cause for confidence.

It is twelve months now since my appointment as Principal of the Academy of Mary Immaculate and it has been an extremely enriching year. The staff at the Academy of Mary Immaculate are experienced educators with whom it has been a pleasure to work. They are open to change and have embraced the Academy’s new directions and colour, the “Story of Mercy.”

A significant effort has been put into the development of a ten year Facilities Masterplan for the College. It is hoped that this Masterplan will be launched in the not too distant future. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the College community for their welcome and their support.

In 2006, our College theme “Live Life to the Full” was certainly a reality for the College community. In 2007, the theme “Looking Back, Looking Forward” is a very appropriate theme for our 150th celebrations.

May the faith and inspiration of Mother Ursula Frayne continue to unite, inspire and enrich us this year and may the God who has walked with us for the past 150 years journey with us in the future.

Mary Moloney rsm, Principal

Traditions are the guideposts driven deep in our subconscious minds. The most powerful ones are those we can’t even describe and aren’t even aware of.

Ellen Goodman

Well published American author and Pulitzer Prize winner, Ellen Goodman, aptly describes traditions as signposts driven deep into our subconscious minds. Her description evokes a persuasive force that inspires us and leads us along a road that gives direction and purpose. It implies a sense of journey, one that is not lonely but one travelled with companions sharing a common purpose and vision. Traditions can be powerful and are even more so when we are aware of them and we can describe them.

The tradition of Mercy, founded over 175 years ago in Dublin and established exactly 150 years ago in Melbourne, is powerful, enduring and responsive to the times. It continues to guide us and honours the dream of Catherine McAuley in assisting the poor, the marginalised and the disadvantaged through the ministries of education, health and welfare.

It has stood the test of time and sits as “a beacon on the hill”, lighting the way as we head into the next decade, marching towards the next 150 years.

There is no doubt that as Mercy people we are very much aware of our tradition and we can describe it. The biennial program in Mercy Ethics held once again this year at the founding house in Baggot Street, Dublin, provides a wonderful opportunity for a fortunate group of thirty people to discover, reflect and describe the great tradition of Mercy and articulate the values that it espouses. The program, again led by Madeline Duckett rsm and Annette Schneider rsm, and supported by various speakers and presenters from Ireland, enriches the understanding of this great tradition and brings the total number of people who have undertaken this course to well over one hundred. What a powerful force that exists across the Mercy ministries that ensures the road we are on is well signposted and that its people are able to articulate and give meaning to this tradition in these challenging times.

That meaning was reinforced earlier this year when celebrations were held at St Patrick’s Cathedral and at the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne. Thousands of Mercy people from around the State gathered, each one touched in some way by the gifts they received in either working in partnership with, or being cared for at some stage in their life, by the Sisters of Mercy. The partnership is a very happy one and emulates the original plans Catherine had to engage the local people when she set up the House of Mercy in Dublin in 1827. There is a great sense of confidence amongst the partners that the works of the Sisters of Mercy will continue long into the future.

Another remarkable and influential force which describes and brings to life the Mercy ethos is the work of the Seeds of Justice project. Remarkable because it demonstrates that our young people are already imbued with a passion and concern for the plight of those less fortunate. Students from across the Mercy schools in Victoria came together to share their commitment for Mercy and justice and empower one another to take this message back to their schools. Staff are influential in leading these students on their return to school and value the collegially and endeavour they share with others working in the Project. Similarly across the other MSJ networks, Principals, Deputies Principals, Business Managers and Religious Education Coordinators, work together, support one another and share ideas on how to continue to bring to life the great tradition that is Mercy Education.

It is a privilege to work alongside the members of the MSJ Board as they strive to strengthen the guideposts and support those that work in the Education ministry. New Board members, Mary Moloney rsm, John Shannon and John Brick, have already offered much with their experience, expertise and wisdom and have supported Principals and Deputy Principals with their involvement in the appraisal and review processes. On a personal level, I am most grateful for the leadership of Board Chair, Patricia Ryan, and Deputy Chair, Annette Schneider rsm, and the wise counsel that they and their experience and expertise do bring. Similarly the incredible energy, hard work and direct involvement with the Board by Congregation Leader, Kath Tinney rsm, is inspiring and of great benefit to the decision making process of the Board.

Financial consultant, Jeff Krost, and Legal consultant, Jacob Ocko, are most generous in providing timely and expert advice and ensure that the Board is well informed on the many complex issues that arise throughout the year.

We may continue to live out Catherine’s dream and follow her guideposts, lighting the way for our students in this great tradition of Mercy Education.

Eugene Lynch

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It is twelve months now since my appointment as Principal of the Academy of Mary Immaculate and it has been an extremely enriching year. The staff at the Academy of Mary Immaculate are experienced educators with whom it has been a pleasure to work. They are open to change and have embraced the realities of curriculum change in a positive and dynamic way. Students are well catered for in terms of extra curricular activities and they make the most of these opportunities.

The Religious Education Department, in particular, is a dynamic Department which is at the core of all that happens at the College. Students are encouraged to live out their faith and, the College Justice group, led by a Justice Captain, certainly exemplifies this. Students are well aware of their need to contribute to society and the Academy Justice group is a catalyst for raising awareness of justice issues in society today and for offering meaningful support to worthy causes. The College’s annual Mercy Day celebrations not only highlight the wonderful Mercy spirit among the student community, but also provide an opportunity for significant fundraising. In 2006 the students raised over $4000 to support St. Carthy Solano’s work in the Sudan. Likewise, the Year 10 Community Action Week sees students contributing in practical ways to the local community.

The Wizard of Oz Production, the Performing Arts evenings especially the beautiful “Carols in the Courtyard”, The Visual Arts Exhibition, The Sports Achievement Evening, the visit from our sister school, Nishiyama High School in Japan, and the College’s participation in the Mercy Flame Festival - with the significant achievement of winning the Voice Choir section of the competition - all these occasions and more give witness to a vibrant, dynamic College.

Some of the major initiatives of the past twelve months have been the development of a new College website, the implementation of an online attendance system and the review and extension of the College Intranet. A minor review of the College timetable has already occurred with a further detailed review of it and of Curriculum offerings to be a major focus of the next few months.

In terms of facilities development, the College courtyard has been remodelled so that it complements the bluestone buildings which surround it and the Murray Room has been completely refurbished with the highlight being the installation of the Murray Room windows which tell, through design and colour, the “Story of Mercy.”

A significant effort has been put into the development of a ten year Facilities Masterplan for the College. It is hoped that this Masterplan will be launched in the not too distant future.

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In 2006, our College theme “Live Life to the Full” was certainly a reality for the College community. In 2007, the theme “Looking Back, Looking Forward” is a very appropriate theme for our 150th celebrations.

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Mary Moloney rsm, Principal
Sacred Heart College

Geelong

“The Renaissance”, the theme for the year chosen by our student leaders, was certainly evident throughout the year. Physically, a large section of the school was a construction site. The Performing Arts Centre and Music School were blessed and officially opened by Archbishop Hart on 27 April 2007. The new precinct will be a renaissance for the Performing Arts. The Centre has been named the Costa Centre for the Performing Arts and contains a 580 seat auditorium, McAuley Hall; a two storey Music School named after Sr. Raphael Sheehan; a drama studio; music classrooms and tuition rooms; an internal courtyard, Austin Court and the Cranbourne Gallery for art exhibitions.

The students themselves connected with our theme, producing a new CD, “Renaissance” and this was their support towards the Capital Appeal. Members of the school community have given so generously to our Appeal with the result exceeding our target. It has been heartening to see this investment in Sacred Heart College which is so important to maintaining excellent facilities to support our broad curriculum. This wonderful new development will be our legacy for future generations of students.

Renaissance reflects a reflection on the past and looking at new ways of doing things based on the lessons of the past. Each year we review various aspects of school life. A new strategic plan was devised to guide our decision making, culminating in our extra-curricular celebrations. “Strategy 2010” reviews our commitment to the core values of our Mission Statement: Spirituality, Learning, Community, Respect and Social Justice.

2006 saw the introduction of a new ministry team, led by Anna Negro, Deputy Principal - Mission. The team also comprises a Head of Religious Education, Social Justice co-ordinator and Liturgy co-ordinator.

During the year the Personal Respect & Dignity policy has been reviewed, particularly the areas of Bullying & Harassment, Code of Conduct (discipline) and Banned Substances (drug & alcohol). We have also reviewed our grounds operations.

2006 presented particular challenges in the areas of assessment and reporting. Students in Year 10 were the first to finish the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and their work was carefully internally moderated and sent to various parts of the world for external monitoring. We were pleased with the results and the feedback will be helpful to use in future assessment and reporting for the MYP. We also had to contend with the introduction of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and the Federal Government’s reporting requirements.

Students completed the Personal Project for the first time at Year 10 and in Year 9 began their preparation for the project in 2007. The projects were outstanding and represented independent learning. The sustained effort on the part of each student. Every staff member mentored a student and guided her as she worked towards her ultimate goal. Some very impressive finished products resulted from this concerted endeavour.

The Registered Schools Board Review included complimentary feedback regarding the curriculum of the school and the way the students perform within the classrooms. We continue to monitor and review the quality of classroom practice and in 2007, programs are being reviewed in detail.

Our academic program is recognised for a curriculum with breadth, rigour and relevance. This program with its emphasis on international understandings and interdisciplinary study is underpinned by the thinking curriculum. All students in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program pursue the following Areas of Interaction: Homo Faber (creativity & discovery through time), Approaches to Learning, Environment, Health and Physical Education, Community & Service and Spirituality. In addition to Academic excellence Awards and Citizenship Awards, students are now also recognised for excelling in each of the Areas of Interaction.

Each of our affiliate bodies has also supported the theme of Renaissance by undertaking a review and planning for the future. The College Council undertook a two day formation program to learn more about the Sisters of Mercy and the Mercy ethos of the school. The Old Collegians Association continues to plan for the future and remains dynamic and interested in all areas of school life. The Rowing Club has reviewed all aspects of the club, particularly coaching and the need for a racing shed. The activities of the Parents & Friends Association continue to be inclusive of all members of the community with liturgies, a presence at our House swimming and athletics carnivals, happy hours and fundraising activities.

As a school community interested in continuous improvement, there is much to celebrate within Sacred Heart College. It is my pleasure to lead such a dynamic community, continuous work of Mother Xavier Maquere and all who have followed her as principals of the school.

“The tender mercy of our God has given us one another.” — Mercy Constitution

Jeffrey Burn, Principal

St Aloysius College

North Melbourne

The education of young women, this task given to us by Catherine McAuley, is one that we undertake with enthusiasm in our local context. It is easy in Australian society to downplay the value and privilege afforded to us by this everyday activity and yet many girls and women are denied this right. When less than 40% of females receive an education, this privileged position brings with it responsibility to act and advocate for those less fortunate. One of our great privileges this year has been to support the secondary education of a small number girls and women in Sudan through our connections with Sr Cathy Solano rm. This year we trace our history back 120 years, from a small terrace house in Flemington Road opposite the Royal Children’s Hospital to our present site where we educate 621 young women.

The College Mission statement is key to understanding who we are and as part of the Strategic Plan, we have reviewed and reinserted our 1994 document to reflect how the task of educating young women is interpreted today. An initial draft of this has been completed and the document will now be circulated for comment among staff, students and parents. The review of our Pastoral Care practices and our Code of Conduct continue as major goals in 2007.

In order to develop the religious and spiritual growth of our students we have employed strategies to enhance the prayer life of the College. Religious Education courses have been rewritten in line with the new Archdiocesan guidelines, incorporating teaching and learning approaches from the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. The completion of the renovations to the Convent should provide more regular access to the chapel. The staff retreat day focused on adult spirituality and provided opportunities for the staff to deepen their own understanding. A highlight for Year 11 students was their seminar day where the guest speaker forcefully witnessed to the power of open hearts. Our commitment to Social Justice was enhanced by the appointment of a Social Justice Coordinator and the continued involvement of the students in the Seeds of Justice program. On Mercy day we examined the United Nations Millennium Goals and the activities and assembly, run by the students, enabled everyone to appreciate the importance and urgency for the world of bringing these goals to fruition.

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards is the major focus of curriculum development across years 7 to 10. English and Mathematics teachers reported using these Standards in 2006. In our Professional Development there has been a strong emphasis on teaching strategies and the use of rubrics. In February this year we joined with the staff of Mercy College, Coburg to work with Tony Ryan to expand our understanding of thinking strategies and learning styles. The Teaching and Learning Policy has been rewritten and the Assessment Policy and Reporting Policy will be reviewed this year.

One of the major achievements in 2006 was the implementation of new student leadership positions. Our traditional leadership positions of College Captain, College Vice-Captain and Sports Captain have been expanded to incorporate Performing Arts, Social Justice, Student Action, Liturgy, and House Cup captains. Providing structures that enable our students to exercise real leadership has lifted the involvement of the students in the College.

The College is well resourced and the variety of programs and subjects offered is extensive. One of the key areas in the Strategic Plan was the development of alternate learning environments. On our limited site this continues to be a major challenge. Further areas of development in 2007 will be the College drug policy, Occupational Health and Safety and the further implementation of VELS.

My special thanks to all who have contributed to the life of the College in the last year. In particular, Ms Rosemary Stewart who will resign in May after 32 years of dedicated and extraordinary service to the students and the College. It has been a privilege to lead this community and to continue the long tradition of Mercy education in North Melbourne.

John Davidson, Principal
The College theme for 2006 was “Our Journey Leads Us...”. During the year we reflected on the nature of that journey, thought about and prayed for those with whom we share the experience and considered just where the journey was taking us.

For some, 2006 was the commencement of their Sacred Heart journey; for others it was the end of their formal association with the College. At the Year 12 Graduation Dinner, for example, one half of the families had an additional reason to celebrate, as it was their youngest child who was finishing secondary education.

The enrolment at Sacred Heart hovers around the mid-700s and the College enjoys an excellent reputation in the local community. The school is an integral part of the Macedon Ranges region and staff look for opportunities for students to make a contribution locally whilst at the same time taking up, and including in their programmes, the best of what Melbourne has to offer young people. An example of each comes to mind.

Back in 2003 a problem-solving discussion between the Cobaw Community Health Service housing officer and the agency’s director led to students in our VCE programme investigating issues around homelessness and how to obtain value from food vouchers. One thing led to another – awareness was raised and needs identified. Soon a pilot community lunch programme was operating one day a week and it was a resounding success, serving up to 40 lunches. In 2006 the project was Highly Commended at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards. More importantly, feedback from students confirms that their lifelong since they have heard so many students anticipate a meeting with groups such as Urban Seed, the Somali Community Group or the Fitzroy Learning Centre. It is a positive school experience.

One feature of the 2006 school year was an increase in enrolment numbers in a period where we had originally planned for a slight decrease in numbers. This has come about as a result of an increased demand for places at all levels and an increased retention to Year 12.

Our Mission Statement calls for us to be a dynamic learning community and the Strategic Plan has continued to provide a focus for us in all areas of College life. In 2007 we will be reviewing policies and procedures directed towards the holistic education of our students.

Spiritual Formation

With the completion of the Doyle Centre we have been able to assemble as one school to celebrate liturgies for special occasions. The Seeds of Justice Project continues to bear fruit. Student involvement in Social Justice is outstanding and their participation in the retreat programs is very meaningful. These have been excellently prepared and have encouraged the students to participate actively. The Religious Education program has been reviewed as part of the Strategic Plan.

Curriculum and Technology Development

Three VCE students were selected to perform in the Top Acts and Top Drama program conducted by the VCAA. This is a credit to the students and to our Performing Arts department. Our VCA Coordinator received a VCAA Teacher Achievement Award for an Integrated Program and the College was nominated for a VCA, Partner Achievement Award for its work in 2006.

Laptop computers have been provided to staff who do not have access to a computer and we have now introduced MyClasses to our school community. We have also improved the maintenance of student progress and behaviour records by introducing new computer programs.

Student Wellbeing

Positive relationships within the College have been encouraged through a review of the Responsible Behaviour Plan and the implementation of Restorative Practices. We have employed a School Wellbeing Coordinator as part of a pilot program to focus on Case Management of students and the developments and coordination of student wellbeing programs.

Our key focus continues to be the development of positive relationships between teachers and students.

Professional Development

Professional Learning has been enhanced through the provision of school based programs in addition to external opportunities. The school based programs have included workshops on teaching in a Catholic School, modules in an Religious Tradition, Restorative Practices, further awareness and understanding of VELS and assessment and reporting in line with government requirements.

The College theme for 2006 was “Our Journey Leads Us...”. During the year we reflected on the nature of that journey, thought about and prayed for those with whom we share the experience and considered just where the journey was taking us.

For some, 2006 was the commencement of their Sacred Heart journey; for others it was the end of their formal association with the College. At the Year 12 Graduation Dinner, for example, one half of the families had an additional reason to celebrate, as it was their youngest child who was finishing secondary education.

The enrolment at Sacred Heart hovers around the mid-700s and the College enjoys an excellent reputation in the local community. The school is an integral part of the Macedon Ranges region and staff look for opportunities for students to make a contribution locally whilst at the same time taking up, and including in their programmes, the best of what Melbourne has to offer young people. An example of each comes to mind.

Back in 2003 a problem-solving discussion between the Cobaw Community Health Service housing officer and the agency’s director led to students in our VCE programme investigating issues around homelessness and how to obtain value from food vouchers. One thing led to another – awareness was raised and needs identified. Soon a pilot community lunch programme was operating one day a week and it was a resounding success, serving up to 40 lunches. In 2006 the project was Highly Commended at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards. More importantly, feedback from students confirms that their lifelong since they have heard so many students anticipate a meeting with groups such as Urban Seed, the Somali Community Group or the Fitzroy Learning Centre. It is a positive school experience.

One feature of the 2006 school year was an increase in enrolment numbers in a period where we had originally planned for a slight decrease in numbers. This has come about as a result of an increased demand for places at all levels and an increased retention to Year 12.

Our Mission Statement calls for us to be a dynamic learning community and the Strategic Plan has continued to provide a focus for us in all areas of College life. In 2007 we will be reviewing policies and procedures directed towards the holistic education of our students.

Spiritual Formation

With the completion of the Doyle Centre we have been able to assemble as one school to celebrate liturgies for special occasions. The Seeds of Justice Project continues to bear fruit. Student involvement in Social Justice is outstanding and their participation in the retreat programs is very meaningful. These have been excellently prepared and have encouraged the students to participate actively. The Religious Education program has been reviewed as part of the Strategic Plan.

Curriculum and Technology Development

Three VCE students were selected to perform in the Top Acts and Top Drama program conducted by the VCAA. This is a credit to the students and to our Performing Arts department. Our VCA Coordinator received a VCAA Teacher Achievement Award for an Integrated Program and the College was nominated for a VCA, Partner Achievement Award for its work in 2006.

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Our Lady of Mercy College
Heidelberg

Like every year, the last one has been a time of firsts. Many of these new initiatives have been related to learning and teaching as we continue to explore and trial ways to do our craft better.

The first times at Our Lady of Mercy College have included:

- A shift to a four lesson day based on the idea of creating more “time on task”. This required a process to refine the program at each year level and rethink how we would deliver our programs in the classrooms. Three months into our changed program and the feedback has been very positive.
- Developing an Outdoor Education program to supplement the well developed PE and sports program. All Year 9 students headed off in October for their bush experience and the Year 7 students had their experience early this year.
- For some of our girls at Year 9 particularly, it was their first experience of a night under canvas and so valuable in extending their boundaries.

The school has had a trip to Canberra for a number of years but a group of staff in reviewing the experience felt it could serve a broader range of learning outcomes and so changes were made. In what was one of the most innovative programs we have developed the students work in small groups on a rich task requiring them to plan, find their way around Canberra and then as a group, present a response to the question, “What role will I play in Australia’s future?”

A professional development program that was school based involving a group of talented staff presenting to their peers and new teaching strategies and a further program that gave a group of about fifteen staff the opportunity to attend interstate conferences to discover some of the latest research and teaching ideas. This has been the source of new energy and has led to a learning project in Maths and the trialing of a learning coach role in 2007.

A joint project with Marcellin College in the M2 Theatre Company and the production of “Man of La Mancha” – an opportunity for girls and boys to work together and for a local community to celebrate the talents of combined students.

In technology the College provided all staff with school laptops, launched a portal using Eworkspaces to allow staff to work together and for a local community to understand and use technology to improve the classroom experience.

Ruth Clarke as the architectural firm to work with us on a major refurbishment of our Performing Arts Theatre, dance studio and classrooms with a focus on Performing Arts.

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2007 has seen the adoption of a new leadership structure at OLMC – with the creation of three vice principal positions to emphasise the learning and teaching focus and to oversee specific areas. The roles are Vice Principal, Learning and Teaching held by Ms Fiona Hyslop, Vice Principal, RE and Faith held by Mrs Karen Rivaland, and Vice Principal Wellbeing and Organisation held by Mrs Di Hager. The team meets regularly to discuss strategy and to exchange ideas.

In a time of new initiatives, we also recognise the need to consolidate some of the other areas that form part of the core of the school’s work particularly in the area of RE and Mercy Ethics and in these areas we:

- Maintain our strong link with the Exodus Community in West Heidelberg by students and staff donating their time to knit squares to be made up into blankets and quilts for the community.
- In addition, students collected, wrapped and donated Easter eggs and gifts. As part of the induction process of new staff to the College, they are educated to the involve of the Sisters of Mercy in this community.
- Involves the students in the Make Poverty History campaign and also with Amnesty International with various activities taking place on campus with the proceeds being donated to support these causes.
- Reintroduced whole school assemblies which are held twice a year with the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students as an entire community. These assemblies are in addition to the rituals of the Mercy Day Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral and the carnival of activities in the afternoon to commemorate this important occasion.

In looking forward we have begun a Master Plan process with the appointment of Clarke Hopkins Clarke as the architectural firm to work with us on developing a Master Plan for future development and building works over the next ten years and we are slowly coming to the point where we are ready to refine and restate our Mission, Vision and Values. There is certainly much to look forward to.

Julie Ryan, Principal

St Joseph’s College
Mildura

Our current Building Program will provide us with a theatre, dance studio and classrooms with a focus on Performing Arts. This refurbishment, due to be completed in early 2008, is taking place at the theatre, dance studio and classrooms with a focus on Performing Arts. This refurbishment, due to be completed in early 2008, is taking place at the school grounds have been paved, extensive shade sails installed and extra parking space provided.

In the immediate future we will consolidate our curriculum, including our Religious Education program “Awakening” and work within the School Improvement Framework.

Sylvia Williams ram, Principal

In November 2006 we ran our Head Start program for the second time for students undertaking VCE Units 3 & 4 subjects in the following year. During this week we run the full timetable plus study sessions on time management, goal setting and understanding the way human beings learn. Feedback from both students and teachers indicates that it has been a very valuable program and one that we hope will be reflected in some better learning by our senior students and hopefully improved grades.

During 2006 there was considerable discussion regarding a desire to ensure that all our Year 7 students were given the opportunity to have regular exercise whilst at school. This has led to the introduction of our “Active For Life” program at Year 7 in 2007. All students, in addition to Physical Education classes attend a double period per week of “Active For Life”. These classes are gender specific and include a range of activities, ranging from bike education to team sports to specialized programs like “Rock and Water”.

Other important developments include a new Positions of Leadership structure which includes interdisciplinary coordinators for the first time, a renewed focus on senior students making better use of their study time and the “SIMON” Core Builder module.

Our vertical homeroom system continues to be a real success with our weekly extended homeroom being used to teach and discuss the personal development area of VELS.

In addition, our student leadership at the College has been altered with a junior, middle and senior Students’ Representative Council involving over one hundred students. Each SRC has been given a key College event to organise, including St Joseph’s Day and the College Ball. Forty senior student leaders are also actively involved in leading events including House Assemblies and a wide range of fundraising activities. Students in Year 7 have enjoyed a smooth transition to the College participating in a very successful peer mentoring program with Year 11 students, as well as a number of activity days.

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Julie Ryan, Principal
Mercy Secondary Education

Mercy Secondary Education was compiled to produce a curriculum map for the year 2006. This provided us with some time to work in the area of VELs, which has been in the area of curriculum over the past twelve months. Much of the focus in this area has been on providing a curriculum that is whole rather than individuals. We hope that the students, parents, and community agencies who support our endeavor will continue to provide a dynamic and vibrant learning environment for the students in our care.

2006 marked the 15th anniversary of Emmanuel College. At the Year 7 – 10 campus and the creation of a separate Year 9 area with a new portable classroom unit and new locker area.

During 2006, the structure of our Wellbeing Team was reviewed in line with our increasing numbers and the continual changes in the pastoral issues presented by the young people in our care. The roles of our coordinators and the effectiveness of our prevention and early intervention programs were highly commended throughout the review whilst the constant battle to engage in partnerships with community agencies was also highlighted.

At the same time, there was continuous development of our personal development and community service programs in which all students and staff are engaged. Again, it is imperative that our programs are reflective of students’ needs and provide effective support for those concerned.

Emmanuel College has also begun a whole school review of well being using the MindMatters Resource and facilitation from the Catholic Education Office. This twelve month process involving staff, students, parents, and community agencies aims to investigate the well being of our College as a whole rather than individuals and we hope that the outcomes provide impetus for future planning.

Much of the focus in the area of curriculum over the past twelve months has been in the area of VELs. A very productive day, lead by Pam Russell, was held in April. This provided us with some time to work in both level teams and faculty groups to further our common understanding of the VELs document. Faculty coordinators, working with their staff, then completed audits of all units taught and this data was compiled to produce a curriculum map for the College. Information gleaned from this map will help inform our future decisions as we continue on our journey with the implementation of VELs.

Other areas of focus involved an investigation into inter-departmental, a review of the examination process for Year 7 – 10, promotion of the Religious Education and LOTE areas and an audit of the sport and camp program in light of increasing student numbers. The rich information gained from these groups will support us as we continue to provide a dynamic and vibrant learning environment for the students in our care.

2006 saw the opening of the refurbished St Ann’s Convent in October 2007, the beginning of the construction of a new Learning Resource Centre at the Year 7 – 10 campus and the creation of a separate Year 9 area with a new portable classroom unit and new locker area.

Facilities

After nearly two years of planning, the first sod was turned on our multi purpose facility at Coolock. Staff and students have watched with great excitement as this facility has taken shape. To be named ‘The Marian Centre’, it will include a large gymnasium beside a Performing Arts venue. As well as catering for these specific areas, the Marian Centre will be used by our College Community for a range of functions. It will also enable us to gather as one school and will be finished near the end of 2007.

The Technology Centre at La Valla has been completed and students are enjoying the new facilities. The Technology Centre has enabled us to include metal work in the curriculum for the first time and place a greater emphasis on design processes.

Social Justice

This remains a strong area for our students. Our students are active across local and international issues. Two local actions by students of interest were a fundraiser for Caritas where Year 11 students held a study-a-thon all night in an effort to highlight the ease with which we can access education. A Year Nine class set up a refugee camp on the oval and slept overnight to raise awareness of the plight of refugees.

Challenges Ahead

After extensive consultation within our community we have compiled and launched our School Development Plan 2007 – 2009. The Plan includes 20 key questions for us to explore as a community. This will challenge us to be open, to look at our weaknesses and strengths and search for new answers and directions to key elements of college life.

2007 will see the development of a new Master Plan for the entire College and this process is now well underway.

As 2006 closes and our journey into 2007 has begun our focus through our college theme moves from creating unity to living as true Christians. Our theme for this year is: Listen with Love, Act with Courage. It is an exciting theme that is already challenging us all to reflect daily on how we live as Christians.

Darren McGregor, Principal
### Statistics on Congregation Owned Schools

**Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy**
- Students: 640
- Staff: Teaching 67
  - Non-teaching 17
  - Religious 1
- HEAD COUNT: 85 = 68.9 FTE

**Sacred Heart College, Geelong**
- Students: 1,340
- Staff: Teaching 111
  - Non-teaching 37
  - Religious 1
- HEAD COUNT: 149 = 126.0 FTE

**Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg**
- Students: 1,097
- Staff: Teaching 90
  - Non-teaching 28
  - Religious 0
- HEAD COUNT: 118 = 108.0 FTE

**Sacred Heart College, Kyneton**
- Students: 750
- Staff: Teaching 61
  - Non-teaching 39
  - Religious 1
- HEAD COUNT: 101 = 83.1 FTE

**Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale**
- Students: 1,412
- Staff: Teaching 108
  - Non-teaching 45
  - Religious 0
- HEAD COUNT: 153 = 139.6 FTE

**St Joseph’s College, Mildura**
- Students: 933.4
- Staff: Teaching 74
  - Non-teaching 35
  - Religious 3
- HEAD COUNT: 112 = 94.2 FTE

**St Aloysius College, North Melbourne**
- Students: 621
- Staff: Teaching 57
  - Non-teaching 17
  - Religious 0
- HEAD COUNT: 74 = 68.5 FTE

### Statistics on Co Sponsored Schools

**Catholic College Bendigo**
- Students: 1,649
- Staff: Teaching 128
  - Non-teaching 69
  - Religious 2
- HEAD COUNT: 199 = 175.9 FTE

**Emmanuel College, Warrnambool**
- Students: 967
- Staff: Teaching 76
  - Non-teaching 53
  - Religious 1
- HEAD COUNT: 130 = 108.0 FTE

---

The statistics represent the number of students, staff, and religious personnel in each school. The HEAD COUNT indicates the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students, which helps in understanding the school's capacity and student load.
### Summary of Consolidated Income and Expenditure

**School Financial Year, 1 Feb 2006 – 31 Jan 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>17,263,382</td>
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<td>19,177,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other private income</td>
<td>4,500,444</td>
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<td>4,511,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>General recurrent grants</td>
<td>45,166,067</td>
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<td>46,844,195</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,929,903</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,532,962</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and on-costs</td>
<td>46,412,126</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>49,098,259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum costs</td>
<td>4,946,098</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>5,663,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other recurrent costs</td>
<td>10,255,341</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>10,206,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>17,263,392</td>
<td>27.2</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Loan repayments**

- 1,634,762 (10.5% of 2006) vs. 1,814,865 (100% of 2007)

**Funds transferred for capital**

- 5,316,338 (32.6% of 2006) vs. 5,564,272 (35.2% of 2007)

**Capital grants**

- 4,946,098 (8.0% of 2006) vs. 5,663,974 (8.0% of 2007)

**School Councillors and Governors 2007**

#### School Councillors – Sponsored Schools

- **Academy Of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy**
  - Chair: Mr Jeff Burn
  - Deputy Chair: Sr Joan Wilson
  - Principal: Ms Julie Ryan
  - MSEI nominee: Dr John Brick
  - Minute secretary: Mr Paul Romanin

- **Sacred Heart College, Geelong**
  - Chair: Mrs Anne Matheson
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Jeff Burn
  - Principal: Ms Julie Ryan
  - MSEI nominee: Dr John Brick
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Suzanne Skidmore

- **Our Lady Of Mercy College, Heidelberg**
  - Chair: Dr John Brick
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Robert Di Giacomo
  - Principal: Mrs Catherine Kelly
  - MSEI nominee: Ms Elizabeth Taylor
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Kay Nicholas

- **Sacred Heart College, Kyneton**
  - Chair: Mr Tony Ball
  - Deputy Chair: Mr John Arthurson
  - Principal: Mrs Maryann Kennedy
  - MSEI nominee: Mrs Rosemary Scarlett
  - Minute secretary: Mr Paul Strang

#### Governors – Co-sponsored Schools

- **Catholic College Bendigo**
  - Chair: Mr John Davidson
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Peter Hickey
  - Principal: Sr Maureen Wibben
  - MSEI nominee: Mrs Claire Ancevedo
  - Minute secretary: Mr Michael Donovan

- **Mount Liydale Mercy College, Lilydale**
  - Chair: Mrs Ann Newcomb
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Kevin O’Dwyer
  - Principal: Mrs Catherine Collins
  - MSEI nominee: Mrs Gay Basso
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Jacinta Cheers

- **St Aloysius College, North Melbourne**
  - Chair: Rev Fr Lawrence O’Toole PP
  - Deputy Chair: Rev John Fitzgerald PP
  - Principal: Ms Helen D’Elia
  - MSEI nominee: Mr Peter Hickey
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Jan Kelly

- **St Joseph’s College, Mildura**
  - Chair: Mrs Anne Hoyle
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Robert Di Giacomo
  - Principal: Ms Julie Ryan
  - MSEI nominee: Mr Michael Shirbin
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Tracey Czarnuch

- **St Joseph’s College, Warrnambool**
  - Chair: Mr Joe Caruana
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Peter Hickey
  - Principal: Sr Sylvia Williams
  - MSEI nominee: Mrs Maryann Kennedy
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Rosemary Scarlett

- **Emmanuel College, Warakurna**
  - Chair: Mr Paul Romanin
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Michael Shirbin
  - Principal: Sr Mary Moloney
  - MSEI nominee: Mr Patrick Timmons
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Samantha Kavanagh

- **Our Lady’s College, Warrnambool**
  - Chair: Mr Brian Reed
  - Deputy Chair: Mr Nicolas Sulzberger
  - Principal: Ms Julie Ryan
  - MSEI nominee: Mr Michael Shirbin
  - Minute secretary: Mrs Samantha Kavanagh

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- **Sacred Heart College, Stawell**
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