...Here as we move into the shadows of autumn
The night that brings the morning of spring
Come to us, Lord of Harvest
Teach us to be thankful for the gifts you bring...

- Autumn Equinox Ritual

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The Board

Chair
Ms Patricia Ryan

Board Members
Sr Kath Tierney RSM
Assoc Prof John Oazlens
Sr Sylvia Williams RSM

Consultants
Dr Therese Power RSM
Dr Annette Schneider RSM

Executive Officer
Mr Eugene Lynch

Foundation dates of the Colleges covered in this charter:
Academy of Mary Immaculate – Fitzroy 1857
Sacred Heart College – Geelong 1860
St Ann’s College amalgamated to
Emmanuel College – Warrnambool 1872
St Mary’s College amalgamated to
Catholic College – Bendigo 1876

St Aloysius College – North Melbourne 1886
Sacred Heart College – Kyneton 1889
Mount Lilydale Mercy College – Lilydale 1896
Sacred Heart College amalgamated to
St Joseph’s College – Mildura 1906
Our Lady of Mercy College – Heidelberg 1910

Chair’s Report

I am pleased to present for the first time the Annual Report of Mercy Secondary Education Inc. It was with some trepidation that I succeeded Michael Doyle as Chair of the Board twelve months ago. It is a tribute to the excellent processes set in place by my predecessors, the quality of my fellow Board Members and the efficiency of our Executive Officer, Mr Eugene Lynch, that my first year as Chair has been, though challenging, a richly satisfying one. It has been a year marked by farewells and welcomes, by celebrations and achievements, as well as by problems to be confronted and solved.

It is a great privilege to be part of such a vital energetic network of schools, and the opportunities my new role has provided for greater participation in the life of the schools has given me great faith in the strength of the enterprise that is Mercy Education. The newsletters of the schools give ample evidence of the faith-filled leadership of the Principals and staff, the commitment to the spirit of Mercy and to social justice, and a climate of continual educational improvement. I have seen this spirit very much alive at such events as the Mercy Day Mass for the students of The Academy of Mary Immaculate, and the blessing, and naming in honour of Sr Mary Moloney, of the new theatre at Sacred Heart, Kyneton. The importance to the students of belonging to the network of Mercy schools was apparent in the enthusiasm with which they embraced participation in the Frayne Speech Festival, and the opportunities it offered to meet the students from the other schools.

Farewells and Welcomes
At the end of 2005, the Board was given the opportunity to farewell and pay tribute to the retiring Congregation Leadership Team of Sisters Joan Wilson, Mary Duffy, Kaye Evans and Anne Ryan. We were delighted that we did not have to farewell Sr Kathleen Tierney who was re-elected for a second term as Congregation Leader. Her re-election demonstrated the high regard in which Sr Kath is held by the Congregation. As a Board, we have been most appreciative of the knowledge, skills and experience which she has brought to our deliberations, the depth of her compassion and commitment to Mercy, and the warmth of her friendship. The high priority she has given to attendance at Board meetings has made for ease of communication and shared understanding between the Board and the Leadership Team.

At the beginning of 2006 we were delighted to welcome the new Leadership Team of Sisters Nancy Freddi, Mary Bennett, Nicole Rotaru and Mary Wickham and we look forward to working with them.

Two of our schools have new Principals this year: Mrs Susan Danckert retired at the end of Term One, after more than seven years of distinguished leadership as Principal of the Academy of Mary Immaculate. The warmth and humour of her farewell function demonstrated the great affection and respect in which she was held by the school community. The Academy has flourished under her leadership, and she has been a valued member of the Mercy Principals group.

The Board was delighted to endorse the appointment of Sr Mary Moloney to the Principalship at the Academy in Term Two, 2006. For Sr Mary and the community of Sacred Heart College, this marked the end of a long and very happy association, and the College has thrived under Sr Mary’s leadership. The Board is confident that the appointment of Mr John Arthurson as Principal of Sacred Heart College, will continue to provide wise and compassionate leadership for the College.

The Commissioning ceremonies that were held for Mr Arthurson at Kyneton, and Sr Mary at the Academy, emphasised the significance of the Principal’s role in continuing to foster the Mercy tradition and spirit of Catherine McAuley.

Two new Senior appointments in schools this year have been that of Michael Johnston as Deputy Principal-Director of Students, at Mount Lilydale Mercy College, and Judith Weir as Director of Learning, at St Aloysius College. We wish them every success and fulfilment in their new roles.

Celebrations
Outstanding among our celebrations this year were those that marked the Centenary of Catholic Education and of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Mildura. This occasion was marked by a weekend of celebration in March which included an Open Day at St Joseph’s College, a Gala Dinner, and a Mass of Thanksgiving. Past students and friends of St Joseph’s were able to admire the wonderful facilities for the teaching of technology and languages in the refurbished convent and to witness the blessing of the bronze commemorative sculpture in the chapel. The shared celebration of parish and school underlined the identification of the Sisters of Mercy with the Catholic community of Mildura.

We look forward to the 2007 celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the arrival...
of the Sisters of Mercy in Victoria and the foundation of the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

Schools Network
The Board has continued to support the networking of various significant groups within our schools. Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers and Religious Education Coordinators have all met to discuss matters of shared concern, and to explore new professional learning opportunities.

During Term One Principals were introduced by Mary Oski from CEOM to the new Development Framework and Standards for Practice in Leadership in Catholic Schools, and we are confident in which it could be of value to schools.

Members of School Councils recently had the opportunity to tour the Mercy Hospital for Women at Heidelberg, and to hear about the work of Mercy Health and Aged Care.

Recently the Board engaged in a stimulating discussion, under the guidance of Sr Madeline Ethos Programme, a meeting was held of Principal, Deputy Chair of the Board, has brought to our deliberations her intimate knowledge, as a practising Principal, of the current issues in schools and in the wider educational scene, as well as a wealth of experience, a sound knowledge of process, common sense and good humour.

We have benefited immeasurably from John’s reasoned and principled approach to issues, the breadth of his experience in both secondary and tertiary educational spheres, and the gift of his theological reflections in the Mercy EJ Newsletter.

I also pay tribute to my predecessor Emeritus Professor Michael Doyle, from whom I learned a great deal about the art of chairmanship. Michael’s service to the Board was a work of love, and his interest, and affection, for all in Mercy Education continue.

The Board is indebted to the professional expertise and continuing support of our Financial Consultant Jeff Knott, who is unfailingly generous with his time, measured and well-informed in his advice, and inherently supportive of our whole educational enterprise, and to our Legal Consultant, Jacob Olszak, whose wisdom and expertise have been frequently called upon by the Board and by Principals.

The Board is indeed fortunate to have its Executive Officer, Mr Eugene Lynch, whose efficiency, initiative and integrity are critical to the functioning of our Board. He is the person who sees that work of the Board is carried out successfully, who maintains contact with the schools, and is always alert to finding new and better ways to do things. All of this is energised by his belief in the value of Mercy Education and a genuine enjoyment of what he is doing. I have been particularly grateful for his well-informed and sensitive advice, his good humour and friendship.

Conclusion
Finally I congratulate and thank the Principals, Leadership Teams and staff in our schools, who continue to encourage the love of learning in their students, and to create a climate of faith where young people may learn and flourish, and experience values of compassion, justice and mercy, which will enable them to bring the light of Christ to the world. I ask God’s blessing on you all in the great task that you undertake.

Ms Patricia Ryan OAM

In September 2005, the Sisters of Mercy Melbourne Congregation gathered together for their Chapter – a time to reflect on our lives together, to discuss our direction for the next six years and to elect a Leadership Team for that period.

As we reflected on the past and looked to the challenges of the future, we considered our ministries as they are now and they may emerge in the future. So many times we were reminded that we operate now in a sphere that is local, national and global.

To continue the mission begun in Ireland 175 years ago, we acknowledged the importance of many partnerships in which we are involved. Our Secondary Education involvement is a fine example of these partnerships – in the schools, in Board structures, in the local communities, in the Victorian Catholic education system, within the Relay Congregations group and within the wider Church.

During 2006, the Congregation will host Mercy Ethics Forums for Board and School Council members. During these forums, we will listen to the foundation stories of Mercy and explore how, together in our world today, we foster Mercy values in our ministries.

The past year has held many challenges for the Congregation, the MSI Board and Principles, as we have encountered the increase in demands placed on us. The number of complaints and issues that are brought to us, and the number of people who have shared their concerns with us, has grown.

We have also had a number of significant people in the world. I ask God’s blessing on you all in the great task that you undertake.

For your leadership and commitment to education, Assoc Prof John Ozlins and Sister Sylvia Williams RSM will retire from the Board at the Annual General Meeting after many years of dedicated service. Sister Therese Power RSM retired from the Board earlier this year. Each one has been tireless in their service to Mercy education.

School Council members provide valuable support to the Principals and the school community. Your efforts are greatly appreciated – thank you.

To the staff – thank you for all that you contribute to the students, the school and the local community.

I acknowledge the students – it is because of you, and for you, that we provide excellence in education in all areas of life and to prepare you for leadership in the community in later years.

I pray that God will be with each one as we embark on another year of partnership in the ministry of education.

Sister Kathleen M Tierney RSM

Congregation Leader
Executive Officer’s Report

At the time of preparation of this annual report, it is always interesting to look back and reflect on the activities and events that have occurred over the past year. The last twelve months have seen many changes at both the Board level and at the Schools, not the least of which was the appointment of Board Chair, Patricia Ryan rsm, to replace Emeritus Professor Michael Doyle. While ‘big shoes to fill’, Patricia has led the Board with confidence, professionalism and wisdom, and has brought with her a sense of warmth and genuine interest in the many events and occasions she has attended on behalf of MSEI and the Congregation. It is indeed a pleasure to work so closely with her and to learn from the experience and expertise she gained through her many years of educational leadership.

June 2006 will see the completion of the terms on the Board of members, Sr Sylvia Williams rsm and Assoc Prof John Carlin. Sylvia and John were inaugural members of the Board and after nine years of service, have been outstanding in their contribution to the establishment and growth of MSEI. Once again it has been a pleasure to work with and learn from such experienced educators as Sylvia, and John, and other continuing members, Sr Therese Power rsm. While there was no change at the Congregation Leader level, Sr Kath Tierney has welcomed a new team of Councillors for the next six years at the Congregation Leader level, Sr Kath Tierney has welcomed a new team of Councillors for the next six years.

The Mercy Ethics Program held biennially in Dublin, Ireland at the founding house of Catherine McAuley, continues to bring great reward to the people who have attended. Now with nearly ninety participants over the three separate programs, much is being achieved within each ministry and also between the ministries of welfare, health and education. This was no more evident than at the recent seminar for School Council members and Principals held at the new Mercy Hospital for Women (MHFW) in Heidelberg. Participants were warmly welcomed by the MHFW staff, captivated by the ever-increasing number of demands placed on them to ensure that each school is safe and a ‘healthy’ place to be. The MSEI Board is mindful of the role it plays in supporting its Principals, offering guidance, providing and arranging expert advice and meeting its responsibilities as delegated by the Congregation Leader and Council.

The Mercy Tradition of Education started 175 years ago by a courageous woman who was touched by the miserable poverty and the disadvantages of Dublin. Catherine McAuley recognised her call, accepted it and carried it out with a willingness to serve. She was given a gift, but the gift was given to her for others. While having no comprehension of what Mercy Education would be like in the 21st century, Catherine could only hope that there would be a world-wide enterprise of Sisters and lay partners, working together in faith-filled communities, educating young people and promoting justice in action to reach out to the poor. I am sure Catherine would not be disappointed in the activities and liveliness of Mercy Education today, as clearly depicted in the following reports.

Eugene Lynch

In 2005, our College theme was the quasi-equation M = DeI. The Miraculous (Miracle of Life to the Full). Thus, we will aim to live a life which is definitely be lived to the full. In early 2005 was miraculous and in 2006, life will be interpreted and improved on these aims.

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy

Mercy Ethos

• Planning for the 15th anniversary celebrations of the College in 2007 will be underway. A calendar of activities for past and present staff, parents and students has been organized to coincide with the celebrations of the Sisters of Mercy during 2007.

• A book on the history of the college is in the process of being edited and will be published in early 2007.

• College memorabilia is being collected and archived ready for display in 2007.

Welfare and relations – students and staff

• PD will be provided to staff and students.

• An Inaugural Year 9 Camp focusing on community building activities will be conducted in May.

Curriculum and Professional Development

• All teaching staff will aim to provide online assessment and detailed online curriculum information regarding subject delivery to students and parents as from Semester Two.

• VELS will be introduced and intensive PD on curriculum, assessment and reporting continuous as from 2005.

• Curriculum Advisory Team members will review VELS and Health and Physical Education Departments to complete the four year review cycle of the college’s Curriculum Development Plan.

Facilities and Learning Technology

• Staff and students are presently enjoying the totally refurbished East Building (completed in January 2006). Colour, comfort, light, easy access were key words in the renovations.

• The College Information Resource Centre has been refreshed with new carpeting and increased IT facilities.

• In July 2006, landscaping in front of the Admin building, Entrance and Courtyard / Chapel area will commence.

• Interactive whiteboards in two classrooms are presently being trialled by a staff learning team.

The above sample of 2005 achievements and aims for 2006 are only possible due to the hard work, dedication and goodwill of the College executive members, admin and staff, buoyed by the cooperation and support of students and their parents.

Sr Mary Moloney, College Principal as from Term Two will continue to review, revise, reinterpret and improve on these aims.

2005 was miraculous and in 2006, life will definitely be lived to the full.

Susan Danskert, Principal 1999 – Term One 2006
2005 marked the 145th year since the foundation of Sacred Heart College. Known simply as Sacred Heart School or ‘The Convent’, the College has served the educational needs of the Geelong community with distinction and during the year we gave thanks for the thousand of young people who have been the recipients of a Mercy education. Significantly the student leaders chose as our theme for the year ‘Ignite the Flame Within’.

During the year, we marked the celebrations of our 145th anniversary with a special Mass in the chapel, a commemorative whole school photograph, a trip to Luna Park for the whole school and an inaugural reunion for the boys of Sacred Heart. During school assemblies and a staff in-service day, there was a special focus on the foundress of Sacred Heart College, Mother Xavier Maguire. Also, Deputy Principal, Martina McFall, and leader of the Newtown community, Sr Madeline Fox travelled to Dublin with other Mercy pilgrims to learn more about Catherine McAuley and her legacy. Our founding Sisters led by Xavier Maguire are an example of what can be achieved when the flame within is ignited.

During our school Mass to commence Catholic Education Week, 2010, the College’s strategic plan 2006-10 was launched. Strategic 2010 affirms our core values as a Catholic school community and addresses the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead over the next five years. Central to the plan is an understanding of what makes a relevant, contemporary education. In doing so we will be faithful to our Mercy tradition.

Specific areas we reviewed during the year were our timetable, library and information services, and the cleaning services. Appraisals of senior staff included two of the Deputy Principals, the Head of VCE, the Head of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) and some faculty leaders and year level coordinators.

This year we look forward to our first cohort of students completing the IBMYP. One exciting aspect of this program is the completion of the Personal Project by all Year 10 students. We look forward to an exhibition of their projects in Term 3. Intercultural awareness is a key feature of the IBMYP with Community and Service one of the key Areas of Interaction. In the past twelve months, we have taken steps to extend our relationship with East Timor, through the Sisters of Mercy. In recent years, Year 9 students have raised money for the Oluofaru school and following my visit to East Timor this year we hope to strengthen our links and understanding. As with our students studying Japanese, our students of Italian, now have the opportunity of an exchange with a sister school. In November, 29 students travelled to Italy and in addition to travel throughout Italy, enjoyed one week in school in Milan staying with host families. Other students have the opportunity for a stay of one term.

Part of our strategic planning is the College Master Plan, 2002 - 2012 and this year’s projects, as part of achieving that Plan, were a new Computer Support Centre, the redesigned Reemt Road entrance to the College, and the establishment of a new Well-being Centre. Currently under construction and a significant feature of the Master plan is the Performing Arts Centre and Music School. To assist with the financing of this major project we have launched a Capital Appeal for $1.5 million. The Capital Appeal was launched in style with a ‘Night to Remember’, our final evening function in McAuley Hall. Already we have been heartened by those who have so generously supported our Appeal.

I would like to thank all members of the Sacred Heart College community for contributing to such a successful year. In particular I thank those who lead our affiliated bodies, the College Council, Parents & Friends’ Association, Old Collegians’ Association and the SHC Rowing Club and our Staff Student Representative Council. As a community we need to acknowledge how much our students benefit from the skills and knowledge, care and understanding and support of our affiliated bodies, our parents, teachers and student leaders.

Jeffrey Burn, Principal

As I reflect on the last twelve months, I marvel at the generosity of so many who contribute to the life of the College. While the majority of our energy is devoted to what happens in the classroom, St Aloysius College provides our young women with rich experiences that contribute to their full development. I thank our dedicated staff who on a daily basis sustain the wonderful spirit of the College. Their professionalism in the classroom, the office, the Library, the laboratory, technology and the maintenance areas, coupled with their concern for the well being of each of the students, is outstanding. I want to acknowledge especially those who provide students with opportunities to be involved in activities beyond the classroom; the coaches of our many sporting teams, those who run clubs and groups, and those who provide opportunities for students to develop their musical and artistic talents.

While parents choose a Catholic school for a variety of reasons for us it is important that they are immersed in the Christian story. At St Aloysius, students experience a real concern for the poor and the marginalised in society through our fund raising and education. Our liturgical celebrations continue to be a highlight, the Year 12 retreat, reflection days and Mercy Day enables each of us to express our commitment to the wonderful legacy handed to us by the Sisters of Mercy. Our access to the convent chapel has enabled us to provide opportunities for quite reflective prayer. Our staff retreat day is an important element of our professional development and seeks to enrich the spiritual life of each staff member. During the last year we have continued to develop our Religious Education program. Members of the Religious Education team have contributed to the new Archdiocesan Religious Education curriculum and we continue to review our Year 7 to Year 9 program. Our senior students continue to gain much from the Seeds of Justice conferences and a number have been involved in the Youth Mercy Justice Tree program in Adelaide.

Our refurbishment of the house has provided extra office space and small tutorial rooms. This has been in use since the beginning of the year and provides much needed resources. During the summer holidays we undertook to refurbish the staff work room. I am very pleased to say that under the excellent direction of Mr Michael Donovan, the refurbishment was completed for the beginning of the year. The provision of good work areas with adequate space, light and technology connections is much appreciated by all the staff. Parents new to the College often comment on the excellent resources of the College despite our lack of space. The challenge in the resource area is to continue to offer state of the art facilities that are responsive to the needs of students in the twenty first century. One of the key tasks set out in the Strategic Plan is to develop spaces that provide for innovative learning and teaching.

A major review of our pastoral care practices and procedures will be undertaken as a key element of the Strategic Plan. The College has a good reputation for the care, concern and welcomed offered to our students. The review is timely and will enable us to enhance the well being of all. The Strategic Plan, developed over the last eighteen months, provides a sound structure for our reviewing current arrangements and planning for the future. Last year the Registered Schools Board review was completed and the reviewers commented most positively about the breadth of curriculum and the thoroughness of the planning and curriculum documentation presented. Work began in 2005 on the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards. In 2006 our implementation is being expertly led by our Director of Studies, and staff in the English and Mathematics areas will report to parents using these Standards.

In 2005 we successfully applied for the Commonwealth Government’s Careers Education Schools Lighthouse Project. St Aloysius College was one of only 33 successful applicants across Australia and the only successful Catholic school in Victoria. Individual schools were awarded $10,000 to develop best practice models of Career education. Our funding was used to develop parents’ understanding of career options so they felt confident to discuss with their daughter the multitude of options available. Teachers identified career information which enabled students to discover the employability and life skills they use in their learning in different subject areas. This was a very successful project and our findings and practices are now available to all Australian schools.

St Aloysius College continues to flourish and build on the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy. The College Advisory Council continues to offer timely advice and supports the work of the College. The staff, parents and students exhibit a wonderful commitment to the College. I want to express my sincere thanks to each of you and all who participate in the life of the College and whose contributions bring life to this work of Mercy.

John Davidson, Principal
Mercy Secondary Education
I first visited Sacred Heart in November last year and recall vividly the affection with which Sr Mary spoke of the students, the staff and of the College generally. She loved this place and the feeling was mutual.

Fortunately, the sadness at “losing” their Principal of 13 years did not diminish the welcome given to me. And as I come to know more of the College and its people, its history and its place in the lives of so many local families, the more I come to realise that hospitality is second nature to all at Sacred Heart.

Our College theme for 2006 is “Our Journey Leads Us...”. It is full of mystery, expectation and promise. It is full of mystery, expectation and promise. It is a call to action. It is my inspiration for the student who is making the journey with us!

Our theme for the year is also a call to action. I continue to be impressed by the growing number of students involved in the Justice and Service Group. Their determination to use College Assemblies and other forums to highlight the needs of those less fortunate, the practical suggestions they come up with to assist and most importantly, their willingness to follow their ideas through is the Mercy ethics in action.

The Seeds of Justice activities, and most recently the offer to attend the Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace seminar on ‘Teenage Discipleship’, have reinforced the message that our Church, at its best, tackles the difficult issues and is very much the richer for engaging our young people in its mission.

Sacred Heart College Kyneton is, by any measure I know, an excellent school. The initiatives in curriculum, organisation, planning and review continue. I look forward very much to being a part of the exciting times that lie ahead.

Mr John Arthurson, Principal

When reflecting on the last twelve months at Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, there is much of which to be proud and much that demonstrates that the College is a thriving and excellent educational institution.

Curriculum wise, the College continues to be at the forefront of educational change. Over the past twelve months, the teaching staff have been preparing for the introduction of VELS by participating in a number of school based Professional Learning days as well as accessing other Professional Learning opportunities relevant to their own particular teaching area.

The VICAL program continues to give students an alternative pathway and successfully caters for the needs of a number of students, all of whom manage to complete apprenticeships, traineeships or gain employment.

The Year 9 Middle Years program, successfully implemented in 2005, involved significant change to the learning program offered to students, with revamped core and elective options, culminating in the completion of a major individual project that was presented to parents as part of an “expo” of students’ work.

Based on the successful Year 7 model, the Year 9 staff changed the Pastoral Care structure at that year level and a team of eight staff members has replaced the traditional Year Level Coordinator and homeroom teachers. This has enabled each teacher to have a much smaller group of students as their pastoral care group.

The Staff at Sacred Heart College continue to be innovative and open to change and ever ready to develop new programs to better meet student needs and facilitate greater engagement by students in the learning process.

Facilities wise, the focus has been on the completion of two new classrooms to meet the ever increasing enrolments as well as the construction of a separate Technology (Wood) area and a revamped Automotive Studies area.

Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, is well aware of its links with the local community and this relationship has benefits for all concerned. The College is strengthened by the support it receives from local employers through their involvement in programs such as the Mock Interview Program, Work Experience and Work Placement Programs. In turn, the College also makes a significant contribution to the community through the Community Service Program and the work of the Justice and Service Group. The appointment of a staff member to the position of Justice and Service Coordinator in 2005 has given the Justice and Service group much needed support.

The Religious Education Department continues to offer students opportunities for reflection through Retreat, Exhibition Days and relevant excursions. Four staff members – the Religious Education Coordinator, the Faith Development Coordinator, the VCE Religious Education Convenor and the Justice and Service Coordinator work together as a strong team to ensure the continued development and review of Religious education courses and to ensure that staff and students have opportunities for faith development.

At the beginning of this article I stated that, when reflecting back on 2005, there was much of which to be proud and some areas of achievement have been outlined above. However as my time at the College was nearing its completion, I had an experience that made me even more proud than any of the above. Upon hearing that I was finishing as Principal and that, thus, there would be no Sisters of Mercy at the College in 2006, a former staff member of the College, came to the College to ask what was to be her a very serious question. She wanted to know, as I now would the College still be a Mercy school if there were no Sisters of Mercy? What would happen to the Mercy spirit in the College? How would the Mercy spirit be carried on? Who will live Mercy at the College? She told me that Mercy was the foundation upon which all else was built and the traditions and ethos must be continued. Of course, I was able to explain that the Mercy Spirit is not confined to the Principal or to the Sisters of Mercy but is lived out in and by everyone, that all of us are Mercy – all of us at Sacred Heart College are called to be true to our ethos and to live out the Mercy legacy.

But I loved her question – and I loved the fact that she had come back to the College specifically to ask the question. I thought if the College can promote students like this student – one who asks questions about the continuance of the Mercy ethos – then we must be doing something right.

It has been an absolute privilege to have been Principal of Sacred Heart Kyneton for the past 13 years. I know the College will go from strength to strength and will continue to remain true to the spirit of its foundress as well as open to the needs of the present day. May God bless you all.

Sr Mary McIvor, RSM, Principal 1993–2005

Spiritual Formation

Our College Mission Statement calls us to provide an environment where each student is encouraged to develop “a love of God, of life, of others, and of learning”. This call has been reflected in many of the successful initiatives in the broad area of Religious Education in the College:

• The Pastoral Ministry team preparing 1000 paper cranes for the Hiroshima Peace Park;
• The joy experienced by two students during the World Youth Day Pilgrimage;
• The developing relationships between our students and those of the Jigalong Aboriginal Community in Western Australia;
• The care and compassion of those students and staff who assist every fortnight with the Matthew Talbot Soup Van and Daystar House;
• The warmth of all involved in the Retreat program from Years 10 – 12;
• The enthusiasm of the students throughout the school in the promotion of and fundraising for a range of social justice issues.

Buildings and Grounds

With the construction of the Multi Purpose Gymnasium all we look forward to is that time when the whole College can gather for assemblies, Eucharist and other special occasions. The Master Plan is continually under review to ensure that all future developments and facilities are appropriate to our current needs. Construction of a science building is about to commence. These works are vital to ensure an external seal of vitality at the College.

There has been particular attention paid to walkways and stairs in recent months to improve safety.

Curriculum

One student’s Furniture (VET) work was recognised by a Premier’s award, three students were asked to audition for ‘Top Design’ and one student has his Visual Communication work on display in the ‘Top Designs Exhibition’ as part of the VCE Season of Excellence program. The VCE results in 2005 revealed a pleasing improvement on previous years as we continue to implement new programs to assist students achieve their best.

All recommendations of the Curriculum and Pastoral Care review of 2003 have been introduced enabling us to further enhance student connectedness, sense of belonging and community through the introduction of homeroom based subjects. Our Year 10 Curriculum has been rewritten based on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards curriculum document. Greater emphasis was placed on teaching strategies, students learning styles, and our assessment program.

Action continued on achieving the curriculum goals in our Year Strategic Plan. In particular, the development of a careers pathway from Years 7 to 9 that complemented our Years 10 to 12 program; the identification of individual student learning styles; and the delivery of the corresponding professional learning programs for staff.

We now have two Year 11 VICAL classes and a Senior VICAL class in Year 12.

The Read to Learn, Learn to Read program was introduced in 2005 at the Year 7 level and this year at Year 8 to support those students struggling with basic skills in reading, writing and comprehension.

Professional Development

To complement the introduction of our new curriculum program, we provided further professional learning for staff in the areas of: student learning styles; the development of new programs such as Literacy and Numeracy; student self-assessment reports; and restorative practices. Further professional development in the area of leadership and collective responsibility were provided for the leaders of the curriculum teams. We also increased our support and commitment to further encourage members of staff to continue or undertake further professional study.

In addition to these professional development activities a new program of professional development has commenced in 2006. Entitled ‘Growth Through Professional Learning’, it provides workshops throughout the year for staff on many topics.

Student Wellbeing

In 2005 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our sister school relationship with Katangi Senior High School by hosting students and staff from Japan in March and a three week visit to Nara by our staff and students in September. Mercy Day was once again a tremendous celebration of our heritage and identity. Amazingly, surrounding hills were alive with ‘The Sound of Music’ in August as we enjoyed a magnificent College musical. Student performances in the areas of academic achievement, sport, performing and visual arts, debating, public speaking, leadership and outreach work meant we had much to celebrate throughout the year.

We are working in conjunction with the Catholic Education Office on a Restorative Practice program which is based on the development and maintenance of positive relationships.

Bernad G Dobson, Principal

Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale

2006 Annual Report
In recent months we have been celebrating the centenary of Catholic Education in Mildura which began with the arrival of five Sisters of Mercy from Wentworth in December 1905. What a wonderful one hundred years! The College commenced in 1906 with twenty-two students, Twelve Principals with thousands of other Sisters, staff and students, have contributed to the St Joseph’s College we all know and love today.

The centenary has been an opportunity to celebrate the one hundred years of spiritual legacy of the Sisters of Mercy to education in Sunraysia. With this in mind, we initiated a refurbishment of the convent chapel. The building had been used for a variety of purposes over the past few years while we were short of space, but we felt that the time was right to reclaim it for its original purpose of prayer. Renovation of the interior has produced a wonderful sacred space for students and staff. Sr Gael O’Leary RSM was commissioned to create a bronze wall sculpture which tells the story of the Sisters in Sunraysia and which places this history alongside the current reality of the College. Finally, the bronze leads to hope for the future with a hot air balloon lifting off into the new challenges and opportunities to come for students, staff and the Sisters. We are thrilled to have such a sacred space for religious education classes and liturgies.

The Religious Education curriculum continues to develop in accord with the Ballarat diocese Awakenings documentation. This is a process that assists all schools in the diocese to develop programs that can be supported by collegial networks and shared resource structures. The religious education staff has been engaged in detailed reworking of units and in generating new curriculum outlines. This has provided the RE staff with an opportunity to revisit the foundations of religious education and to respond to the challenge presented by Awakenings for a more sequential and developmental program within religious education. Awakenings is founded on the Shared Christian Praxis approach promoted within the diocese.

We opened the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) documentation and started to familiarise ourselves with its requirements, and we commenced planning to implement the Senior Certificate of VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) for the first time. Our focus for VELS was the interdisciplinary Thinking Domain, and our staff professional development at the end of 2005 was focused on looking at ways we could incorporate more thinking strategies into our curriculum. A three year VELS implementation plan was constructed. In addition, we have provided professional development for all staff in the areas of mandatory reporting, student management and student responsibility.

In December, our plans for both VELS and VCAL were thrown into disarray. We heard that we would have to assess Mathematics and English according to VELS in June 2006; and we discovered that all of our Intermediate VCAL students were either gainfully employed or moving to study for the Victorian Certificate of Education. The latter was a fantastic outcome for these students and we were not disappointed to have no Senior VCAL this year.

During 2005 a group reviewed our SEAS drug policy. This group has worked closely with the Curriculum Committee and House Leaders to ensure that drugs, alcohol, mental health and student resilience are part of our curricular and extracurricular programs. As a result, a group of Year 10 students are participating in a Drug Education program that will involve making a presentation to many Mildura schools.

The development of VELS at the state level was very timely for us and gave us an immediate framework for reflecting on our curriculum. We were fortunate to have Judith Weir start the process by undertaking a curriculum audit and then she led the Heads of Faculty into the maturations of VELS. The curriculum audit, VELS coupled with a decision to move to a four lesson day in 2007, has led to discussion about how we need to structure our curriculum going forward. This is the journey of 2006 and Heads of Faculty have entered into the process with great enthusiasm and there have already been many interesting and creative conversations.

Enrolments
There were 132 students in Year 7 in 2005 and this enrolment has been maintained for 2006. Demand remains Healthy obviously a result of the excellent reputation the College developed under Sr Beth and Philippa Darmody. This completed the transition to the school operating with two sub schools. This structure has been complemented in 2006 with the appointment of a full time student counsellor.

We look forward to the challenges that 2006 will bring to the college and continuing to work on the empowering tradition established by Catherine McAuley.

Julie Ryan, Principal
“Challenges are opportunities. You are never on your own” so said the Emmanuel College captains Abby Lee and Mark McGonigal as they set the theme for 2015. This reflects very well the challenges for Emmanuel College as we travel the path of reflection and the quest for continual improvement through our Mission Action Plan. 

The overall enrolment of the College continues to grow with an enrolment of 839 in 2005, 863 in 2006 and a projection of 920 in 2007. The pressure on buildings and facilities continues to be an issue. The Master Plan was altered to cater for a 700 student 7 – 10 Campus at Adline Street. Much progress has been made on this campus with:

- The refurbishment of St Anne’s Convent finished, planned and midway through completion;
- A million dollar grant obtained to build a new resource centre, with plans approved and the tendering process about to begin;
- The refurbishment of two computer labs and the construction of a third, with all new hardware;
- The resurfacing of 4 outdoor netball and basketball courts.

The master planning process is still under way for the Canterbury Road campus.

During 2005 working parties investigated our approaches to student safety, using the National Safe Schools Framework, and Drug Education, using the Individual Drug Education Strategy. Also reviewed were the Pastoral Care Policy and the Model of Student Leadership. The outcomes of these reviews have now been integrated into our policies and programs to further enrich our approach to catering for the general wellbeing of all within our community. Also included in our pastoral program is a service component that is developed over the six years of secondary education. Our Year 12 class of 2005 exemplified the aims of this program as a group and they will be remembered as a very positive, inclusive and supportive group of young people.

The last twelve months have seen developments in the area of curriculum as well as Reviews of the ‘Learning and Teaching’, ‘Assessment’ and ‘Reporting’ policies. conducted, resulting in the enhancement of these important documents. This will form a platform from which we can launch our implementation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

A curriculum day focusing on VELS was conducted in October. Working in teams, staff were given the opportunity to engage in professional conversations aimed at enhancing our understanding of the philosophy underpinning VELS. We took the opportunity to reflect on where we see ourselves as a school and how we see ourselves serving the community.

“Emmanuel College, Warrnambool”

The second half of 2005 and beginning of 2006 have been a time of growth and preparation for the future whilst also being a time of reconfiguring with our past.

In 2005 we undertook a detailed process to restructure our Positions of Leadership. The intention was to create a structure that would enable us to:

- Move into the future as one college despite having two sites 8 kilometres apart;
- Be able to implement the VELS and anticipated changes to assessment and reporting;
- Truly empower staff.

The result was a leadership structure with 42 positions and one which is owned by staff. Early indications are that this structure is going to serve us well for the next three years.

Our School Development Plan finished at the end of 2005 and we are using 2006 to write our new plan for 2007 – 2009. This three year plan will be written using the new Sandhurst School Improvement Framework as a model. Other Catholic secondary schools in our Diocese are using the model and it will enable close support networks to develop across the schools and assist with ongoing school review. The inspiration for our new School Development Plan is our belief statements contained in our mission statement. A process of consultation with parents, staff, council members and students has been begun and will continue until late into 2006.

Our enrolment for 2006 has seen another increase of 110 students so that our increase over the last two years has been 220 students. Whilst this has allowed us to employ many new staff it has also created pressures in terms of facilities. The new staff members have brought a blend of experience along with the energy and new ideas of recent graduates.

Our building program saw the completion and opening of the refurbishments to the Arts Floor to provide state of the art facilities in Digital Photography, Art, Studio Art and Media subjects for our senior students. The floor was the original boarding quarters of St Mary’s College.

Catholic College Bendigo has made a commitment to reclaim our history and endeavour to welcome back into our community the past students of the three schools which were part of our history prior to amalgamation in 1983. The opening of the Arts Floor provided an opportunity for us to invite the past students of St Mary’s to return and nearly 140 took up our invitation. In 2005 we held a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of St Vincent’s College on the site now known as La Valla.

2006 marks 130 years since the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Bendigo from Swinford, Ireland. To mark this event, the Mercy Chapel has been refurbished and the opening of this was celebrated on the same day as the St Mary’s reunion. To see so many past students and Sisters of Mercy return to the Chapel was indeed one of the main highlights of the last 12 months.

Other building projects currently underway include a new Technology Building at La Valla and the continued planning for our Multi Purpose Facility at Coolock. Designed to house 340 seat theatre and a sports facility that will house two netball courts, the multi million dollar facility is expected to go to tender in July 2006 for completion in 2007.

Our academic results were again strong in 2005 and we continued the move to providing alternative pathways to our students. The College has a strong focus on applied learning programs and this is expected to grow over the coming years. We have been an active partner in the development of the Australian Technical College - Bendigo and we will be a main provider of the academic program for this new venture from 2007.

Our students continue to be very active in social justice and faith based activities and this is being inspired by a staff that is becoming increasingly comfortable with proclaiming its faith as individuals and as a staff. Our theme for 2006 is “We soar beyond where I can dream”. This calls us to unite as a faith community to ensure we reach great heights. It has once again been a pleasure to lead such a vibrant and committed learning community.

Darren McGregor, Principal

Catholic College Bendigo

Catholic College Bendigo, Bendigo
Statistics on Congregation Owned Schools

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy
Students: 657  Staff: Teaching 60  Non-teaching 17  Religious 1
HEAD COUNT 78 = 66.97 FTE

Sacred Heart College, Geelong
Students: 1345  Staff: Teaching 111  Non-teaching 37  Religious 1
HEAD COUNT 149 = 125.05 FTE

Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg
Students: 1090  Staff: Teaching 95  Non-teaching 29  Religious 1
HEAD COUNT 125 = 113.06 FTE

Sacred Heart College, Kyneton
Students: 765  Staff: Teaching 64  Non-teaching 32  Religious 0
HEAD COUNT 96 = 77.46 FTE

Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale
Students: 1404  Staff: Teaching 113  Non-teaching 40  Religious 0
HEAD COUNT 153 = 138.12 FTE

St Joseph’s College, Mildura
Students: 863  Staff: Teaching 76  Non-teaching 38  Religious 3
HEAD COUNT 117 = 101.31 FTE

St Aloysius College, North Melbourne
Students: 642  Staff: Teaching 57  Non-teaching 18  Religious 0
HEAD COUNT 75 = 69.00 FTE

Statistics on Co-sponsored Schools

Catholic College Bendigo
Students: 1,560  Staff: Teaching 133  Non-teaching 61  Religious 3
HEAD COUNT 197 = 166.62 FTE

Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Students: 865  Staff: Teaching 65  Non-teaching 48  Religious 1
HEAD COUNT 114 = 95.96 FTE
Summary of Consolidated Income and Expenditure
School Financial Year, 1 Feb 2005 – 31 Jan 2006

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School Councillors – Sponsored Schools

Academy Of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy
Chair: Mrs Barbara Teycheney
Principal: Sr Madeleine M Fox RSM
MSEI nominee: Mr James Baler
Mrs Marguerite Buckley
Mr Peter Cattapan
Sr Mary Geason RSM
Ms Rita Gria
Mr Michael Taylor
Ms Anne Walsh
Mr Paul Romarin

Sacred Heart College, Geelong
Chair: Ms Barbara Mathieson
Principal: Mr Jeff Burn
MSEI nominee: Sr Madeleine M Fox RSM
Mr Damien Blake
Mrs Tracey Czarnuch
Ms Mo Fisher
Mr Peter Horan
Ms Rosemary Lowes
Miss Kate Scadden
Ms Barbara Smoorenburg
Mrs Anne Tielar
Mrs Suzanne Skidmore
Mr Steve Coventry

Our Lady Of Mercy College, Heidelberg
Chair: Mr Gerard Bowshah
Principal: Mr Pat Heagerty
MSEI nominee: Sr Sylvia Williams RSM
Mr Robert Di Giacomo
Mr Michael Stoban
Mrs Patsy Skipper
Mrs Elizabeth Taylor
Mrs Trish van Lint
Mrs Kay Nicholas
Mr Frank Marrin

Sacred Heart College, Kyneton
Chair: Mrs Ann Newcomb
Principal: Mr John Athurson
MSEI nominee: Sr Annette Schneider RSM
Mr Tony Ball
Mr Joe Cunanan
Mr Craig Holmes
Mrs Maryann Kennedy
Mr Brian Reed
Mr Timothy Walsh

Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale
Chair: Mr Kevin Dwyer
Principal: Mrs Tracey Czarnuch
MSEI nominee: Mr John Arthuson
Mrs Patsy Skipper
Mr Kevin Dwyer
Mr Peter Vanstan
Mrs John Mclachlan
Mr Leonie Ziolkowska
Mr Dean de Munk

St Joseph’s College, Mildura
Chair: Mr Michael Shirbin
Principal: Ms Rosemary Lowes
MSEI nominee: Dr Damien Blake
Mr Michael Shirbin
Ms Mary Oski
Ms Rita Grima
Mrs Gai Basso
Mr Craig Holmes
Mrs Robyn Napoli
Mr Philip Gipp
Mr Kenneth Wossman
Mrs Tracy Aston
Mrs Anne Hoyle
Rev John Monaghan

St Aloysius College, North Melbourne
Chair: Mr Peter Hickey
Principal: Ms Mo Fisher
MSEI nominee: Ms Anne Henderson
Mrs Claire Cavena
Ms Claudia Espiwel
Mrs SusanGriller
Ms Anne Henderson
Mr Peter Hickey
Mrs Vanessa Pries
Mrs Ann Maree Wubben
Mr Michael Donovan

Governors – Co-sponsored Schools

Catholic College Bendigo, Bendigo
Sr Kathleen Michael RSM
Congregation Leader – ISMA Melbourne
Congregation

Most Rev Joseph Grech DD
Bishop of Sandhurst

Br Paul Gibbison FMS
Provincial Superior – Marian Brothers
Province of Melbourne

Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Sr Kathleen Michael RSM
Congregation Leader – ISMA Melbourne
Congregation

Sr Beth M Catalanos RSM
Congregation Leader’s nominee

Br Peter Dowling cfd
Provincial Leader – Christian Brothers
St Patrick’s Province

Br Clem Barnett cfd
Provincial Leader’s nominee

Rev Fr John Fitzgerald PP
St Joseph’s Parish, Warrnambool

Rev Fr Lawrence O’Toole PP
Parish Priest’s nominee

School Councillors & Governors 2006

Congregation Owned Schools

Academy Of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy
Ms Helen M Delaney RSM
Mrs Claire Acenvedo
Ms Claudia Espiwel
Mrs Susan Griller
Ms Anne Henderson
Mr Peter Hickey
Mrs Vanessa Pries
Mrs Ann Maree Wubben
Mr Michael Donovan

Sacred Heart College, Kyneton
Mr Robert Taylor
Mr John Athurson
Sr Annette Schneider RSM
Mr Tony Ball
Mr Joe Cunanan
Mr Craig Holmes
Mrs Maryann Kennedy
Mr Brian Reed
Mr Timothy Walsh

Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale
Mr Steve Coventry

St Joseph’s College, Mildura
Rev John Monaghan

St Aloysius College, North Melbourne
Mr Michael Donovan

Congregation Leader – ISMA Melbourne

Sr Kathleen Michael RSM

Warrnambool

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