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Founding 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 Notre Dame College – Shepparton 1902
- St Joseph’s College – Mildura 1906
- Our Lady of Mercy College – Heidelberg 1910

Mercy Secondary Education Inc
Board of Management

Emeritus Professor Michael Doyle, Chair
Sylvia Williams RSM, Deputy Chair
Dr John Goolans
Dr Therese Power RSM
Dr Annette Schneider RSM
Ms Patricia Ryan
Kathleen M Tierney RSM (Ex officio)
Mr Eugene Lynch, Executive Officer

Consultants

Mr Jeff Knott, Financial
B Com (Melb), Grad Dip Bus Tech, CA
Registered Company Auditor

Mr Jacob Oko, Legal
BA, LLB (Hons)
It is with great pleasure that I present the 2004 Annual Report of the operations of Mercy Secondary Education Incorporated (MSEI). In essence my report to the Members is of Colleges that are quality schools, strongly Catholic and Mercy-oriented and with sound financial management. I will proceed to amplify on this statement.

Quality Schools, Enrolments and Outcomes

The Colleges have continued to attract strong enrolment numbers, and generally have not been able to meet the demand for positions at Year 7. Good final year results have been obtained and in the main graduates have been able to gain their first choices for university courses and career paths. The joyful, happy, open, confident, value-oriented and community-sensitive young adults who are about to ‘burst’ onto our society are in themselves the best and wonderful indicators of the success of the education being imparted.

Curriculum

The curriculum in each of the Colleges is continually monitored and fine-tuned by highly dedicated staff. One major new direction in curriculum has been adopted by Sacred Heart College, Geelong, where the International Baccalaureate, an internationally recognised curriculum for the Middle Years of schooling has been successfully introduced in year 7 and this year has been brought in also at year 8. Many of the Colleges are also forging more and more close links with schools overseas, opening up the possibility of developing deep cross-cultural understandings of people in these other countries and of the many cultures here in Australia.

Frayne Speech Festival

The Frayne Speech Festival was very successfully held at Mount Lilydale Mercy College. This Festival is a strong indicator of the breadth of education at the Colleges, where it is recognised that, in addition to the regular academic curriculum, clear communication and the proper functioning of a democratic society. The high quality of the speakers at this festival attests to the importance placed on this aspect of the development of our students. The day itself was immensely enjoyable, very exciting and powerfully the binding of the Mercy sponsored, co-sponsored and associate Colleges.

Capital Development

The Colleges have continued their focus on the development of quality facilities for the students. Sacred Heart, Geelong, has added five new learning areas to the Naphine Centre, and is refurbishing McAuley Hall as a Performing Arts Centre. Our Lady’s, Heidelberg, officially opened a new Lecture Theatre, extra classrooms and the convent, refurbished for school use. Sacred Heart, Kyneton, has completed a new Hospitality Centre, and the construction of Drama facilities and Theatre is in progress. At Mount Lilydale Mercy College, the McAuley quadrangle has been re-developed and the construction of a double court gymnasium and assembly area has been initiated. St Joseph’s, Mildura completed the refurbishment of the convent building and this was officially opened as a Technology Centre. St Aloysius, North Melbourne, completed and officially opened a gymnasium.

Maintenance

An exceptionally high standard of maintenance is adhered to by all the Colleges. The resulting picture presented to the public is of highly efficient schools and the quality learning environment cannot but have a positive impact on the morale of students and staff. Associated with any of the Colleges can be very proud of their school.

Strongly Catholic and Mercy-oriented Religious Education

The religious education of the students is taken very seriously by all the Colleges. Highly competent staff members, with a depth of understanding of theology and education, coordinate this area of the curriculum, and extensive planning and discussion occurs with teams of dedicated staff. The program is supported and extended by a range of liturgical functions, seminar days, reflection days, year 12 retreats and community service.

Mercy Orientation

The ‘Back to Baggot St’ programs have had a marked effect in ensuring the continuance of the Mercy spirit in the Colleges. Those in our schools who have been to Baggot St show a deep sense of responsibility in fostering the Mercy ethos. Students learn of the Mercy tradition and history and are encouraged to see themselves as ‘mercy’ people. Care is taken to maintain the school’s own Mercy history, whether through archives that are regularly displayed or through heritage rooms.

Seeds of Justice

The Seeds of Justice program is a strong indicator of the spirit of Mercy operating in our Colleges. This program, sponsored by MSEI and the Congregation, was initiated at the behest of staff and students in the Colleges. It is now in its third year and has progressed from half-day seminars to two-day, overnight sessions at the Passionist Monastery in Templestowe, involving 70 students and staff. At their last meeting Muslim girls and boys from Khalid Islamic College, Cabram, were invited to join them to speak about their culture and their problems of living in Australia at the current time.

Professional development

The MSEI Board recognises that it has a major responsibility to stimulate and support the Mercy tradition in the Colleges. As the previous ‘Back to Baggot St’ professional development experiences for senior staff were so successful in kindling the Mercy spirit, planning for ‘Baggot St 2005’ has already started. Also, at most regular meetings with principals, vice-principals and business managers, the Board ensures that there is an input on religious, theological or Mercy themes.

As an example of this, at this year’s meeting of the Board with representatives from the Advisory Councils of the sponsored, co-sponsored and associate schools, the whole program centered on the welfare work that the Sisters of Mercy currently do through the Mackelprap Family Services (MFS) organisation, a joint undertaking of the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of St Joseph and the Christian Brothers, Anne Condon, a Regional Director with MFS and Chris Cuff, a manager of Foster Case Services (MFS), who both had been employed at Mercy Family Care, Geelong, prior to the formation of MFS, spoke very powerfully to the meeting about their experiences in working with the most disadvantaged young people in Victoria. In addition to helping to give an insight into the wider range of ‘Mercy’ works of which education is a part, the talk gave Council members an understanding of the impact that emotional deprivation can have on students even in our schools.

Sound financial management

The Board works closely with the Congregation-owned Colleges in the area of financial management.

Recurrent Budgets

With the constant advice of the Board’s Financial Consultant, Mr Jeff Knott, and the assistance, where necessary, to the schools from the auditors and the final audit itself, checks and balances have been put in place that support sound financial management. Half-yearly financial statements are submitted by the Colleges so that negative trends can be spotted as they develop and remedies applied before they overtake the end of the year budget result.

Capital Development

As Capital Development can have a major impact on the financial strength of a College, the Board requires that each College, seeking a loan to implement further development of facilities, must meet with the Board to show that its proposal fits the College’s Master Plan and is manageable within that College’s financial status. These meetings are immensely valuable for the Board in ensuring the solvency of the sponsored Colleges and for the Colleges in gaining from the Board advice, based on long experience.

The Board is happy to report to the Members that the schools are in a strong financial position.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

I want first to pay tribute to the work of Br Paul Kane RMS, who in January 2004 completed his term as principal at Catholic College, Bendigo, and is now principal at Sale Catholic College. Though Catholic College Bendigo is not solely sponsored by the Mercy Sisters, and therefore does not come directly under the Board, I want to express my appreciation of the input that Paul made at our Principals’ and Advisory Councils’ meetings and end of the year function. He was experienced, always wise and ever gentle. We will remember him with fondness.

It has been a full and at times arduous year. I want to acknowledge the work of my fellow Board members: Mercy Sisters Sylvia Williams (Deputy Chair), Kathleen Terney (Congregation Leader), Therese Power and Annette Schneider; Ms Patricia Ryan and Dr John Ozzoli. I thank them for their dedication, collective wisdom and prevailing good humour that have made our meetings both productive and pleasant.

The Board has two consultants, Mr Jeff Knott in finance and Mr Jacob Diko in legal matters. As these two areas are pivotal to the continued success of our schools, I express to both the Association’s recognition of the quality of the advice and support they give to the Board, and the Board’s deep gratitude for their generous time involvement with MSEI affairs.

Finally there is our Executive Officers, Mr Eugene Lynch, without whom very little would be achieved. Eugene knows schools, is committed to Mercy Secondary Education and goes about his work with a courtesy that exemplifies the ‘Mercy tradition. I extend to him the gratitude of the Board and of all associated with the Mercy schools for his work for the Association.

Conclusion

When one sees the violence and turmoil in the world around one, realises how valuable and important for the education of the young is the focus on ‘Mercy’ that pervades our schools. Our graduates go forth with the spirit of justice, forgiveness and generosity that from age to age have been shown to provide a real basis for peace. Catherine McAuley instinctively saw the power of ‘mercy’. Justice removes the grounds for revolt and anarchy; forgiveness stems the flow of reprisals and vendettas, like we have seen in Israel-Palestine and now evolving in Iraq, and generosity provides the will and energy to focus beyond oneself to the needs of others. With the emphasis on ‘mercy’ in the education of our students, all who are associated with the Mercy schools can be assured of the deep value of what they have been doing. Our schools under the continuing influence of Catherine McAuley are very much on the right path, providing the education that is needed for our times.

MICHAEL DOYLE
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
The greatest commandment that we were given by Jesus is to Love one another as I have loved ye. Each and every day, we strive to live out this commandment in our lives.

In our interactions, love is manifested in many different ways – respect, care, listening, attentiveness, compassion and kindness to name a few. On reflection, listening is perhaps one of the most important manifestations because this will call forth many other responses as we are touched by the story of another.

In our Secondary Schools we are called to listen to the needs of our students, to provide education which is academic and which will equip students for life within the school and life beyond the school years.

One of our greatest challenges is to prepare students for leadership within the community in the future. Our schools offer opportunities for students to excel in many areas and to encourage growth in personality and abilities. The Seeds of Justice Group, the Frayne Speech Festival, the many sporting events in schools and inter-schools, fundraising campaigns and SRC Committees are all examples of experiences available to students to pursue an area of interest, to achieve and to make a real difference to attitudes in the community. In partnership with parents, teachers and staff are called to challenge values and attitudes and to shape the lives of our students.

This is a huge responsibility – to care for, to educate, a growing mind. All those involved in this task accept this responsibility willingly and with great care and respect for the students.

Many share this role of responsibility for our leaders of the future. I thank the Principals and staff of all our schools. Your leadership and the example of your lives are the role models for students as they grow in discovery, knowledge and experience.

My thanks to the members of the School Councils who support the leadership in our schools.

I express my appreciation to the members of the Mercy Secondary Education Inc Board who work tirelessly for our educational ministries and who represent the Congregation in the important role of leadership in this field.

It is also with gratitude that I acknowledge the role of the students in our daily lives. They are the reasons why we are prepared to “stand up and be counted” in Catholic education. They provide a constant challenge to us to find it within ourselves to answer the call to love.

CONGREGATION LEADER’S report

SISTER KATHLEEN M TIERNEY RSM

The works of MSEE, through the Board and the Congregation Leader, continue to expand and offer support in many ways to principals, staff and students of the Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored schools. The activities and professional development programs developed by the Board have been, for the first time in 2004, offered to some other schools within Victoria and Tasmania. These ‘affiliated’ schools also share a rich Mercy heritage and have been invited to access MSEE seminars and to be a part of the collegiality that is developed when like minded people come together to pursue common goals and for a common purpose. In particular, presentations where the Mercy charism is articulated and a greater insight into other Mercy ministries is gained, have been popular. The nine affiliated schools include Mercy College, Coburg; Mercy College, Camperdown; Trinity College, Colac; Damascus College, Ballarat; Catholic College, Wodonga; St Mary’s College, Seymour; Padua College, Morimington; Marist College, Burnie and Sacred Heart College, Yarragon.

We look forward to a renewed association with each of these schools.

On a broader scale, there are many Mercy schools across the country and in New Zealand that are continuing the works of Catherine McAuley, thefoundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Some forty-four schools across the two countries are part of a group called the Mercy Secondary Education Association (MSEA), which calls on its member schools every two years to gather for a Conference to further the Mercy spirituality and ethos for secondary education. In 2004, the Conference will be hosted by the fourteen member schools in Victoria and will be held in Melbourne. The planning committee has been working hard on preparing and coordinating a rich program which aims to:

- enrich participants’ understanding of the call of Mercy today
- explore leadership in the context of Catherine McAuley’s life and in our world today
- foster collegiality, shared practice and networking opportunities.

The conference promises to be a wonderful opportunity to expand the networks that are already setup within the MSEE structure and to enrich them through open dialogue with our partners across Australasia. As a member of the planning committee, it is heartening to see the keen interest from staff and students within our schools offering to assist with planning, performing or presenting workshops. Two of the keynote speakers are from Ireland, Sr Maria McGuinness and Sr Helena O’Donoghue, and were inspirational presenters at the 2003 Formation in Mercy Ethics program at Baggot Street. It is wonderful to think that now a far wider audience will be able to hear firsthand the powerful message that these two women have to bring. The third inspirational keynote speaker is Susan Pascoe, Director of Catholic Education, Melbourne who will give a more local perspective of the work and challenges facing educators in this place and in this day. The theme of the conference is, “What is it to be Mercy in this time and in place?”

We often acknowledge the staff and students for the great message of hope that is being sent out from our colleges into our troublesome and war-torn world. The work of the Seeds of Justice project in helping us move from fund raising to awareness raising is inspiring, as are the many other projects at the school level of personal involvement and practical help for those less fortunate. However our unsung heroes are our parents whose active support allows the colleges to undertake and succeed in achieving the aims of such projects. Schools work in partnership with parents and endeavour to develop and help shape the values and beliefs that are grounded in the home. Parents offer their support for the school in so many ways, through canteen duty, working bees, parents association, fund raising, school council, just to mention a few, and often provide the additional funding through parent loan schemes to initiate capital development projects. Our schools are most fortunate to have such wonderful parental support.

Once again, I acknowledge the privileged opportunity I have of working with many schools at the same time and within such a system that advocates hope and promise for the future. Every six years, another group of 10,000 students exit this system of Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored schools and enter into society equipped with life skills, a sound education and a values base that has been built on justice, compassion and mercy. I am honoured to work with the principals, deputy principals, RECs, business managers and other staff of our colleges and I thank them for their support and wisdom. I am grateful to the members of the Board, especially Michael Doyle, for their expertise and tireless work in championing the works of MSEE and to the Board’s financial and legal consultants, Jeff Knott and Jacob Okeo, for their ever efficient, accurate and reliable information. Finally the explicit support for MSEE by Congregation Leader, Sr Kath Tierney and her Council, empowers each of us associated with MSEE to work hard in maintaining the wonderful tradition of Mercy education that started some one hundred and seventy years ago.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S report

EUGENE LYNCH
At the University of Victoria.

 Sacred Heart College

Opportunities for enhanced learning have been provided by Artists in Residence - writers, poets, actors, thinkers, dancers and in public speaking and debating. Students have had the opportunity to travel with study tours to Canberra, France, Japan and Italy and International Netball championships in Hawaii.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle, our Physical Education and Health curriculum has provided targeted programs for Years 7 & 8 while Outdoor Education is popular and challenging for students from Years 9 - 12. In Sport, notable successes have been achieved in Athletics, Athletics, Cross Country, Football, Netball, Rowing, Soccer and Volleyball. The SHC Rowing club celebrated its tenth Anniversary Boat’s Ball and achieved success with eight of the twelve crews making the finals at the annual Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta and silver at the national titles.

I would like to thank the Parents & Friends Association for their support and encouragement. Sub-committees of the P & F have contributed to liturgies, social functions, fundraising, concern for those in need and public relations.

I would also like to acknowledge the School Council. The Council ensures the many wishes of the school community are heard and that our school policies are just, consistent and compassionate. Development of the College Masterplan has included the approval to establish a Development Office, the opening of a newly refurbished Reception, the naming of the Adrienne Leitch Dance Studio, a Traffic Management community forum, extensions to the Aquinas Raphine centre to include five new classrooms, and the blessing and unveiling of a contemporary Sacred Heart of Jesus icon.

Finally congratulations to our student leaders who have made a unique contribution to the story of SHC. Their initiatives and great sense of school spirit have permeated our school assemblies and activities, uniting the school community. At SHC women in leadership is fostered through mentoring, appraisal, opportunities to attend leadership conferences and encouragement to trial new initiatives. We have seen this in action through the SHC’s St Joseph’s Leo Club who were presented by the Leo Australia with an excellence award as the number one club in Australia.

Upon reflection of the past year, I believe what sustains our school is a yearning for spirituality, community and the goodness of life itself. These aspects of the school ensure we not only survive but thrive.
To review a year in the life of any school requires time for reflection to consider the impact of the teaching and learning, the co-curricula activities, the quality of the relationships and how this has affected each individual within the organisation. While ongoing improvement is always necessary the overall response of St Aloysius College to this reflection is one of immense satisfaction. Our students continue to experience success in each of these areas. Our year 12 students completed a most successful year, the college production of ‘Grease’ showcased the talents of many students and many visitors to the College speak about the warmth and welcome they receive from staff and students alike.

The year saw to nine curriculum was the focus for review in 2003. The curriculum committee affirmed the offering of a broad curriculum within these years and introduced pastoral care lessons to complement this strong attribute of the college. The Health and Physical Education courses were amalgamated and along with the pastoral care program will enhance our students’ ability to be responsible, active participants in society. Significant time was devoted to examining the feasibility of offering the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and in 2004 we have ten year eleven and twelve students completing the intermediate level VCAL. In offering this extra program we opened another avenue for our students to reach their full potential.

Nurturing the faith life of the students in a world increasingly dominated by consumerism and secularism continues to be a high priority for the college. Our senior students have the opportunity to participate in retreats while the other students are involved in reflection days. The front of St Aloysius is a highlight in our celebrations and Bishop Mark Coleridge led us in a prayerful liturgy. Our Mercy Day celebration challenged our students to explore the works of mercy and develop banners that will be displayed around the college. The Graduation Mass for our year 12 students was a fitting finale and enabled them to see their schooling in a wider Christian context.

A major capital project during the year was the refurbishment of the warehouse on Boundary Road into an excellent gymnasium. The development now provides new facilities to enable the college to promote physical activity throughout life and to deliver a strong message about being ‘active for life’ for our young adolescent women. We were very pleased to welcome Bishop Mark Coleridge to bless the building and the Honourable Penny Romano MP to open the facility on behalf of the state Minister for Education. The student and teacher response to the gymnasium has been very positive and we look forward to expanding the broad range of physical activities offered to the students.

After five years of dedicated service Ms Tonja Flower decided she was unable to continue to lead the Outdoor Education Program at Torquay. All students from year 7 to year 10 have the opportunity each year to spend four days at Torquay being exposed to a wide range of outdoor activities. The success of the current program owes much to the leadership of Ms Flower and her assistants. The program continues to be a highlight for the students and the college is indebted to Ms Flower for developing such a coherent and rewarding program. The new leaders this year have an excellent program to build on and will continue to provide invaluable experiences for the students.

In the latter half of 2004 we will commence refurbishment and extension to our Outdoor Education facility at Torquay. The building project will involve adding staff accommodation and carpeting of the original building that has been in constant use since it was built in 1989.

At the end of 2003 we farewelled two long serving teachers; Mrs Louis Vitalo and Mrs Sue Middle, both of whom they had served the college for over sixty years. At the first assembly in 2004 their contribution to the college was acknowledged. The St Aloysius College community was very fortunate to have such gifted teachers and women who so wonderfully expressed what it meant to live ‘Mercy’ at St Aloysius.

The start of 2004 heralds a very exciting step for the college. Following on from a series of professional development sessions with Sr Annette Schneider RSM in 2003 the college has decided to undertake a program to develop a Whole School Plan. This will be a major undertaking requiring a strong commitment from all those involved with St Aloysius College. While preliminary work has been undertaken the launch of the strategic planning process in term two will start a period of review, consultation and reflection designed to develop a set of goals which will give direction to the development of the college over the next three to four years.

In conclusion, I want to thank all those associated with St Aloysius College. It is truly a community where the heritage of Catherine McAuley is clearly evident. The help and support of the School Council, the College Executive, the staff, parents and students make being the Principal of St Aloysius College a real pleasure and I look forward to the future with a true sense of hope and joy.

Sacred Heart College is a vibrant learning community, founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We view our mission of education as a work of love and strive for the total development of each individual.” (Mission Statement)


The development of a School Development Plan – a Strategic Plan – for the future was an important priority for the college over the last twelve months. All members of the college community were involved in the process and I believe we all work together to ensure that the Development Plan becomes a lived reality.

The past twelve months have seen much curriculum innovation with a Year 10 Review, the formation of the NCEA team (Middle Years Education Review Team), piloting of units of Integrated Curriculum at both Years 7 and 9, and a Years 5-6 Curriculum Audit in conjunction with our five Catholic feeder Schools.

Significant change has occurred at Year 7 level with the formation of a learning approach. The Year 7 team consists of eight staff members who, together, have the responsibility of ensuring that the pastoral needs of the Year 7 students are met. Each team member works with a small group of approximately fifteen students. The simple philosophy behind this innovation is that if students feel nurtured and happy and have a sense of belonging, they do, indeed, learn better.

Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, is very much a Mercy School and the Mercy ethos is alive and well. As a staff we were pleased to have Sr Annette Schneider lead us in a day of reflection on Mercy Culture. Our students, led by the Justice and Service group and the students involved in the Seeds of Justice Project, eagerly seek out opportunities to raise awareness of Mercy and Justice issues. A student led Justice Day was a highlight of last year with a number of guest speakers conducting workshops for the students and the whole school gathering to listen to Msotyka as she spoke of her work and introduced us to five of the children currently in her care. Msotyka made a huge impact on the students. When asked how we could assist her, she simply said, “I need an airfare”. Within two and a half days, the college community had raised the $2,400 required for the airfare – an unprecedented response. Four months later, our sponsored child, Yangi Fatumah, stood in front of the whole school and simply said:

“I am called by the names of Yangi Fatumah. I am Ugandan by nationality. I am so pleased to be with you.”

Fatumah’s medical progress was closely followed by the college and two of our students accompanied her to the airport when she returned to Uganda after successful surgery. Mercy in action.

Another important student led initiative has been the establishment of the Celebrating Diversity Group whose manifesto clearly states the group’s aims:

We believe Sacred Heart College should be a place where all members of the community feel safe and experience acceptance. We believe we should celebrate diversity and the value of each person.

Staff have also embraced the concept of “Celebrating Diversity” and a recent Professional Development day focused on this area.

Religious Education continues, of course, to be central to all we do and who we are. Our dedicated Religious Education staff work hard to ensure that the Religious Education courses are relevant and inspirational. Retreats and Reflection Days are an integral part of college life and staff, in particular, appreciated the recent opportunity to take “time-out” and participate in a Staff Retreat Day, entitled “Spirituality of the Ordinary Day.”

Our Facilities Masterplan continues to drive our building projects. In 2003 the Ursula Foyna Hospitality Centre was completed and our next building project, extensions to the Library and the Performing Arts facilities, including the construction of a Lecture Theatre, is due for completion in June 2004. We look forward to the formal Blessing and Opening of both our 2003 and 2004 projects later in the year.

Sacred Heart College is continuing to develop on a scale worthy of the enthusiasm and faith of its pioneers and we look to the future with confidence.

John Davidson
Principal

Mary Moloney RSM
Principal
Once again the staff of the College have provided outstanding support to students and parents and it is important to acknowledge their dedication and commitment. They are willing to reach out to students whatever their need and to give so generously of their time in offering a great range of co-curricular activities. They provide great support to each other and continue to make sacrifices in the spirit of Catherine McAuley.

I would also like to thank the students and parents for their support throughout the year. The School Council and its various sub groups have provided invaluable advice and I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the community to three retiring members who have given outstanding service to all. All have completed three consecutive terms on the Council and have held positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council. Special thanks to Peter McKiernan, George Lopez and Steve Ostrom.

Enrolments
Enrolments have remained high, with fewer students leaving the college at the end of Year 10 and 11 than in past years. There was a significant demand for places in Years 8 & 9 for 2004, a demand that we were unable to satisfy. Our enrolment at census time was 1404 students.

Building
The refurbishment of the McAuley Quadrangle and the adjacent circulation area have been completed. This has made a significant difference and the students have welcomed the improved conditions. The construction of a new Multi Purpose Seminarium is on time. The completion of this project in the early months of 2005 will have a significant impact.

Curriculum
Three students had their work on display in the VCE Top Designs exhibition and one student was selected to perform his drama performance in the Top Acts programme. Students continue to access the full variety of university and VCE courses. A goal for 2003 is to raise our academic standards by concentrating on the culture of learning and the work ethic of students.

Following an extensive review of our Pastoral Care and Curriculum we have decided to abolish the Vertical Curriculum structure that has been in place for some years. We have developed other programs which retain the best features of the vertical curriculum and at the same time provide opportunities for connectedness between student and student and teacher and student. We have introduced VCA in 2004 and this certificate and the VET and School Based New Appointments offerings that we already offer provide a significant number of students with the opportunity to attain employment related skills in a learning environment that meets their particular needs.

The college play, which is produced by the Theatre Studies students and the musical, continue to provide opportunities for students to excel whilst providing entertainment for all. Our extensive sporting and public speaking programs continue to provide other avenues for students to excel. We were delighted to be able to host the Frankie Speech Festival again last year and to welcome Mercy students from throughout Victoria to Lilydale.

Spiritual Formation
We are very grateful for the support of our Chaplains and to our Liturgy Resource person and Religious Education Team in providing liturgies for students and staff. The response of students as well as their participation in retreats, seminar days, social justice activities and liturgies give us great hope. Student involvement in corporal works of mercy is especially encouraging. There is also a great openness to prayer.

Professional Development
A variety of workshops were conducted during the year to encourage teachers to gain Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School. Another major focus for the year involved teachers participating in development activities that were designed to enhance our new curriculum units and address the learning needs of students more effectively.

Challenges for the future
The community has commenced the process of addressing the changing needs of students through curriculum developments, welfare programs and the upgrading of our facilities. This process must be maintained if we are to continue to provide a quality Catholic education to our students. We are custodians of the ‘Mercy Charism’ and must ensure that we remain faithful to the educational ideals of the foundress. Our new Strategic Plan that is being developed during Terms 1 and 2 of 2004 will help us focus on achieving our goals.

Mildura is experiencing a very obvious boom in many areas and this has led to the highest enrolment in our history. We have an increase of almost forty students including an extra class at Year 7. While we do not expect this trend to continue at the same rate in years to come, we will still present challenges for us. I thank the many enthusiastic and committed people associated with St Joseph’s College as I present this report with pleasure.

Goals
During 2003 we reviewed our Vision and Mission Statement. Annette Schneider RSM commenced proceedings with an audit of the Mercy values in our College. A committee then consulted with staff, students and parents in working towards our updated Vision and Mission Statement. We have incorporated the words Excellence, Community, Compassion, Hospitality, Justice, Service and Spirituality into our official correspondence, newsletter and in-classroom posters so that we are constantly reminded of our focus.

Religious Education and Mercy Ethics
St Joseph’s College has been involved in the continual development of RE curriculum materials over the past year. The Years 11-12 programme has gained an increased focus on community service at both year levels, while maintaining a commitment to the core elements of social justice, the principles of Christian relationships and personal and communal spiritual growth. Supporting this, there has been a vibrant and diverse VCE RE curriculum covering ethics, religious identity, the mediation of Religion and Society units 3 and 4, as well as the expression of religious concepts and experience in art and drama.

There has been a growing commitment to involve all students from 7-12 in service activities flowing from an examination of the Mercy tradition of concern for those in need. Staff have been enthusiastic in creating a range of opportunities in this area. The Mercy Missions group is an example of students volunteering to raise funds and awareness of Mercy initiatives.

St Joseph’s College is also an integral party in the development of new Religious Education guidelines within the Ballarat diocese, as part of a collaborative process with Sales, Sandhurst and Hobart dioceses.

Curtuculum
Vetl (Vicetian Certificate of Applied Learning) is being offered for the first time this year at St Joseph’s College. Ten students have taken up this alternative to the traditional VCE. A very exciting program has been developed based on the theme of “expedition”, with students planning and then undertaking a week-long journey through the Grampians. Students in this program are also undertaking driver education as well as many work-related skills, including Australian Business Week, to experience small business development and management.

Improving literacy and numeracy continues to be a focus especially at years 7 & 8. Specialist classes are being run alongside the mainstream classes to assist those students with deficiencies in these areas.

Technology
SLC is very well served in terms of Information and Communication Technology with a long established network and outstanding access across our site courtesy of both a wireless and cabled infrastructure based on an optical fibre backbone. The last twelve months has seen continued integration of the technology to the point where we are seamless in our high-speed network across and electronic communication has become integral to our day-to-day functioning. Access from outside the College has improved dramatically and many senior students now “remote in” of an evening to continue working on a project that is stored on a school server. Email continues to be an effective means of communication and development of the College Website and Intranet this year will see growth in the volume of information stored and improvement in user access.

The Simon (School Information Management Online Network) project becomes increasingly important as we implement components of the software. Student attendance recording is now complete and electronic and dynamic as rolls are marked at each lesson. Student profiles are allowing improved tracking of our students and SIMON is being preferred reporting software. A group is actively working in the Ballardie diocese on the continued development of SIMON.

Capital Development
The completion and the Blessing and Opening of the Mercy Centre have been a highlight of the past year. This project of over $1,200,000 has provided facilities for Food Technology, Materials Technology, Languages, Special Education and Science. Planning is currently underway to improve our facilities for Visual Arts, Industrial Arts and Media Studies.

Challenges Ahead
We are excited about the challenges that appear to lie ahead. Increased enrolments, curriculum developments, capital improvement, attracting excellent staff members and marketing the College are all very important as we strive to live within our vision and mission statement. We are presently in the sixth year of our vertical Pastoral Care system – many of our students have had their homeroom teacher for all years at the College. This is indeed a strength and has certainly been far more successful than we imagined six years ago.

St Joseph’s College
Mildura

Sylvia Williams RSM
Principal

Mount Lilydale Mercy College
lilydale

Bernard Dobson
Principal
Each year it is interesting to read, in NSBI Annual Report, those smaller ‘reports’ which together form a small part of the story of Mercy education in Victoria. While they have arisen from the same base, hold dear the same values and thus are, to all intents and purposes, ‘sister schools’, they also show very clearly the way of Catherine McAuley whose conviction was that local needs are best met by local resources, that each institution will have its own special character, while remaining within the essential unity that binds us in the Mercy tradition. So all our schools report different activities, different emphases, different achievements in each one’s microcosm of Mercy education for any given year.

Our Lady of Mercy College has achieved much in 2003-4. As so often happens, achievements are crystallized by one particular event, or milestone, in the year. Our ‘milestone’ looked like a building and renovation project, but it was really much more, for it marks an ending to a long period of development here over the past fifteen years, in building, in consolidation of resources, in expansion of curriculum and technology, in student and staff leadership.

Further, our student population explosion has continued and the college is unable to accommodate the considerable demand for places, but we cannot expand further without compromising the quality of the educational and pastoral care in this college where the extent and range of programs and facilities is under constant review. So when we gathered, in March, to celebrate the blessing and opening of the lecture theatre complex and the convent, we looked back over our years, remembering the prayers and hopes, the energy, some disappointments and many triumphs of this period in the life of our school.

We especially marked the end of this phase with the installation of glass windows which were commissioned to represent the past and present of the college. Some of these are included in the photographs which accompany our report. The installation has been crafted in several parts and may be viewed from inside and outside the building.

Over the many years of this school’s life, the education of students has not only changed in itself, but has contributed to the change and growth of each one as she moves from the relatively structured environment of school, to become a young adult, her own person, ready to carry the spirit of mercy into the world outside school. The glass windows feature these concepts in a beautiful way which will remain central to our daily view of the environment in which we live and work.

Similarly, the transfer of the convent to the school marks another milestone, commemorated on a bronze plaque mounted at the school and convent entrance, where we read that:

Beth M Callthorpe RSM
Principal
EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Vision and Mission Statement Review

The Vision and Mission statements have been the published focus documents for our College community since 1996. Since then, the leadership of the College has changed at least three times, much of the staff has changed as has much of our community. A need for renewal and ownership was evident so throughout term 3 of 2003 the Renewal Process began. Representatives from all interest groups, Teachers, Parents (both current and future), Board members, Parish, Christian Brother, Mercy Order and Governing Council all met to discuss our “raison d’etre”. The resultant documents were published in draft form for consultation with several forums being held. The final drafts of Contextual Statement, Vision and Mission were ratified by the Governing Council and launched at our Opening College Mass in February 2004.

Mission Action Plan

Having clarified the Vision and Mission, the College then entered into a Renewal process. This process involved the re-evaluation of previous reviews and a reaffirmation of intended goals. The College recommitted to a change of structure so that by 2004 our Campus will be Junior, Years 7 – 10 and Senior VCE.

A College Renewal Committee was then organised with a total of six Focus groups being formed:
- Catholic Ethos: Religious & Spiritual dimension of School Life.
- Curriculum Development: Teaching & Learning.
- School, Parents, Parishes & the wider Community in Partnership
- Student/Teacher Well Being: Relationships, pastoral care within the school community
- School Organisation: Facilities, resources, day to day organisation & management and finance
- Different Learning Needs

Staff worked in these focus groups designing questionnaires. These instruments were distributed and collated during term 1 2004 and the resultant data will set out a Mission Action Plan (Strategic Focus) for the next six years.

Indeed 2003 has been a year of review, renewal and planning.

Review and implementation of the International Student Program

With the demise of IET in Warrnambool in 2002, the College reaffirmed its belief in an international student program with the creation of EOWISP, Emmanuel College Warrnambool International Student Program. With very humble beginnings, the focus has been about setting up links and establishing contacts with several schools in Japan and indeed one school group toured in 2003. Throughout 2004, we have four touring groups organised and it is our hope that in the near future we will have as many as twenty five International students join us to do VCE.

Our College is a growing Community, both in terms of its facilities and in terms of the number of families who choose a Catholic Education at Emmanuel College.

In terms of enrolment Warrnambool continue to reaffirm the work that is being done in our classrooms. In 2002 the College enrolment peaked at 660, 2003 saw growth with a year 7 intake of 153 students and our February census saw our student population at 678. Our Year 7 intake for 2004 was particularly healthy with 170 year 7 students being placed in seven streams. The College population for 2004 is in excess of 760 students with projections for 2005 being all over 800. Our issue now becomes housing our projected growth.

Peter White
Principal

Mr Darren McGregor, one of our Deputy Principals for the last three years was appointed Principal at Catholic College Bendigo from the beginning of the 2004 school year. I congratulate Darren on his appointment, and I thank him for his outstanding contribution to Notre Dame College. At the beginning of 2004, we welcomed our new Deputy Principal Mr Brian Turner, previously Deputy Principal of McKinnon College Swan Hill, and also our new Director of Faith and Spirituality Mr Peter Chalkley. Both Brian and Peter have already made strong contributions to our College.

NOTRE DAME COLLAGE

This has been another very successful and rewarding year at Notre Dame College and it has been pleasing to see the diversity of gifts and talents being recognised. The now customary achievement of our students in receiving Premier’s Awards for outstanding performances in VCE studies (this year in Food and Technology and Hospitality (VCE WET)) has been complemented by two of our teachers Mr Kimberley Temperton and Ms Katherine Saagman receiving one of only three awards for teachers from the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority from over 600 nominees across the state for their outstanding performances as team players in the delivery of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

The introduction of the VCAL complements the alternative NVQ programme at Year 10 and the special Year 9 programme which was introduced in 2003. These innovations seek to provide a curriculum and a mode of delivery which accommodates the individualism and the diversity amongst our students.

Following a lengthy period of research, analysis, discernment and then detailed planning, Notre Dame College has, in 2004 moved to a vertical pastoral care system, with six Houses, each with Pastoral Groups of students at Years 7 to 9 and Years 10 to 12. In an increasingly large College, this change was aimed at improving an already very satisfactory pastoral care system. It is pleasing that the introduction of this system has been extremely smooth, and that early indications suggest that it is a very successful innovation. For a number of practical reasons, the Houses have been paired, and three common norms and kitchenettes have been developed, one for each pair of Houses at Years 10-12.

Peter White
Principal

Statistics on Co-sponsored schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
<th>Non-teaching</th>
<th>Religious</th>
<th>Head Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic College Bendigo</td>
<td>1362</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>136.08 FTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame College, Shepparton</td>
<td>1323</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>124.00 FTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emmanuel College, Warrnambool</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80.81 FTE</td>
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CATHOLIC COLLEGE

2004 has seen significant changes to personnel in Senior Leadership positions at Catholic College Bendigo. Joining me as new leaders this year are, Michael Chalkley (Deputy Principal – La Valla) and Sam Franci (Director of Curriculum). The appointment of these new faces in four of the senior leadership positions has, in many ways caused a focus upon new beginnings. I sense a deepening of community through the process of staff reviving and articulating the reasons for our events and rituals.

Our theme for our Annual Mass and Liturgies throughout this year is: “I have no hands but yours”. This theme was decided upon by the student leaders and is aiming as a wonderful means of reflecting upon our practical role as Christians. This theme had a significant effect on the approach of the students towards the traditional fundraising for Project Compass. A highlight of this was the first ever Cupids to be conducted by our Year 7 – 9 students. The college worked in close partnership with Cupids to develop a walkathon style fundraiser. It is envisaged that the project will be launched in many schools across the country next year. A key focus in the lead up to the day was the educative side of the aims and works of Cupids.

Faith Development of staff in 2004 has seen visits to the school by Fr Elio Capra who worked with us on the liturgical year of the Church and Fr Norman Ford who spoke on bioethics. Fr Capra will return later in the year. Our entire staff will be part of a special conference in August with all employees involved in Secondary Education in the Bendigo Diocese. This will bring together over 800 people to explore the theme: Many Parts, One Body.

As a college a key goal this year is to strengthen our identity as one college. In the early stages of the year this has been visible through a number of whole college activities for staff and an increased presence of the student college leaders at many La Valla camps and functions. Parents and students have been encouraged to see their schooling with us as a six year journey rather than two three year sessions at La Valla and Cocklebiddy respectively. Our College Strategic Plan is now in the second year of its three year life and this is driving much of the vision and action across most aspects of college life.

Daren McGregor
Principal

bendigo

40% Non Teaching

40% Teaching

10% Religious

Girls 1715, 51.1%
Boys 1641, 48.9%

CO-SPONSORED

Melbourne

La Trobe

Swans

Swans

Workshop

Sports

School

School

School

School
### School Councillors: Mercy Sponsored Schools

#### ACADEMY OF MARY IMMACULATE, FITZROY
- **Chair:** Mrs Barbara Trescneny
- **Deputy Chair:** Mr Ron Patti
- **Principal:** Mrs Susan Dancyk
- **MSEE Nominee:** Sr Madeleine M Fox RSM
- **Salaried Employees:**
  - Mrs Tracey Czarnuch
  - Ms M. Fisher
  - Mr Peter Horan
  - Ms Rosemary Lawes
  - Mrs Anne Treweek
  - Ms Kath Walsh
  - Mr John Watts
  - Mrs Anthony Whelan

- **Minute Secretary:** Mr Paul Remarini

#### SACRED HEART COLLEGE, KYNeton
- **Chair:** Mr Adrian Adam
- **Deputy Chair:** Mr Mary McKinley RSM
- **Principal:** Dr Annette Schneider RSM
- **MSEE Nominee:** Sr Tony Ball
- **Salaried Employees:**
  - Mr Joe Canana
  - Mr Craig Holmes
  - Mrs Maryann Kennedy
  - Mr Brian Reed
  - Mr David Russell
  - Mr Robert Taylor
  - Mr Timothy Walsh
  - Mr Brian Reid
  - Mr Kevin Addis

- **Minute Secretary:** Mr Paul Remarini

#### ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, NORTH MELBOURNE
- **Chair:** Mr Mark Wrenchowski
- **Deputy Chair:** Mrs Anne Walker
- **Principal:** Mr John Davidson RSM
- **MSEE Nominee:** Sr Helen M Delaney RSM
- **Salaried Employees:**
  - Mrs Claire Alenwood
  - Mr Claudia Esqueret
  - Mrs Susan Ghigger
  - Ms Anne Henderson
  - Mr Bridget Hogan
  - Mrs Denise Oberg
  - Mrs Ann-Marie Walsh

- **Minute Secretary:** Mr Paul Remarini

### Governors:

#### Recurrent Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$2003</th>
<th>$2004</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>14,139,692</td>
<td>15,832,799</td>
<td>26.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Private Income</td>
<td>3,897,587</td>
<td>3,433,000</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Recurrent Grants</td>
<td>37,151,240</td>
<td>39,500,739</td>
<td>67.2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>55,178,519</td>
<td>58,772,538</td>
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#### Capital Income

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>$2003</th>
<th>$2004</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>1,412,871</td>
<td>1,306,588</td>
<td>13.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Grants</td>
<td>167,918</td>
<td>1,361,528</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<td>Capital Loans</td>
<td>1,609,451</td>
<td>2,150,348</td>
<td>22.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Transferred for Capital Purposes</td>
<td>3,911,099</td>
<td>4,635,777</td>
<td>49.1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,401,369</td>
<td>9,454,641</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</table>

### Capital Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>$2003</th>
<th>$2004</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan Payments</td>
<td>1,370,928</td>
<td>1,516,181</td>
<td>15.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Purchases</td>
<td>5,066,518</td>
<td>8,052,911</td>
<td>84.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,059,446</td>
<td>10,019,092</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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**Diagram:**
- A pie chart showing the distribution of income and expenditure categories, with labels indicating each category's percentage of the total.