

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2014

Annual Report 2014

Marcellin College forms honourable young men who can contribute to the creation of a better world. We seek to develop the confidence, capacity and competency of all of our students as they mature from boyhood to manhood. We aspire to excellence and encourage an appreciation for lifelong learning so that boys can continually attain skills and knowledge in order to live a fulfilled and meaningful life. We undertake this work of education in the tradition of the Catholic church, infused with a Marist spirituality. In the words of St Marcellin Champagnat, after whom our College is named, we seek to develop good Christians and good citizens.

The aspirations outlined above are realised through a learning framework based on three fundamental tenets: (1.) Mutually respectful relationships; (2.) A structured disciplined and ordered environment; (3.) Active learning in collaboration. We believe that development of character is just as important as the delivery of the formal curriculum. We want boys to grow into fine, upstanding men, and the way we do this is articulated in our most recent publication, *The Marcellin Graduate*. It is available on our website and I commend it to your reading.

The Parents and Friends Association brings together parents and friends of the College who are interested in the welfare and development of the school and students. It is the most affirming way to participate in your son's education by becoming part of his school community. Participation benefits the school and helps make friendships and create support networks for themselves and their children.

During the last 2 years the P & F has raised over \$70,000 at a trivia night held with the support of the whole school and the wider community. It is a night where you can catch up with friends, meet new ones and enjoy each other's company. A lot of hard work by dedicated people that make this a wonderful night that raises money for the John Hennessy Financial Hardship Scholarship Fund.

By sharing ideas and skills, giving time, or for those who are able, making financial contributions, you are helping to shape the character of the school, and enrich your child's education. You become an inspiration to him and to others as a living illustration of the value of serving. Join us and join your son as part of a vibrant school community.

Marcellin College is a quintessential school of excellence. Over the course of six years it has developed a group of young boys into Marcellin Graduates; active citizens deeply inspired by their faith, education and community:

Respectful men with fine minds but more significantly fine character.

Though the journey has not always been easy our families have supported us through it. Through thick and thin they have prioritised us over themselves, have made sacrifices for which we are ineffably thankful. We also thank the staff at Marcellin, their amiability makes the College like a second home; their care and interest in every boy encapsulates the culture of egalitarianism and mateship within the school; Marcellin College is truly a place for all.

I challenge the graduating class of 2014 to strive for perfection. Though adversity may test us we would do well to remember that the finest steel is forged in the hottest flames. Men, strive for your dreams but be poised to prioritise others, succeed but never forget your origins; friends, family, God and of course the mighty Cerise and Blue.

College Community

The College is part of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. The community is enlivened by the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat and enriched by Marist traditions and practices. The College motto *Aeterna Non Caduca* (Eternal things, not fleeting things) is central to our vision. The College mission statement is displayed on the school website.

Students and Staff

Our student population is made up of at least seventy different national or ethnic backgrounds. We draw students from over twenty local primary schools and have a significant waiting list for available places. There are eighty-six members of full and part time staff. The Headmaster is a Marist Brother. There are weekly meetings of the Executive, staff briefings on Monday morning, regular staff and faculty meetings most Monday afternoons and whole staff days as the need arises.

Capital Works 2014

The scope of the works were: a new library with additional learning spaces and major internal refurbishment, a multi-purpose space to replace the Year 7 rooftop playground, a new canteen, landscaping in the bottom yard, Food Technology and Hospitality facilities, a Drama teaching and performance space and alterations to the Marist Centre. The facilities will be ready for use in 2015.

Parent Involvement and Special School Events

The College Advisory Council and P & F Committee met regularly throughout the year and were active in planning for many events. The Inaugural Lionel Bowen Lecture was held in Term 3 with Jeff McMullen as the speaker. His address was on the topic of Citizenship & the Common Good. Year 12 student and their parents attended along with parents and staff from local Catholic primary schools. Approximately three hundred people attended. Parent support of the College Walkathon continues to be strong.

Sporting, Cultural and Academic Life

In the 2014 Metropolitan Catholic Colleges (MCC) season the College won eleven premierships and were aggregate champions in Touch, Cricket, Cross Country, Rugby League, Golf and Swimming. Students participated in the national Mathematics competition and Science Youth Forum. Several students received Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Two boys received the Long Tan Leadership Award and two boys were selected to participate in the Catholic Schools Performing Arts (CaSPA) program.

We believe that students learn best when their faith and spirituality are nurtured in an environment where Gospel values are promoted and practiced and the spirit of Saint Marcellin Champagnat permeates all aspects of the College. Religious Education at Marcellin College is about giving our students an opportunity to encounter God. In Years 7 – 10 the Religious Education (RE) syllabus is based upon the Faithful to God: Faithful to People curriculum and is supported by the To Know, Worship and Love text books. In senior years, students have the choice of studying either Studies of Religion or Catholic Studies.

The Church/College partnership with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Randwick provides our student community with a further opportunity to experience parish life. We have also welcomed a connection with Fr Greg Morgan for St Josephs, Rosebery as we look to connect Parish Priests to specific year groups.

Our whole school solidarity mindset has seen all boys complete 'hours' in home service and other ministry initiatives as we continue to create opportunities for our boys to consider the least, the lost, and the few. The focus for solidarity this year included the introduction of a Thursday Island immersion and the planning for an international immersion in 2015.

Our community has raised money for the significant charitable works of the Marist Brothers, Caritas Australia and the St Vincent de Paul Society. We also assist Catholic Care and the St Vincent de Paul Society with the provision of Christmas hampers for in excess of twenty-five of the families their organisation serves in the local area. This commitment was coupled with an expansion of the College's Community Outreach Program. Year 11 volunteered with over fifty-two community organisations in Ministry Week and worked at Matthew Talbot Homeless Hostel twice weekly throughout the entire year. Night Patrol continued to be serviced by staff and students monthly. Year 10 students continue to complete weekly community work at the Little Sisters of the Poor Aged Care Facility.

Each Year group has again been involved in significant retreat and reflection day experiences. The use of the Fourvière Prayer Room and Friday morning Mass continues to be well supported by staff and students. Again in 2014, many parents joined us to celebrate the Eucharist in special Mother's and Father's Day Masses and also in our Ministry Program as they attended Night Patrol with their sons and grandsons.

Students in Years 7 and 8 study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, World History, World Geography, Music, Visual Arts, Technology (Mandatory) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) each year. In Year 8, students also study Italian.

In Year 9 and Year 10, all students study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, PDHPE, Australian History and Australian Geography. In addition, students choose to study three elective subjects in Year 9, one of which continues into Year 10. Elective subjects currently include Commerce, History, Geography, Information and Software Technology, Industrial Technology (Timber), Graphics Technology, Food Technology, Visual Design, Music, Visual Arts, Italian, and Physical Activity and Sports Studies.

Students in Years 11 and 12 study Catholic Studies or Studies of Religion I and English (Studies, Standard or Advanced). Students also select from: English Extension 1 (and 2), Mathematics (General Mathematics 1 and 2, Mathematics, Extension 1 and 2), Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Senior Science, Legal Studies, Economics, Geography, Modern History, Ancient History, History Extension, Business Studies, Industrial Technology, Design and Technology, Information Processes and Technology, Software Design and Development, Visual Arts, Music 1 and PDHPE. A number of non-Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) courses which contribute to the award of a HSC are also offered including Photography, Computing Applications and Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies. Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses delivered at Marcellin are Hospitality and Construction. Students do access various Technical and Further Education (TAFE) delivered VET courses as part of the HSC. Additionally, some students access courses delivered by a variety of external institutions.

The College continues to offer enrichment programs for gifted students in Years 7–10 who excel in English, Maths and Science. Year 11 students can select to complete an accelerated Mathematics program allowing them to sit the HSC Maths examination at the end of Year 11.

The Newman Stream program continued for gifted students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Staff were involved in planning and delivering teaching and learning programs across Key Learning Areas (KLA) that targeted the 7.1, 8.1 and 9.1 classes. Significant professional development of staff took place.

Students with special needs are catered for with balanced programs centering on improving basic skills. A focus area is developing students' literacy skills with exercises built into all subjects across all Years. Year 12 complete a specific literacy-based course in preparation for their HSC examinations.

The College's student welfare policy is written according to five key areas: affirmation, anti-bullying, child protection, pastoral care and students at risk. All of these policies are at the core of the College's philosophy that seeks to afford respect to all members of the community.

No changes were made to this policy this year.

The full text of the College's Pastoral Care Policy may be accessed on the College's website or at the administration office.

At Marcellin we recognise the need to develop a climate within the College community which promotes self-discipline and self-respect. The College also seeks to develop in students an understanding of the need for rules and the expectation that these rules be respected by all so that the College can provide a safe and supportive environment for all students. Our students are encouraged to be aware of the consequences of their decisions and their resulting actions. The behaviour management policy is designed to assist students towards greater self-managed behaviour that is more appropriate to young people growing up in contemporary Australia.

No changes were made to this policy this year.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this College. The College does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by College persons and non-College persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the College.

The full text of the College's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the College's website or at the administration office.

The College placed its emphasis on the theme - Good Christians and Good Citizens. The scriptural reference was taken from the book of Isaiah 49:16, "Defame no-one, be peacable, considerate and always polite to everyone". In addition to the display of the theme throughout the College grounds, it was promoted at Headmaster's assemblies, Year meetings, in pastoral care classes and in various College publications.

A significant initiative promoting respect and responsibility in 2014 was the use of the document *The Marcellin Graduate*. It comprises seven dimensions. The Marcellin Graduate is the preeminent document at the College that outlines the core of our mission. It will continue to serve as a valuable resource for all in the College community into the future, particularly as it relates to developing young men of character. It was widely used in the pastoral program and promoted at College assemblies and featured in many College publications.

The College has continued to develop as a faith community with opportunities for staff and students in spiritual formation, Solidarity initiatives and planning for the extension of the Year 9 Religious Education Program into Year 10. The Newman Stream has been extended to include Year 8. Newman Stream teachers have participated in professional development to further their skills in creating enrichment activities that are have greater complexity, depth, diversity and challenges for the students. Staff have been engaged in preparations for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and participated in 'Understanding by Design' professional development. A range of initiatives in collaborative teaching and learning have taken place. The College participated in the Cyclic Review process and was acknowledged as a school of 'best practice'. Detailed planning for the next Strategic Improvement Plan has taken place with a focus on two key areas being Citizenship and the Common Good and Active Learning in Collaboration. A new approach to staff personal performance review known as 'MyPL' has been introduced.

Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

Two major foci, or New Horizons as we call them will govern all activity next year:

1. A focus on citizenship and the common good.
2. Increased collaboration in learning.

Major capital works to commence.

Expansion of Newman Stream into Stage Five.

Implementation of phase one of the Australian Curriculum in Stages Four and Five.

A reimagination of the functions and design of the College website.