

# connections

TASMANIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE



## From the Director

This is the first combined edition of *Connections* and *The Tasmanian Catholic*.

For the past few years, Catholic Education Tasmania has produced its own high quality magazine about schools and school life, entitled *Connections*. The magazine has featured many articles showcasing the achievements and hopes of our school communities and has been sent home to all families once a term so that parents, grandparents, students and friends can enjoy the vibrant educational involvements of the schools their loved ones attend.

Increasingly, the award-winning *Tasmanian Catholic* magazine has also featured events and achievements of our Catholic schools statewide. Our Mission as Church to teach the Good News of Jesus, heal the sick, comfort the lost and bring sight to the blind has many faces and expressions in Tasmania. As Catholic schools, we are working within the ambit of the Archdiocesan Vision and Mission Statement and share our goals with other agencies that minister in so many ways to families and those in need. It is important that we are seen to share this Mission together, rather than to be working in isolation from the other Catholic Church agencies; a combined magazine is one way to demonstrate this unity.

Students and families will now have the opportunity to read about the many human interest stories, events and inspiring achievements that are happening in so many aspects of Catholic life across this state. There will be a clearly identifiable section at the centre of *The Tasmanian Catholic* specifically dedicated to reporting about our colleges and schools. Reporting about Catholic education will now be situated within many good news stories from around the Archdiocese from parishes and agencies working for the community, sitting within the overall context of the Church's Mission in Tasmania. That can only be a positive step as we share with families the scope and influence of our Church. Its liturgical celebrations, parish life, social justice and ecological commitment, care for asylum seekers, family counselling, outreach and ministry to prisoners, are just some examples of the good works of the Archdiocese that are reported in issues of *The Tasmanian Catholic*.

The magazine is bright, contemporary, comprehensive and attractive. I do hope that you enjoy this first combined edition of Archdiocesan and schools news, and watch out for it as a regular gift to your family four times a year.



Dr Trish Hindmarsh  
Director Catholic Education Tasmania

# Every face has a place



*Being a walking God moment!*

*the future's looking good with some outstanding examples of God's love in action*

at the principal's monthly afternoon tea at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Devonport. Two students from each class have been chosen as 'walking God moments' because of the way they reflect God's love to those around them. Their names are called out over the school's PA and they are invited to join the principal in the staff room.

The lovely spread is provided by Mrs Von Stieglitz from the school canteen and is shared in a most civilised manner by the well-mannered students, with Grade Six leaders setting up the feasts and serving the 24 excited young people. Principal Mr Matt Jones talks to the students about why they have been chosen and encourages them to always try their best. What a positive initiative!

The *KidsMatter* programme, designed to build a positive culture within education, is in its second year at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Devonport. It is a national mental health initiative aimed at social and emotional learning.

*KidsMatter* acknowledges the worth of every person, giving a sense of belonging, and developing life-skills that will benefit students as they grow into purposeful teenagers and adults.

There is an important parental support component, which emphasises the partnership between families and school in the overall education of children. This came to the fore when celebrating the end of the unit entitled 'Every Face Has a Place'. As a school parent, the photographer, Mark Seaton, took on the responsibility of co-ordinating the logistics of taking a whole-school photograph. On the given day, all students wore something red. Forming a large circle in the playground, with some forming the shape of the eyes and the mouth of a smiley face, students watched in amazement as the fire snorkel lifted Mark on high to photograph the happy scene.

All involved were delighted with the outcome, which further emphasised the fact that every person's co-

operation was needed to build the picture. It left students with a sense of belonging and being valued for their contribution. The photograph was a creative and fun way to celebrate our togetherness.

As a school, the teachers recognise that they have key roles to play in students' wellbeing and future emotional development. Under the guidance of staff-member, Bobbi-Jo Bailey and her *KidsMatter* team, they are journeying through how to explicitly teach social skills and deciding how to fit this into an already busy curriculum. Through professional learning sessions, the staff meets regularly to further explore strategies to help students to recognise their emotions and values and to become more aware of their strengths and limitations. Students will learn ways of managing their emotions and behaviours and develop understanding of and empathy with others. Relationship skills deal with teamwork and handling conflict, while responsible decision-making is high on the agenda.

The *KidsMatter* initiative works hand-in-hand with the Making Jesus Real programme, which is also an important component of values education at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

'Smiley Face' picture: Mark Seaton Photographics

# The heart of education



*K2LD Architects have been commended for their innovative work with two Sacred Heart Catholic Schools – one from each end of Tasmania.*

*Significant changes to the built fabric have resulted in a new heart...*

From the **2011 TASMANIAN ARCHITECTURE AWARDS:**

Public Architecture Commendation

Josephite Learning Centre

K2LD Architects

The architects K2LD have boldly sited a new flexible teaching facility at the **Sacred Heart Catholic School, Geeveston**, which has significantly revamped and reordered the school. The new facility engages with and energises its surroundings. It has established direct dialogue with the existing chapel and is literally a lantern centring the site and a variety of community activities.

Open and transparent, the new building provides insights into contemporary approaches to learning, allowing for flexibility and team teaching in larger conjoined spaces, while permitting more intimate groups to gather and learn. Individual and small team exploration and learning is encouraged in a facility which is designed for ease of supervision.

The architectural volumes adjust to spaces, activities and orientation providing dynamic interest internally. Externally a singular form asserts its pivotal function.

This project is seen by the Catholic education system and community as an exemplar for contemporary teaching and learning.



The modernisation of learning facilities at **Sacred Heart Catholic School, Ulverstone**, has been recognised by the Council for Educational Facility Planners International Australasia in its 2011 awards with a commendation in Category 2 - Renovation / Modernisation of School / Major Facility.

The citation from the **2011 CEFPI AUSTRALASIA AWARDS** reads: This transformative BER project resulted from an accelerated but inclusive consultation process. The consultation process outlined seems truly innovative, including all stakeholders including the students. Through focusing on what really mattered to the effective functioning of the school, an innovative solution, covering 60% of the school footprint, has been created that has offered the school exceptional value. Significant changes to the built fabric have resulted in a new heart, which is well received by the school. Classrooms have been transformed with new connections between learning spaces and also to the outside, literally through using outdoor learning opportunities, and virtually through integrated technology.

# Transforming school buildings for 21st century learning

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BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Over \$90 million has been spent on capital works in Catholic schools and colleges in Tasmania over the past few years, an unprecedented level of funding across a number of programmes, enabling the design and construction of educational facilities which will serve contemporary teaching and learning for decades to come. \$75 million of this money has come from the Federal Government's *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) programme.

With almost all BER projects now complete, there have been a number of recent blessing and recognition ceremonies to open new and refurbished facilities in schools and colleges across the state. These events have been attended by a range of people including Archbishop Adrian Doyle, parish priests, Josephite Sisters, Christian Brothers, old scholars, federal politicians, school staff, students, school board members, parents, friends, architects, builders and staff from the TCEO.

The openings have provided a great opportunity for schools, their parishes and communities to acknowledge the great deal of work that has gone into these projects in such a short timeframe, to celebrate their achievements and recognise some of the educational benefits and other positive outcomes that have flowed out of the projects and are already evident in many schools. The construction process is often a difficult one with school staff, teachers and students having to accommodate extra noise and activity, often for several months at a time, but the problems are mostly outweighed by the learning that takes place from observing buildings taking shape over time, the sense of collegiality that develops among staff and students, and the undoubted pride in the finished product.

*“... the funding has enabled the design and construction of educational facilities which will serve contemporary teaching and learning for decades to come ...”*



*“Congratulations to all who have been involved with these projects.*

*A job well done!” Adam Mulcahy, TCEO*



## *GYC challenges State's poor retention rates*

*The future's looking positive.*

Seven hundred Grade 10 students from Catholic, Government and Independent schools and colleges in southern Tasmania took advantage of Guilford Young College's Pathways Expo in July to help in their course selection for their senior secondary education and beyond.

The Expo, held in the Bosco Centre on the Glenorchy Campus, showcased the extensive range of academic and vocational courses offered by Tasmania's only Catholic senior secondary college.

It provided an opportunity for Grade 10 students, their teachers and parents to discuss with GYC teachers about courses that will lead students into their hoped-for careers. A tour of the Glenorchy Campus was part of the experience; many of the students having already visited the Hobart Campus earlier this year.

This major event is one of several significant annual measures in GYC's concerted effort to improve the retention rate of students between Grades 10 and 11 and to help students' transitioning process into senior secondary education. GYC teachers will continue



*Mackillop Catholic College students checking out the expo.*

to be available for course advice through liaising with teachers in the Association Colleges while the Grade 10 students will return to GYC early in December for an orientation day.

Early indications for 2012 enrolments are that next year will see one of the biggest student cohorts in the College's short history. "GYC is looking to the future, confident in the academic and service reputation it has built within the Tasmanian community," the principal, Mrs Bobby Court, said.



*Tassie students*

# *part of the excitement*

Eligible students in Tasmanian colleges and schools can also enrol in other Conservatorium units locally by performing in college musicals and in some community bands. School music departments can provide more details.

*Students Millicent Huber (Mount Carmel) and Regan Schmidt (St Mary's College) join with singers from all ages and walks of life in two hours of joy and hard work on Wednesday nights. These secondary students are enrolled in a Conservatorium unit.*

The Southern Gospel Choir, an Antipodean treasure bringing the energy of African-American Gospel Music to the Southern hemisphere, is run by the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, part of the University of Tasmania (UTAS). Weekly rehearsals for the choir are held at the Conservatorium in Hobart under the guidance of choir founder Dr Andrew Legg and singing coach Maria Lurighi. The more than 130 members of the choir range in age from

twelve to over sixty and come from many varied backgrounds and parts of the Tasmanian community.

This exciting choir performed recently to a sell-out audience at the Hobart City Hall and was streamed live via the internet to tell us of a *Brighter Day*. The next big event is: *Hot Gospel!* with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Christine Anu at Wrest Point on November 5 ... and the choir is the subject of an upcoming documentary.

Members of the general public, including school and college students, can audition for and join the choir, and are then enrolled in the choir unit as a part of the Diploma of Music Performance (which can eventually lead to an Associate Degree in Music Studies). Auditions, which are quite informal, are held throughout the year at the Conservatorium.

# OPEN DAY 2011 BEYOND THE RED DOOR.

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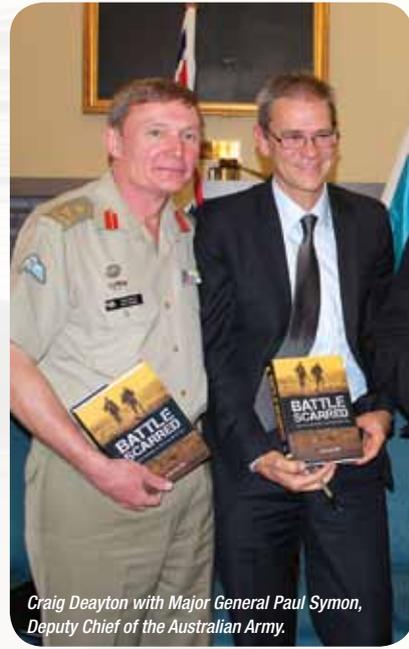
For more information about Open Day, contact the Uni Info Centre on 13UTAS or visit [www.utas.edu.au/openday](http://www.utas.edu.au/openday) for regular updates.



# An author's story — from research to reference

Not all authors either live in run-down garrets or make untold zillions from their creations. In fact one Tasmanian author is also a busy family man and college principal. He just happens to have a passion for history and the dedication to spend the last six years researching and writing what has become an important contribution to Australia's military history. And, although the book has sold out, is now in its second printing and is in every library in Australia, he doubts that he'll make any money from the venture.

Craig Deayton is the principal of Sacred Heart College, New Town, where he went to school himself, before moving on to St Virgil's College and then the University of Tasmania, where he majored in Ancient History. He has written *Battle Scarred*, the history of the 47th battalion of the Australian Army in the First World War. He remembers fondly the sisters who taught him at Sacred Heart and his history teachers at St Virgil's, especially Len Colquhoun and Kevin Crowe. He also owes a debt to Charles Bean, a military historian who is known as Australia's greatest ever historian – responsible for The Australian War Memorial and the world's leading collection of



Craig Deayton with Major General Paul Symon, Deputy Chief of the Australian Army.

World War One records and memorabilia.

Craig's research took him to the Australian War Memorial, as well as overseas to battlefields in France and Belgium, and to libraries and museums far and wide. He spent thousands of hours on this book and it impressed the Army History Unit who supported its publication. Craig is very proud of the glowing foreword to his book which was written by Dr Peter Stanley, Australia's foremost current military historian.

### Craig's advice to budding authors?

*You can do it! Stick to it and keep going. The risk is there, but the creative challenge makes it all worthwhile.*

And, yes, he is working on book number two – this time on the 1917 Battle of Messines.



# Fairer World Festival

Nearly 1400 students from 52 schools across Tasmania recently attended the inaugural Fairer World Festival. This was held over two days in Hobart and two days in Launceston.

Students from Grades 3-12 participated in a fun and dynamic mix of interactive workshops, inspirational speakers, displays, performances, an expo and other activities around the core theme of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. They were able to explore a range of issues including animal rights, fair trade, environmental sustainability, global poverty and refugees. The Festival was also an opportunity for students to celebrate the things they have done to 'make a difference'. Each of the four days of the Festival included a vibrant expo showcasing the change-making activities of young Tasmanians and community groups.



Students benefit from these events as they are exposed to what is happening outside their classroom and receive the message of the need for action from experts in the field, as well as young human rights activists who are making a difference in their own communities. Dan Prichard, a student from St Aloysius Catholic College said, "It was the most inspiring day I have ever had, and as soon as I got home I started creating my own little blog about making a difference! I wish I could have the same experience every day!"

# Opening of the Centenary History Centre



*The new Centenary History Centre at St Virgil's College will be a permanent reminder of the school's rich history.*

The Centenary Centre was opened and blessed on April 10 and is a hub for the College's diverse history at the Austins Ferry campus. The centre is a permanent feature of the school that symbolises 100 years of celebration. The centre covers the school's history from 1911 to present day displays; its early days at the Barrack Street campus; its many sporting, academic and arts achievements as well as former pupils who have gone on to succeed in various

endeavours. The Heritage Roll of Honour has been transferred to the hallway of the History Centre. The Roll of Honour recognises significant achievements of old boys since leaving the College including military, religious, government and sporting achievements. The History Centre is a visual reminder of St Virgil's history and will be a valuable educational resource for the school.

# The changing face of maths and science at Dominic College

Dominic College, Glenorchy, has a new look Maths and Science faculty, featuring new buildings, programmes, curriculum, technology and a new faculty head. In recent weeks the newly renovated science labs (thanks to the *Building the Education Revolution* government grant) have been blessed and opened in an official ceremony. In addition to the new labs, several classrooms have also been recently refurbished.

Head of Maths and Science, Mr Fred O'Leary, said that the refurbished classrooms, featuring interactive whiteboards (IWBs) and portable trolleys of laptops have created new opportunities for how maths can be taught. "The IWBs are a great teaching tool for teachers as you can use visual effects such as animations, videos and links to websites to explain a problem, and tie it in with the theory," he said.

Elective subjects and co-curricular opportunities within the Maths and Science faculty at Dominic College have also grown. "The Australian curriculum was introduced to Year 7 students this year and the Year 11 level course, Math Methods, continues to be



offered to Year 10 Dominic students," Mr O'Leary said. "Last year we introduced Maths tutoring after school, along with setting homework tasks using a Maths online programme. The opportunities for using Maths online will be even greater once the laptop programme is introduced to the Year 7s in 2013 and all Dominic secondary students by 2015."

Year 5 students have already begun the laptop programme and were each allocated a laptop at the start of the year.

The programme is already showing promising results, speeding up the teaching process and allowing differentiation in the learning process. Using their new laptops, Year 5LF recently trialled *Mathletics*, an online Maths site, where students engage in Maths learning (covering all areas in the Maths curriculum), improve their skills and enjoy it too! Students used the programme daily and were also able to access it at home.

"It's all part of the quest to increase the academic rigour of our students so that we're not only up there with national standards, but above them."

