

JULY 2007

update



Catholic Development Fund

New Era/Bright Futures at St Ignatius College

Innovative change is not served in small measures at St Ignatius College, Drysdale. In one grand celebration recently five state of the art learning centres and amenities were opened and blessed by Archbishop Denis Hart. The new buildings include centres for food technology, design and systems technology and VCE studies as well as an indoor games hall and canteen and are part of a major expansion which the College has termed their "New Era/Bright Futures" phase.

Celebrations at the College go deeper than the obvious bricks and mortar achievements made possible by your CDF investment, school reserves and Commonwealth and State grants. At the start of 2007 the former CRC (Catholic Regional College) Geelong embraced a new name, St Ignatius College, which reflects the College status as a Jesuit Partner School. The newly forged relationship with Xavier College, Kew is aimed at enhancing the Catholic identity of the College through a focus on Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit educational vision. And so it happens that the students of the Bellarine Peninsula with views to Corio Bay and the You Yangs are challenged to excel by the 16th century Spanish courtier and soldier, St Ignatius Loyola. This giant of the Church who founded the Society of Jesus and opened the first Jesuit school in 1548 was convinced that a high quality of education is the best path to a meaningful life of leadership and service.



Above: Archbishop Denis Hart with Principal Michael Exton (2nd from right) and students following the blessing ceremonies at St Ignatius College.

Below: The Technology Centre at St Ignatius College, Drysdale comprise workshops for wood and metal constructions and automotive and engineering practices.



Building Our Catholic Community

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Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne 150 Glorious Years 1857 – 2007



Mother Ursula Frayne

The Catholic Development Fund takes great pleasure in congratulating the Sisters of Mercy on their magnificent achievement of 150 years of dedicated service to the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The unique contribution of the Sisters began on the 6th March 1857 with the arrival of Mother Ursula Frayne, Sister Anne Xavier Dillon and Sister Joseph Sherlock who accepted the invitation of Archbishop James Goold and subsequently took up residence in Fitzroy. Six weeks later and with just six enrolments they established a Catholic secondary school for girls, now known as the Academy of Mary Immaculate. By 1910 Mercy Congregation owned secondary colleges (pictured) had been established at Geelong, North Melbourne, Kyneton, Lilydale and Heidelberg. Over the years hundreds of Sisters of Mercy administered and taught at large numbers of parish primary schools, putting an indelible golden mark on Catholic education in this Archdiocese.

A deep awareness of God's mercy reflected in their service to others was at the heart of the Sisters' ministry in 1857. This philosophy has not changed over the years. The Sisters of Mercy can claim the distinction of being the first teaching nuns in Victoria, yet their work stretched far beyond the classroom. Their faithful response to God's calling challenged them to meet the local needs which included hospitals, aged care, teacher training and child and family care.

Stained glass window at the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy depicting the nuns' journey.

As the Sisters of Mercy mark their sesquicentennial in the Archdiocese of Melbourne the six secondary colleges which had been established so long ago continue to flourish. Under Mercy Health and Aged Care the congregation provides a range of services at public and private hospitals and a commitment to expand aged care services. In partnership with the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Christian Brothers through MacKillop Family Services over forty different programs designed to respond to the needs of families and children are in place. Organisations such as Regina Coeli and Mercy Care assist homeless women and provide crisis accommodation for women and children in unsafe settings. The Sisters work closely with asylum seekers and refugee resettlement. Their collective job descriptions include parish and spiritual ministry. Artnetwork Multimedia provides state of the art communication systems and media with the Sisters of Mercy worldwide and to the wider local community.

Woven into the rich tapestry of Mercy history are CDF threads. These are the threads of partnership in mission, spun since CDF's foundation in 1956. There are threads of hundreds of loans for capital works supporting the pastoral outreach which engaged the Sisters. The college building programs have been huge and include classrooms, administration areas, libraries, gymnasiums, performing arts centres, sporting ovals, technology and more.

At this special time of celebration it is well to reflect on the six enrolments in 1857, the tenacity of Mother Ursula and her companions, the spirit and vision of Sisters of Mercy who followed and the tens of thousands of Mercy educated and inspired students.

It is well to give thanks and praise.



Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy established 1857



Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale, established 1896



Sacred Heart College, Geelong, established 1860



Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, established 1889



St Aloysius College, Melbourne North, established 1887



Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg, established 1910



A Great Asset for a Vibrant Parish

It is the hub of parish activity and outreach, the gathering place where a vibrant community is enhanced. The facilities are first class. Welcome to **St. Jude's Parish Community Centre, Scoresby.**

Father Noel Mackay, Parish Priest enthusiastically shared that it is not uncommon for two or three events to run simultaneously at the centre. Senior parishioners, the "Judeans", can be found in the theatrette eating popcorn and watching the flicks or sharpening their computer skills.

Meetings can be in progress in both the board room and the meeting room, quite apart from the fashion parades, bush dances and full school assemblies. "It is a great asset for our parish." Father added.



Right: Both parish schools appreciate extensive use of the St Jude Community Centre, particularly the stage and main hall which seats 450 persons. Students from Holy Trinity Primary School, Wantirna South present, "Australia – Music Through the Ages".

Below-left: The generous display space in the main hall created a perfect venue for the Saint Jude's School Art Show and craft demonstrations. Student waiters and waitresses serve supper prepared in the adjacent commercial kitchen.

Below-right: For Travis and Louise Philp the formal reception room complete with parquet dance floor, mood lighting and elegant table ware was ideal for their wedding reception.



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