



MSEI Strategic Goals 2008 - 2018



MERCY SECONDARY EDUCATION INC

Strategic Plan 2008-2018



"The MSEI Strategic Plan was formally launched and adopted at the 2008 Public General Meeting held in May 2008. A major challenge for us as a Board has been to ensure that the Plan remains a living document that informs everything we do. In August 2008 the Board spent two days in Ballarat, working with facilitator Kate Redwood, to set ourselves tasks and timelines. Our agenda is now presented under the headings of the six goals that form the framework of the plan to ensure that they remain at the heart of our deliberations". **MSEI Chair: Patricia Ryan OAM**

The Six Strategic Goals that will shape the future direction of MSEI and the Education ministry of the Sisters of Mercy – Melbourne Congregation are:

Goal 1: Living Ethos

To ensure that Catherine McAuley's vision of the lived Gospel is at the heart of each education community.

Goal 2: Effective Governance

To review the MSEI model of governance to ensure that it is effective and appropriate to the issues and vision of the next decade.

Goal 3: Well Supported Leadership

To ensure there is outstanding, visionary and compassionate educational leadership throughout Mercy Secondary Education.

Goal 4: Effective Systems

To develop a practice of advice, planning, monitoring and review which ensures relevance, viability and fidelity of the Colleges.

Goal 5: Participation in Policy Forums

To be proactive in our engagement with the wider Catholic Education system.

Goal 6: Strong Partnerships and Communications

To improve and widen our communications strategy across the network.

Introducing new MSEI Board member, Mrs Lucy Molony



Lucy grew up in Geraldton WA where she was educated by the Presentation Sisters at Stella Maris College. After completing her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of WA and her teacher training at Claremont Teachers' College in Perth, Lucy returned to Geraldton to teach at Geraldton High School.

She moved to Victoria in 1968 with her late husband and taught at Glen Waverley High School and then at Avila College. She was lucky enough to be given a year's leave to complete her Bachelor of Theology Degree in 1986 and then she commenced as Principal at Our Lady of Sion College in 1987 where she remained for the next ten years.

The late 1990s brought a change of direction and Lucy worked at the Tribunal of the Catholic Church for some time and then as Director of Towards Healing, Victoria. In 2006 Lucy returned to her first love—education—and has been working since in the induction and mentoring of new Secondary Principals, in reviews and appraisals of various kinds and as a Reviewer for the School Improvement Framework.

Lucy treasures the flexibility "retirement" has brought, allowing her to spend time with her grandchildren—Jesse, Charlie and Josh (pick the girl!) She is delighted to have joined the MSEI Board and so have another opportunity to witness the inspirational work that occurs in our schools.



from the editor

Welcome to the first edition of the 2009 Mercy Ed newsletter and a warm welcome to staff new to Mercy Education. Congratulations to staff undertaking new leadership positions and especially to Darren Atkinson who leads the St Joseph's College community as the first lay Principal. It is indeed a privilege to work in Mercy Education and to stand on the shoulders of the Sisters of Mercy who have gone before us. As Darren says, "...I feel strongly the responsibility to honour and promote our rich Mercy heritage".

Congregation Leader, Sr Kath Tierney, and other Board members are thrilled to have Mrs Lucy Molony join them on the MSEI Board. Lucy is a very experienced educationalist and administrator in Catholic Education and brings much wisdom and counsel to the deliberations of the Board. Her experience as Principal at Sion College, Box Hill over a ten year period will offer much support for our Principals and staff, especially as she continues her work in Catholic Education in the role of Reviewer for the School Improvement Framework in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Recipients of the 2008 Mercy Scholarship at each of the Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored colleges bring their families, their teachers and their peers much pride and joy when they are rightfully acknowledged for the compassion, concern and commitment they show to those less fortunate in our communities. They too must feel strongly the responsibility to honour and promote our rich Mercy history. This care and concern was no more evident than during one of our darkest periods in Victoria with the recent 'Black Saturday' fires. The level of response from and for the community at Mount Lilydale Mercy College was simply outstanding in raising money for fee relief, uniforms and basic essentials for those affected. Similarly the concern shown by our sister Mercy schools across the country was supportive, heartfelt and very practical.

May the holiday period bring a time of peace and rest and may this time of Easter bring new life, new promise and new hope for all in our communities.

Eugene Lynch
Editor

Welcome to Darren Atkinson, new Principal of St Joseph's College, Mildura



Photo courtesy of Sunraysia Daily

The Atkinson family from left, Ben, Darren, Bridie, wife Tracey and Luke



"You cannot be otherwise than happy while the spirit of your vocation animates your actions."

The Little Book of Catherine of Dublin (2005)

It is both an honour and a great responsibility to be invited to lead the community of St Joseph's College, Mildura; a College with such a rich Mercy heritage.

It is also a time to reflect and consider how one gets to this point of being charged with such a responsibility. It was over twenty-one years ago that I left Adelaide as a graduate in the pursuit of work and made my way to Notre Dame College, Shepparton. Newly married to Tracey, I recall this was to be a brief "country sojourn" before returning to Adelaide to settle down. Eight years later and with three small children in tow, we decided to move to Mildura having travelled through the town and developed a liking for the environs. Sister Marion McDonald welcomed us into the College community as did a very generous and friendly staff. Today, thirteen years on and with our children, Luke (18), Benjamin (15) and Bridie (13) well into adolescence, we call Mildura "home" and love being part of our community.

I have been offered great opportunity at St Joseph's College under the leadership of Sister Sylvia Williams; initially as Curriculum Co-ordinator and, in later years, as Deputy Principal. I thank my Principals who have encouraged hard work and the taking of a calculated risk in the interest of furthering the benefits for the students. The opportunity to participate in the Mercy Formation Program in Dublin in 2007 was a highlight of both my professional and personal life. As a history teacher, there is something about walking amongst the "living history" that produces a very powerful and profound response. As the first lay principal of St Joseph's College, I feel strongly the responsibility to honour and promote our rich Mercy heritage.

Mildura faces a challenging period over the next few years. A prolonged drought and the water crisis impacting the Murray Darling Basin challenge the agricultural sector so vital to the region. The global economic downturn further diminishes export markets and many primary producers have to make serious decisions as to the viability of their farms. At these times it is more important than ever to maintain the support of the extended school community.

My gratitude to the many St Joseph College students and families, colleagues on staff, and members of Mercy and diocesan networks who have wished me well with my new responsibility. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to new Senior Staff



Brian Brown

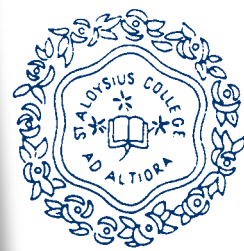
Deputy Principal - Operations, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool

I grew up in the Otway Ranges near Lavers Hill and was educated at the Lavers Hill Consolidated School and St Patricks College in Ballarat. My journey over the past 27 years of my teaching career has been somewhat varied. After completing a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education), my first teaching appointment was at Parade College Bundoora where I was a Physical Education and Sports teacher for a three year period. This was a great learning experience for me as a graduate teacher.

In 1984 I made a decision with my family to return to the country where I was fortunate enough to take up a position as Physical Education and Sports Co-ordinator at Trinity College in Colac. In my four years at Trinity College I also became a year level co-ordinator and middle school co-ordinator along with being a member of Principal's Advisory team. Again I found it to be a wonderful learning experience.

At the start of 1988 my family moved to Warrnambool where I was employed at St Ann's College again as Physical Education and Sports Co-ordinator. In 1991 I became a member of staff of the newly amalgamated Emmanuel College which saw St Ann's College and St Josephs College combined. After spending twelve months in Perth with my family, where my wife completed her midwifery course, I returned to Emmanuel College in 1993 to take up the position of Year 9 Co-ordinator. Following on from that I was invited to take up the role of Junior Campus Co-ordinator (Years 7 – 9), a position I held for a period of ten years. From there I became Senior School Co-ordinator (Year 11 and 12) in 2007 and 2008 and relished the change of role working with the senior students and staff. It helped me gain a much deeper understanding of the workings of the school as a whole.

In 2009 I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to take up the role as the Deputy Principal (Operations) at Emmanuel College and I look forward to growing in that role in the future. Over the years I have been very fortunate to have had such a wide variety of opportunities and worked with such diverse and multi talented groups of people both in Mercy and Christian Brothers schools. I consciously made a decision 27 years ago that these were the types of schools I would love to be part and I can honestly say I have not regretted it for one moment. In a few weeks time I have the privilege of attending the Mercy Ethos Program in Dublin and I so look forward to being able to share the Mercy story with the others attending as it is one that means so much to me.



Lisa Leening

Director of Religious Education & Faith Development, St Aloysius College, North Melbourne

"Ad Altiora", "Strive for Higher Things" is St Aloysius' school motto, and it is a motto which the girls endeavour to live by. I feel honoured and privileged to be surrounded by such dedicated young women who continue to inspire me with their enthusiasm and love of learning. In the last few weeks I have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement from both the staff and students at St Aloysius College.

Prior to my appointment at St Aloysius I was the Religious Education Co-ordinator at Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School. During this time I was fortunate enough to receive sponsorship to complete my Masters in Religious Education. I was thrilled to have this opportunity as I have great passion for theology and religious studies. On completion of my Masters I was seconded by the Australian Catholic University to run tutorial groups for fourth year student teachers. This was a fantastic opportunity to work with new teachers, helping them develop understanding and skills in methodology and pedagogy for the religious education classroom.

I was also fortunate to be selected, to work in conjunction with the staff at the Melbourne Catholic Education Office, as a writer of the Coming to Know Worship and Love Frameworks. This was an enjoyable and rewarding experience which enabled me to develop a deeper understanding of the curriculum that was to be implemented within our schools. I am passionate about ensuring that students have access to relevant and engaging religious education curriculum that challenges them to think deeply about the Catholic tradition.

St Aloysius is my first Mercy school, and I have been fascinated and enriched by my studies of the Mercy tradition. I feel grateful to be welcomed into a community founded by such a remarkable woman as Catherine McAuley. I hope that in my new role at St Aloysius, that I too can live the school motto, "Strive for Higher Things".



Kevin Towns

Deputy Principal, St Joseph's College, Mildura

I'm very pleased to join the St Joseph's College community in sunny Mildura. The warmer weather and lifestyle has made the move very easy to handle.

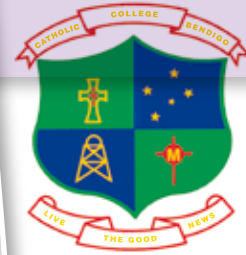
Born and educated in Ballarat, I attended Melbourne State College, completing a Bachelor of Education, Environmental Science. I spent many years at Nagle College in Bairnsdale in a number of roles such as Religious Education Coordinator and Senior School Coordinator. My main teaching areas were Religious Education and Psychology and I undertook further study to develop my knowledge and skills in these areas. Whilst at Nagle, I was strongly influenced by the Salesian approach to discipline, which as a counseling style, was not dissimilar to restorative practices.

In 2003 and 2004, I completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Student Welfare. A very practical course, it enabled me to focus on approaches to enhance relationships between students, staff and parents. As Director of Staff, I was able to utilize some of the concepts towards staff wellbeing initiatives, an area to which I remain committed.

In 2005, I was appointed Deputy Principal at Trinity College, Colac and due to the College's association with the Mercy tradition, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Mercy Ethos program in Dublin that year. This began my association with the Mercy ethos, the experience leaving me with a lasting impression of the power of Catherine's charisma. I was particularly impressed by the importance of hospitality in establishing and developing strong, positive relationships.

As a Deputy at Trinity, I was present during a period of substantial growth and change. I feel proud to have been part of a community that valued all that it was able to achieve. I was able to work with a staff which already had a strong commitment to student wellbeing, and as strong supporters of restorative practices, we were able to establish this approach as part of the College's disciplinary procedures. I maintained my interest in staff wellbeing and formation and completed my Masters in Education in 2008, focusing on leadership development and human resource management.

In my work at St Josephs, I hope to be able to contribute to the wellbeing of all members of the College community. In particular, I am pleased to be working with Darren, our new Principal, to take on the challenge of leading the college and continuing the strong Mercy tradition developed over a hundred years.



Giselle Talbot

Deputy Principal – Staff, Catholic College Bendigo

I am delighted to introduce Giselle Talbot as the new Deputy Principal - Staff at Catholic College Bendigo. This is a newly created leadership role at the College, exclusively supporting the most important resource a school has: its staff. Professional learning of all staff is the core focus of this new role. Catholic College Bendigo is fortunate to have a staff body committed to providing wonderful learning opportunities for our students. The new Deputy Principal – Staff role is aimed at continuing and further developing rich learning opportunities for our staff in order to support their work with our students. In line with our theme for 2009 'Let their stories change our heart', I have asked Giselle to share the story of her own professional journey.

Darren McGregor, Principal

"My background in education was originally as a Physical Education and Science teacher. My first venture back into formal education after my Bachelor of Education was studying a Graduate Diploma of Religious Education. Whilst this study provided me with best practice in the principles of learning and teaching Religious Education, it more importantly started me on a journey that I now know will never end.

When I left University after my initial degree, as a young and somewhat 'green' graduate, I thought I was equipped with all I needed to teach students. However my early years of post-graduate study, together with my time in the classroom, awakened me to the vast amount of knowledge and skills I did not possess. Hence over the years, I have taken every chance I have had to learn. I have been grateful for the personal and professional opportunities for growth offered through formal study and collaboration with members of the learning communities to which I have belonged. All have contributed to the journey of learning I started as a Physical Education teacher seventeen years ago.

My early impression of this role, charged with the responsibility of professional learning of staff, is the great value of working in teams. The new leadership structure at Catholic College Bendigo is built on a model of distributed leadership, which genuinely recognises the benefit of team work. It is built on the premise that everyone in our community is a leader.

Staff members involved in decision-making teams at Catholic College Bendigo have expressed their experience of teams as 'being part of something larger than them', of 'being connected', of 'being generative'. While this role of Deputy Principal - Staff is still in its formation stage, I am blessed to have joined a school such as Catholic College Bendigo where the structures in place encourage new and expansive patterns of thinking and where staff are continually learning to see the whole picture together."



Carolyn Ellul

Campus Director – McAuley (7–9), Mount Lilydale Mercy College

After completing a Bachelor of Education in Mathematics and Psychology in 1992, I began my teaching career at Westall Secondary College in 1993. Later that year I had the opportunity to head to Darwin where I taught for three months in Humpty Doo, NT. My time there as graduate teacher, was a wonderful experience as I enjoyed living and working in such a diverse community.

On my return to Melbourne, I spent most of 1994 volunteering and working for World Vision Australia. Through this experience I developed a greater appreciation and understanding of what it meant to work as member of a Christian organisation. Upholding and promoting core values such as justice, equality and compassion were fundamental and essential elements of my work.

My journey in Catholic Education began in the latter part of 1994 when I accepted a replacement position at Aquinas College in Ringwood. The following year I enjoyed being a member of the teaching staff at Avila College in Mt Waverley. This experience of working in Catholic Schools provided me with a sense of belonging. This 'belonging' was not only to the school, but also to a much wider community of educators whose passion and commitment to the education of young people – mind, body and spirit - characterises the mission of Catholic Education. I decided that it was to a community such as this that I wished to belong.

1996 saw the beginning of my 13 years at St John's Regional College Dandenong. For the last seven years I held the positions of Year Level Coordinator and House Coordinator. I found these leadership experiences positively challenging and rewarding. During this time, I also completed my Post Graduate Diploma in Student Welfare.

I am delighted to have been appointed to Mount Lilydale Mercy College as Campus Director – McAuley (7 – 9). It is a privilege to continue to be in a position where I play a significant role in the lives of students as they are immersed in the challenges and experiences of adolescence. I have been most fortunate and greatly appreciate the hospitality extended to me, in the true Mercy Tradition, by all members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community.



Rodger Punch

Religious Education/Faith Development Coordinator, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool

Rodger Punch has been appointed the Religious Education/Faith Development Coordinator at Emmanuel College. Rodger grew up in the Mallee near Swan Hill and was educated at: Ultima State School; Assumption College Kilmore; St Francis Xavier Seminary (Adelaide) and Deakin University (B Ed). Rodger also completed seven years in the study of Philosophy, Theology & Scripture in Adelaide.

Rodger first taught at Emmanuel College in 1991 (the first year of amalgamation) until 1994, leaving to supervise at the boarding house and teach at Assumption College Kilmore, then to Monivae College, Hamilton, where he was Religious Education Coordinator. Rodger came back to Warrnambool in 2002 primarily for family reasons, but he was also keen to resume teaching at Emmanuel. Over the years Rodger has taught Religious Education, English, Drama, Medieval History, Australian History and Geography.

A member of St Joseph's Parish Warrnambool and of the Parish Liturgy Committee and St Joseph's Singers' Choir, Rodger's interests also include music, motorcycles, theology, philosophy and following the Richmond Football Club. Emmanuel College is a family affair for the Punch family. Rodger is married to Catherine, who is an Integration Aide at Emmanuel College and they have son, Michael, who is in Year 11.

This year Rodger returns to the role of Religious Education Coordinator – a role he previously held in the 1990's. "What I like best about Emmanuel College is the very friendly and supportive staff and co-operative students who are keen to learn about life as well as gain a fine education", said Rodger. "What we do best as a College is provide a well rounded education, attending to the whole person - mind, body and spirit in the long-standing Catholic tradition. In the role of Religious Education Coordinator I aim to continue development of new curriculum, and contribute to students and staff members developing a deepening awareness of the passionate love of God for all and a practical sense of justice in an unfair world."

2008 Mercy Scholarships Recipients

The annual Mercy scholarship offered to each of the nine Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored schools, recognises students who demonstrate leadership in Mercy traditions. Students chosen by their schools are acknowledged for their involvement in promoting school spirit, community service, fund raising and for their genuine concern for others less fortunate. Students featured below were the recipients of the 2008 Mercy Scholarship and we offer them, their families and their schools hearty congratulations.



Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy



Year 7 Khalia Chikulin

Khalia is always willing to assist those in need and considerate of all. As a student and in her role as Class Captain, she has demonstrated thoughtfulness and compassion for others. Whenever she sees a need, she is happy and willing to help. Moreover, she never seeks accolades nor recognition.

Khalia was instrumental in her year level raising a record amount in our Mercy Fundraising activities and is an active member of the SRC. In primary school she was also a member of the SRC where she helped organize and run the Mission Fair raising money for those less fortunate and for Project Compassion.



Year 8 Claudia Lombard

Claudia is a dedicated and conscientious student at the Academy of Mary Immaculate always striving to excel. During her two years at the Academy she has achieved some outstanding results. Her helpful and friendly nature means that she always finds the time to help others and volunteers her time during homeroom as well as participating in a range of extra curricular activities including the Mathematics and Science Quiz competitions, Religious Education & Science essay competitions and as a member of the Cantor group.

Claudia is compassionate and sensitive towards others and is well respected amongst her fellow peers and her teachers. She is actively involved in the Academy Justice Group and has helped with fundraising efforts this year. Claudia is always supportive of the Mercy Ethos leading by example through participation in morning Mass and the reading of prayers at assembly. Outside of school Claudia makes herself available to students in need at the Atherton Street Homework Club. This young lady is a most deserving recipient of the 2008 Mercy Scholarship.



Year 11 Emily Quan

Emily is indeed a most deserving recipient of the 2008, Year 11 Mercy Scholarship. She is and always has been, a true 'Academy girl'; a student who is not only dedicated to her studies but who demonstrates,

on a daily basis, what it means to be a woman of Mercy. Emily's commitment to fairness, equality and justice is inherent in all that she does, whether through her interactions with her teachers and peers; or through her work with those who are less fortunate.

As an ambassador for the Academy, Emily has been exemplary in every way; whether it be through her involvement in the 2008 school musical production of Cinderella, her participation in the Seeds of Justice Group, or through her life altering experience as one of the pilgrims who attended World Youth Day in Sydney earlier this year. Emily's involvement in fundraising initiatives for Sr Mary Geason's work in Nairobi and her involvement in collecting items for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal are all further examples of how she truly epitomises the ideals inherent in the Mercy ethos. Emily has not restricted her community service to her involvement at school but also through her volunteering and participation in her local parish, St Francis of Assisi in Mill Park.



Sacred Heart College, Geelong



Jessica Kearney

Jessica is an outstanding young woman. During 2008 she held the position of Deputy College Captain. In this role Jessica was responsible for choosing a World Development Millennium Goal for the College Community to support in 2008. Her choice, after consultation with the College Captain and other Deputy Captain, was MDG 2: Primary Education for all.

At the start of Term 2, Jessica organised

the presentation and launch of this goal to the school community at a whole school assembly. To raise awareness and funds for this cause she was the Sacred Heart representative on the Geelong Catholic Schools steering committee for Triumph Fest – a social justice music festival involving over 3000 students. This festival raised over \$50,000 which will be used to build a school in East Timor. To broaden her knowledge of social justice issues Jessica undertook training with the Oaktree Foundation and attended seminars focussed on ending child slavery.

In 2009 Jessica will complete a gap year in Africa where she has been placed in a primary school in Swaziland. On her return she plans to study International Law – Human Rights.



Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg



Theresa Tran-Nguyen

Theresa is a committed and conscientious student who shows true Mercy spirit in her dealings with students, staff and the wider community. She is a young woman with initiative and determination and has taken the

opportunity to involve herself in a diverse range of activities both at school and in the wider community.

Theresa has demonstrated a high degree of leadership at OLMC and has earned her Bronze Colours for her participation in many areas of College life. She has shown great commitment to her role as Social Justice Representative, taking part in the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney, the Seeds of Justice Retreat, Austin Health Community Service and Exodus Community volunteer programs. Theresa has represented OLMC in GSV Hockey, she participated in the Peer Support program, is a member of the Great Victorian Bike Ride team for 2008 and is part of the OLMC Symphonic band.

Theresa is of Vietnamese background and is actively involved in community service activities within the Vietnamese Eucharistic Movement. Theresa is also a very diligent

student who has made a consistent effort in all subject areas this year and she enjoys an excellent rapport with both her peers and teachers. We congratulate Theresa on her award and acknowledge she is a most worthy recipient.



**Sacred Heart College,
Kyneton**



Erin Dwyer

For 2008, Sacred Heart College, Kyneton, has awarded the prestigious Mercy Scholarship Award to two worthy recipients, both in Year 11, Erin Dwyer and Melissa Lees.



Melissa Lees

Erin and Melissa are members of the College Justice & Service Group and have attended Young Mercy Justice Tree Conferences and Mercy Seeds of Justice Seminars. Both are volunteers with the Matthew Talbot Soup

Van in Footscray and are now part of a group working to set up a Soup Kitchen in Kyneton.

The most poignant point that both girls made in their applications for the Mercy Scholarship is that being involved in the Justice and Service Group has not only opened their eyes and hearts to the needs of others but being of service to those people has enriched their own lives. Both girls wish to continue the work of the Mercy community and assist others at home and overseas.

In their applications, Erin and Melissa wrote:

"Being part of the Justice & Service Group has really opened my eyes to the world and given me inspiration and guidance as to how I can help those less fortunate and get others onboard to help too. When I was chosen to participate in the Young Mercy Justice Tree group, I was stuck for new ideas as to how to raise awareness and compassion for others. Meeting with other Mercy school students not only gave me lots of ideas and ways to help others, it instilled in me a feeling of togetherness and thankfulness for the Sisters of Mercy. Coming together with so many passionate young Mercy students was really amazing. I had a feeling of instant pride and security coming from a Mercy school knowing I have the support of all those other students in Mercy schools all over the country, and I am lucky to have an education built on such solid foundations created by such wonderful women".

"With all the opportunities presented to me over the last few years, my knowledge and appreciation of vast social issues has

broadened and expanded to a level I never expected and allows me to pursue paths I would normally never have chosen. Next year I hope to visit an Aboriginal community with our Justice & Service Coordinator, to see what opportunities are offered to them and how we can all help with "closing the gap".



**St Joseph's College,
Mildura**



Eliza Opie

Eliza Opie and Sophie Twaddle were major Mercy Scholarship winners in 2008. Eliza and Sophie have been leaders in all aspects of social justice and have been instrumental in encouraging other students to be generous, thoughtful and resourceful.



Sophie Twaddle

In 2007, Tehan Kelleher, Elezabeth Piscioneri, Nicholas Mataele, Eliza Opie, Rose Knight and Helena Laubscher received Mercy Scholarships to support

their attendance at World Youth Day. They are all students who have been involved in caring for others in various ways.



**St Aloysius College,
North Melbourne**



Isabelle Leung Wan Chin

This year the scholarship has been won by two students Isabelle Leung Wan Chin and Anna Trinh. Both are Year 12 students in 2009.



Anna Trinh

Isabelle Leung Wan Chin has been an active member of the College community. In 2007 she was elected a Peer Mediator by her classmates and teachers. Her involvement with the celebration of the Cross and Icon for World Youth Day was outstanding. Not

only did she represent the College at the planning sessions but she also spoke about the importance of the cross in front of 200 Year 11 students from various schools.

Isabelle has been involved in a wide variety of activities at the school, World Youth Day Ambassador; representing the College in tennis and badminton and participating in Stories From Near and Far - a DVD which was developed to tell the stories of

different peoples from different cultures and countries. Isabelle is prepared to stand up for what she believes and has participated in the Forty Hour famine, Mercy Day fund raising activities and volunteered for community service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Anna Trinh is the College Social Justice Captain for 2009 and this recognises her the genuine concern she has shown to others over her time at the College. She has held various leadership positions since Year 7 also being elected a Peer Mediator for the two years 2008/09. Anna has participated in the MS Read-A-Thon for the last ten years and World Vision since Grade 5. In 2008 she was the coordinator of The Forty Hour Famine at the College recruiting 110 students from all levels to participate, \$5072 was raised.

Anna has been involved in Clean-up Australia Day, a volunteer for the Herald Sun/City Link Run for Kids Marathon and the Royal Melbourne Hospital Posy Day. Anna is a committed student who knows that one person can make a difference and she is prepared to do what it takes to make a difference in the lives of others.



**Emmanuel College,
Warrnambool**



Gemma Gray

Emmanuel College student, Gemma Gray was awarded a Mercy Scholarship in 2008. Gemma has achieved exceptionally well academically during her time at secondary school. In 2008 she gained a Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This entailed many activities, responsibilities and services over a number of years.



Nathan Holscher

Regularly participating in school liturgies and fund raising, Gemma has also been a keen sportsperson, representing the College and wider community with great success in Athletics and Soccer. Gemma has also been an enthusiastic participant in a wide range of extracurricular activities such as public speaking and the skills she has developed as a result will stand her in good stead in her new role as Emmanuel College Captain for 2009.

Nathan is a member of the Emmanuel College Student Leadership Group and has also achieved very well academically in his time at the College. He has regularly participated in school liturgies, fund raising, a variety of sports carnivals and extracurricular activities such as public speaking. He has been a member of the

Moyné Shire Youth Council and has been involved in a variety of activities in this role. In 2008 Nathan achieved national recognition for his piece of writing on 'Generation Y' when he was announced a winner of ABC Radio's 'Heywire' competition – writing with great sensitivity and insight about the student response to the recent passing of Emmanuel College teacher, Mr Dennis Wilson.

At Emmanuel College, we were very proud to award the Mercy Scholarship for 2008 to these two young people who naturally display many of the qualities recognisable within the Mercy tradition.



**Catholic College,
Bendigo**

Catholic College Bendigo is delighted to announce that the Mercy Scholarship has been awarded to two students who epitomise what it is to truly 'Live the Good News' by upholding the values of justice respect and service.



Xavier White

The theme for 2009 at Catholic College Bendigo is 'Let their stories change our heart'. Xavier White is a young man who exemplifies this statement.

With great faith and increased confidence Xavier reaches out to the community through his participation in Remar, immersions to Wilcannia and Samoa. During these immersions he admits he grappled with the sadness of poverty and the living conditions of both Australians and the people of Samoa. With renewed vigour Xavier brought this message back to our students and this year has been elected a House Captain. Xavier is not afraid to be heard nor is he swayed by popular opinion as evidenced by his participation in Youth Parliament. If you asked Xavier's friends to describe him, they would say 'he's just a mate' but if you asked Catherine McAuley, she would say 'here is a young man who has truly heard the call to be brave in the search for justice for all'.



Anthea Gomez

In 2005 Anthea was elected a La Valla leader and now in 2009 we are proud to say that Anthea is one of our College Captains. She is indeed

a credit to our Founders and offers great leadership within our community. Social justice for Anthea Gomez really took hold in Year 7 and today continues through the La Valla Justice Group which she helped to found. Anthea admits that justice for students who are bullied is very close to her heart and she challenges this mentality whilst offering victims support as a member of the VCE Support Team. She has a strong commitment to fundraising and outside her school commitments, she dedicates time to Amnesty International, Angel Flight, Relay for Life, Primary School mentoring and the Zonta Aid Program. Anthea's passion is Art and although she describes herself as a novice, her artwork depicts her faith, her willingness to challenge herself but most of all her willingness to challenge us to 'paint' a reflection of God in everything we do.



Flexible Learning Areas – McAuley Refurbishment

Students and staff at St Joseph's College, Mildura are really enjoying the opportunity to experiment with some different learning situations as a result of the refurbishment of the McAuley wing. This refurbishment was possible due to a grant obtained from the Victorian Government Needs Based Capital Assistance Funding and was completed on time (despite a tight timeline), ready for the 2009 school year. The refurbishment has created two new flexible learning areas in the lower level of the McAuley wing with several break out and passive learning areas, along with new byte style desks which encourage creative learning environments. As well both rooms are equipped with smart boards, data projectors and will have six computers available for student use.

Teachers have been quick to understand the need to plan differently for lessons in these rooms and have been impressed with the flexibility they provide. Students have found the rooms to be conducive to a more varied lesson structure and in the provision of a more collaborative approach amongst the students.

As a school we look forward to utilising these rooms in a manner that leads to more engagement of the students. We are already seeing some imaginative and creative teaching and look forward to seeing some real improvements in student engagement and learning.

Greg Kluske
Director of Curriculum