

# connections

TASMANIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE



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*Issue 32 – 2014*

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## *a lineage of stars*

Young Oliver made history when he began Kindergarten at Star of the Sea Catholic College, George Town, this year. Oliver represents the third generation of the Schreuder family to attend the College. When Oliver's mother, Kirsti, attended the College, she was following in the footsteps of her father, Don. Currently Oliver's big Uncle Bryce is set to complete Year 10 and is also Star's 2014 College Captain. Here are the three generations of Schreuder men: Don, Bryce and Oliver.

## *screaming fun!*

Dominic College, Glenorchy, Year 7 students had a great three day camp at Gumleaves on the East Coast in March.

Students were challenged to step out of their comfort zone, cooking their meals and camping out.

Building trust and teamwork with games, allowing prospective leaders to emerge in team challenges, Kayaking, orienteering, surfing and raft-building were part of the process, and the flying fox experience was, literally, a scream.



## *GYC alumni launched*

It's hard to believe but Guilford Young College is approaching twenty years old! Some of its history was remembered at the launch of the Guilford Young College Alumni in Hobart.

Founding Principal Sister Pamela Davis OP was a special guest. She is pictured in front of a 1995 photo which was part of the memorabilia display. The black and white photo, taken for the first edition of the revamped diocesan newspaper, *The Standard*, shows Sr Pam with the first Deans of the College, Mrs Bobby Court (Glenorchy) and Mr Christopher Smith (Hobart).

You can join the alumni via [www.gyc.tas.edu.au/alumni](http://www.gyc.tas.edu.au/alumni), email [gycalumni@gyc.tas.edu.au](mailto:gycalumni@gyc.tas.edu.au) or phone Brian Marshall 0438 446 550.



## *clever chefs!*

Grade 5 and 6 students at St Pauls' Catholic School, Bridgewater, recently competed in a Healthy MasterChef Challenge. Students were given the task of planning and preparing a healthy snack for a panel of four judges for under \$20.00. Just like the show MasterChef, contestants had a time limit to prepare their food, plate up their dish, and introduce their creations to the judging panel. The students created a fantastic range of dishes including mixed berry smoothies, fruit kebabs and tuna wholemeal salad wraps.



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Graphic Design: Cherie O'Meara Photography: Mary-Anne Johnson and school contributors. Jett, Eli and Sean are the happy faces on our cover. They were enjoying St Patrick Day celebrations at Holy Rosary Catholic School in Claremont. More shots from the day can be seen on pg 4.

# from the director

## death into life

One of the most important lessons we ever learn is how to live well, and how to die well. Fundamentally, when all is said and done, that is THE great lesson of life, difficult as it is to state that in a school context where we are surrounded by the young, brimming with life and expectation. None the less, the great realities remain the same for us all, young and old. We are born, we live and we die. Kate O'Driscoll our former Principal who went to God recently, remains as a person who showed us how to live with zest and commitment, filled with the Spirit of Jesus to do good, animated by joy and single-mindedness, but also able to leave this life with a love and warmth that remains to gladden our hearts even in our sorrow and disbelief that she is gone from our sight.

Catholic schools are called to educate our students for life, but also for death. Together with essential learning in literacy, numeracy, creativity, lateral thinking, understanding of our society and the economy, a sense of history etc., our students need to come to face

the reality that we "have not here a lasting city", and that "eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered into our minds to imagine what things God has prepared for those who love ..."

Our students deserve to know that our life-energy is a precious gift from God, not to be squandered, enabling us to grow in wisdom and grace through the blessing of each day well lived. Parents often want to save their children from what are considered life's "harsh realities". They ARE realities and many young people have had to face them unprepared, without Faith or understanding to sustain them, in an hour of great need. We are thankful that the whole Catholic community wrapped itself in Faith and love around Kate, her family and friends, and the two school communities where she was Principal, reminding us, through her, of what life is truly and deeply about.



Dr Trish Hindmarsh  
Director of Catholic Education

## behind the scenes

There's much more to our education system than what you see in the classroom.

Teachers spend many hours planning lessons, honing their craft and learning new skills. They attend professional learning workshops and many meetings – often outside school hours.

There is also a range of supporting bodies such as the governing councils, school boards, parents and friends, committees, a parent council, the TCEO and the TCEC behind the scenes.

Pictured top are members of the TCEC (Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission) at their first meeting for 2014. We also captured some of our primary school teachers who had a most inspiring session of professional learning at St Aloysius Catholic College in Huntingfield on the day before school began this year.



## conference date claimer

The 2014 Tasmanian Catholic Education Conference will be held at the Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel in Hobart on Friday May 23 and Saturday May 24.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Diana Batchelor ph (03) 6210 8805 or email [diana.batchelor@catholic.tas.edu.au](mailto:diana.batchelor@catholic.tas.edu.au)

# back again!

The first day of school this year saw *Connections* visiting Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in Lenah Valley. There were lots of smiles around!!!! Even from the new principal!



Summer barbecues are a good Aussie way of welcoming our students back to school. Many of our schools took advantage of the summer weather in February to hold fun events with plenty of sausages and cordial on hand.

Holy Rosary Catholic School in Claremont welcomed over 360 students, parents, families and staff.

They had a jumping castle, 'Life. Be in it' games, face painting and received many donations from local businesses.

St Therese's in Moonah and St Paul's in Bridgewater also celebrated with a welcome barbie.



# going green

St Patrick's Catholic School in Latrobe had a great day celebrating the school's patron Saint Patrick on March 17. They began with Mass for the older classes followed by a Liturgy for our younger classes, both led by Fr Mike Delaney. Then Grade 6 students led activities such as stocking snake hunting, Irish dancing, shamrock crown making and a St Patrick's photo booth.



Students at Holy Rosary Catholic School at Claremont ate green cakes, had green faces, green hair and green nails and wore green clothes. Each activity had a charge to raise funds for Project Compassion.

At St Patrick's College in Launceston, house teams competed for the St Patrick's Cup during a special day of activities which included Mass, inspiring speeches from student leaders and a sumptuous lunch.





# leading the way at Marist

In a joyful service shared with the school and local community, Adrian Drane was commissioned as the ninth principal of Marist Regional College, Burnie last month.

In the commissioning ceremony held on 18 March, Archbishop Julian Porteous called on Mr Drane to accept the responsibility of leadership in a Catholic college, to lead his community in their journey of faith and to promote a learning community that values the development of the whole person.

While at the college, the Archbishop also blessed and officially opened the new \$4m McAuley Centre, a purpose-built contemporary learning facility for Year 8 students.

"These magnificent facilities are an enrichment of the human spirit that flows from such naturally beautiful surrounds," Archbishop Porteous said

"Marist Regional College is a very important education facility in Burnie and I was very encouraged to hear the leaders of the college reflect noble ideas about bringing about the best in young people and inspiring them to achieve significant things in life".

Newly commissioned principal Adrian Drane paid tribute to the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, whose compassion and dedication to education born on the humble streets of Ireland centuries ago continues to have a lasting effect on Marist today.

"McAuley Centre is designed to foster a learning space that encourages creativity, innovation, collaboration and experimentation," Mr Drane said.

"It is a learning space that encourages students to take ownership of their education and forge their own learning pathways," he said.



Mr Drane thanked recently retired principal Mrs Susan Chen, architects David Gillies and Glen O'Halloran and the staff of MeadCon construction for their vision, determination and commitment to excellence during the planning and construction phases of the McAuley Centre.

The 2014 Student Representative Council was inducted in a formal ceremony where College captain Connor Parke called on the student body to let their talents shine for the good of the school community.

"Everyone here sitting in front of me has a gift, and no matter what it is we encourage you to embrace it," he said.

*"You do no one any favours by hiding your talents away ... let them shine so others can see and gain from them," Connor said.*

*By Katie O'Rourke*

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WELCOME MR DRANE!



# keeping fit and happy



Sport and physical fitness are important aspects of what Catholic schools do. When it's fun as well as health promoting, it's even better. Some of the students at St Brendan Shaw College in Devonport looked very fetching at their recent Pink Stumps Cricket Day where staff played a game of cricket against a student team, while the swimmers and supporters at the Southern Tasmanian Catholic Primary Schools Sport Association Swimming Carnival in March had a great time in and around the water at the Hobart Aquatic Centre.

As for winners at both events? Let's just say, everyone had a great time!

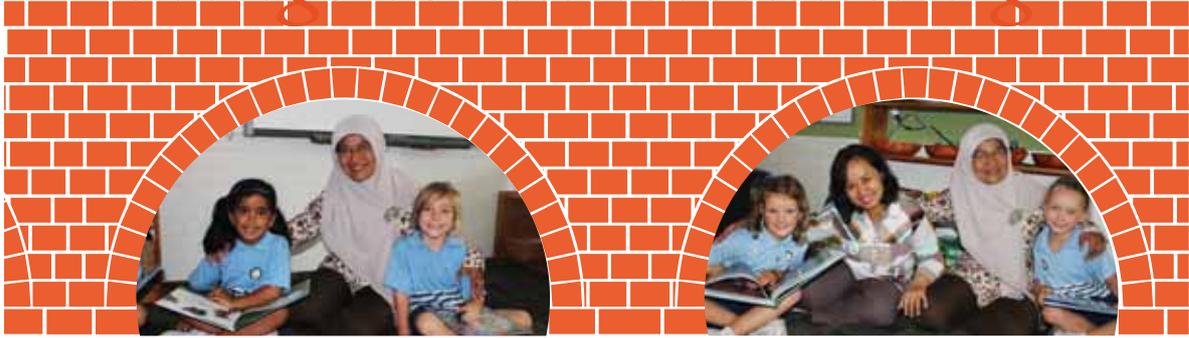


HULLO GORGEOUS!

6 ...

ALL WENT SWIMMINGLY!

# bridge to understanding



The experiences of students at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Newstead, have been enriched with a two week visit by international guests. Two teachers from Indonesia, Ibu Yuni and Ibu Eni, came to teach students and also learn about the Australian society and education system.

The visit was arranged by St Thomas More's teacher, Shaye Noble, as part of the BRIDGE program.

The Australia-Asia BRIDGE (Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement) School Partnerships Project involves face-to-face teacher professional learning and on-line engagement connecting teachers, students and school communities

in Australia with their counterparts in Asia. The project aims to increase awareness and understanding between the two countries.

*All students at the school benefited from the teachers, some increased their understanding of the Indonesian language, and others learnt interesting facts about another country, while some simply enjoyed having a new friendly face in class.*

Pictured at St Thomas More's: Shweta and Willow with Ibu Yuni (left), Madeleine and Lillian with Ibu Eni and Ibu Yuni (right).

## omission

In our last edition of *Connections* (Issue 31) there was a lovely story on page 6 about the Marist Indigenous Cultural Camp at Larapuna. We omitted the name of the author. We are indebted to dedicated teacher Rachael Koop at Marist Regional College in Burnie for the story and the evocative photos. Thank you so much Rachael and please accept our apologies for the oversight.

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