

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY – 2003

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

- ❖ This report will provide the College community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance, initiatives and developments during the year. It will also highlight achievements arising from the implementation of the Annual Development Plan.
The report draws together information of major interest and importance to the school community and demonstrates accountability to CEO and other regulatory bodies.
This report compliments and is supplementary to the regular newsletter and information available on the College's website.

Garry Williams, Principal

2. SCHOOL FEATURES

- ❖ Holy Cross College is located at 517 Victoria Road Ryde on a ten hectare site purchased in 1895 by the Patrician Brothers. The original main sandstone building remains the dominate feature of the site. It was opened in 1898 by Cardinal Moran.
- ❖ The Patrician Brothers came to Australia from Ireland in 1886 and established a school at St. Charles' Villa in 1891 before moving to the present site. The Brothers provided leadership of the College community till 2002 when the first permanent lay principal was appointed. Four Brothers are still in residence in the Monastery on site and are still actively involved in the life of the College.
- ❖ The school population at the February Census 2003 was 744 pupils. The College has seven feeder primary schools at Ryde, North Ryde, Gladesville, Hunters Hill, Drummoyne, Five Dock and Denistone. As well there is considerable demand for enrolment from students in state schools and other Catholic primary schools. Students are divided into five pastoral classes from Years 7 to 10 and four classes in Years 11 and 12.
- ❖ This year the College teaching staff consisted of 46 full-time and 5 part-time teachers. All teachers are fully qualified and accredited by the Catholic Education Office to teach in Catholic schools. There is one Patrician Brother in a non-teaching capacity. There is a fully qualified school counsellor employed as well as 15 support staff.



3. RELIGIOUS DIMENSION / CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- ❖ Holy Cross College is a Catholic College which actively promotes the traditions and practices of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ The Mission Statement of the College states that we believe "In the Gospel Values modelled by the person of Jesus Christ and in perpetuating the traditions of the Patrician Brothers". The College adopted strategies to ensure this belief remained central to our endeavours during this year (see Priority One of the Annual Plan).
- ❖ A program of liturgies, reflection days, retreats as well as the formal Religious Education program ensured the religious dimension of College life was actively promoted during the school year.
- ❖ The students and staff supported a range of fund raising activities including St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal, the Patrician Brothers Missions in PNG and Kenya, the Berne Education Centre, Youth Off the Streets and the Red Shield Appeal.

4. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- ❖ Teaching staff attended courses provided by the CEO to update their knowledge and improve their skills.
- ❖ Key Learning Area Co-ordinators attended cluster meeting to develop professional networks with other school.
- ❖ New teachers undertook an orientation program to help them settle into a new profession.
- ❖ The College ran a professional development day designed to update ICT skills for teachers.
- ❖ A new reading program was introduced with volunteer support.
- ❖ Upgrade of College facilities included the following: installation of covered walkway / shelter areas, refurbishment of the tuckshop, the purchase of lockers for Year 7 students, new computers installed in Room B4, library re-carpeted, optic fibre cables installed for the computer network, new classroom furniture was purchased, the soccer oval bank was cleared and stabilised, new file server for computer network installed, some classrooms re-carpeted and painted.
- ❖ Ryde District Schools Council was established to promote links between local feeder primary schools (St Charles' Ryde and Holy Spirit North Ryde) and Holy Cross College and Marist Sisters' Woolwich.
- ❖ Holy Cross College Planning Committee was established to look at the future building needs of the College. Approval was given by the Catholic Education Office for the committee to investigate the needs and develop a major project to upgrade existing facilities.

5. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- ❖ The Parents and Friends Association ran a 'Welcome Night' for new parents, the fete and a trivia night. The Association held meetings twice a term and actively supported Open Day and the Walkathon.
- ❖ The Sports Management Board consisting of representatives from Holy Cross College Cricket, Soccer and Rugby Leagues Clubs met once a term and helped maintain our playing grounds and facilities. Parents continued to run these clubs and coach teams. These clubs provided opportunities for any interested students to be involved in Saturday sport.
- ❖ Volunteers helped in the canteen, with Multilit Reading Program, in the Special Education Department, with representative sport, at working bees, at Open Day, at the Walkathon and with music.
- ❖ A Father/Son camp was held in Term 4 for Year 7 parents.
- ❖ Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, well known child psychologist was engaged to give a talk to parents during term three on Parenting Adolescents.
- ❖ Meetings were held for Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 parents. An invitation parent/teacher night was held term two and 11/12, 9/10 and 7/8 parent/teacher nights.
- ❖ An end of year mass was held for Year 7/8 parents, a Graduation Mass for Year 10 parents and a Graduation Mass and Dinner for Year 12 parents.

6. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE ANNUAL PLAN



Priority One: Catholic Life and Religious Education

- ❖ The inclusion of items of a religious nature in our newsletter.
- ❖ Prayer was used to start all meetings and assemblies. Students and staff were encouraged to be actively involved in prayer.
- ❖ Patrician Brothers visited classes and attended school functions and assemblies. Principals of Patrician schools in Sydney met on three occasions to establish a network. Our Mission Statement was modified to include reference to our Patrician heritage.
- ❖ Our students had the opportunity to attend Friday Mass at St Charles' Parish Church.
- ❖ Liturgies were celebrated at the College many times during the school year.
- ❖ All students participated in a program of retreats and reflection days.
- ❖ More staff acquired qualifications necessary to teach Religious Education. Staff attended inservice courses to improve skills in teaching Religious Education.
- ❖ Religious Education curriculum was revised. Units of work were re-written and assessment tasks and schedules evaluated and changed.

Priority Two: Curriculum and Teaching Practice

- ❖ Assessment booklets with information on the nature of tasks; weighting and time of task distributed to every student from Years 7 to 12.
- ❖ Learning Support Team established consisting of Special Needs teacher, ESL teacher and Literacy teacher.
- ❖ Increase testing and assessment of students experiencing learning difficulties occurred. Individual Education Plans and Individual Transition Plans used for targeted students.
- ❖ Multilit reading program established for targeted students. Volunteers used to support the program.
- ❖ ELLA test results used to develop literacy strategies to target identified weaknesses.
- ❖ All Year 10 students were interviewed as part of the subject selection process for the H.S.C.
- ❖ Meeting held with feeder primary schools to share information on curriculum, assessment and performance in the ELLA and SNAP tests.
- ❖ New school file server installed with facility for all students to store information in individual files.
- ❖ Staff attended inservice on the implementation of new junior syllabuses in 2004.

Priority Three: Excellence in the Education of Boys

- ❖ Michael Carr-Greg talk on parenting adolescents.
- ❖ Regular meetings with parents took place to discuss assessment and learning.
- ❖ The Merit system used to encourage excellence. Students presented with bronze and silver awards on schools assembly and gold awards at the prize giving night.
- ❖ Greater use of information technology took place in most KLA's
- ❖ Senior School Council met regularly with the Principal and Year 12 Co-ordinator. Leaders made a significant contribution to school events and in building school spirit. Year 11 students used as leaders during Feast of the Holy Cross celebrations.
- ❖ After school study centre trialed in term four and proved popular with students.
- ❖ Extra classes run after school in preparation for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations.
- ❖ Study skills program held for Year 11 students.

Priority Four: Pastoral Care within the College Community

- ❖ A pastoral care program is in place from Year 7 to 10. Students learn about personal development issues and needs of each year groups addressed. Year 9 program included interaction day with Marist Sisters' Woolwich.
- ❖ School Counsellor available to assist students with personal issues.
- ❖ Learning Support Team available to help students experiencing learning difficulties.
- ❖ Staff inserviced on the need to follow due process and principles of natural justice when dealing with discipline issues.
- ❖ Support teams from CentreCare and the Catholic Education Office used during term four to help staff and students deal with grief and loss.
- ❖ Pastoral Care Committee met to review and monitor pastoral care program and processes. Year 12 Recognition of Achievement Certificates introduced at the end of Semester One.

Priority Five: College and Wider Community

- ❖ New newsletter format *CrossRoads* introduced.
- ❖ Students attended Mass at St. Charles' Parish to strengthen visible links between Holy Cross College and the local parish.
- ❖ The Old Boys Union meet on three occasions during the year. They will support proposed improvements to the Chapel financially.
- ❖ Holy Crucifix Association used the College Chapel and grounds for its annual festival. The Chapel and hall were used by the public and other schools.
- ❖ Saturday sporting clubs used the College facilities for training and matches.
- ❖ St John of God Institute of Counselling used the College facilities to run counselling course.
- ❖ The Armenian community used the College facilities to run Saturday language school.
- ❖ Ryde District Catholic Schools Council formed to establish closer links between primary schools and Holy Cross College.
- ❖ Students from all feeder primary schools visited the College.

Priority Six: Facilities, Technology and Management

- ❖ Improvement to College facilities listed under School Development initiatives. Over \$300,000 was spent on repairs and maintenance program.
- ❖ Holy Cross College Planning Committee established to determine improvements and changes needed to the facilities of the College.
- ❖ Contract cleaners were employed to improve the standard of cleaning to classrooms and grounds.
- ❖ Information Technology Committee met regularly to direct ICT initiatives. Cabling extended to B block, new file server installed, new computers installed in F2 and SchoolNet online system for student access to the internet introduced.
- ❖ The College continued to promote a positive image in the local community by use of articles in local papers, advertisements, Open Day and school publications.

7. STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- ❖ A report on Higher School Certificate performance for 2004 will be published in a supplementary report in February 2004. School Certificate results showed improvement from last year. The percentage of students in the lower bands (1, 2, 3) was well below state average. No student in English, Maths and Science was in band 1 (below 50%). The percentage of students in the higher bands (4, 5 and 6) was in general above state average.

Percentage of students in Bands 4, 5 and 6

	HCC (%)	State (%)
English	69	62
Maths	70	68
Science	75	68
History	44	47
Geography	64	56



- ❖ ELLA and SNAP test results indicated that literacy and numeracy levels for Year 7 students were at a satisfactory level. Averages for HCC were generally above those for the state in both tests.
- ❖ Holy Cross College participates in the Metropolitan Catholic Schools Competition in a range of sports. Students can represent the College in MCS and at the highest level, Combined Catholic Colleges. Some achievements in sport were: MCS Baseball representatives – Stephen Smith and James White; Combined Catholic Colleges Cross Country – Nicklaus Vincent, Michael Candy, Kyle Stoker and Peter Janzen; Rugby League A Grade MCS Premiers (White Comp) and final 16 of the Arrive Alive Cup; Rugby League Year 10 MCS Premiers (White Comp); Soccer Year 10 Opens MCS Premiers; Kyle Stoker MCS Tennis winner; Ryan Rule MCS Tennis winner; Open Golf Team 2nd in MCS Competition; Combined Catholic Colleges Athletics representatives – Leigh Annison, Peter Janzen, Kyle Stoker, Joel Wineera, Aaron O'Donoghue, Nathan Plummer and Nicklaus Vincent; Combined Catholic Colleges Swimming representatives – Sean Molson, Peter Janzen and James Davis; Combined Catholic Colleges Touch Football representatives –

Joshua Lewis and Sam Raymond; Combined Catholic Colleges Rugby League & New Zealand U18 Rugby League Team representative – Bronson Harrison; Combined Catholic Colleges Cricket representative – Ian Janda.

- ❖ Huw Wallis (Year 12) had his HSC major design project, a computer controlled voice activated tap selected for inclusion in the DesignTECH exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum.
- ❖ Year 7 and 8 Debating teams went through the six rounds of the Catholic Schools Debating competition without a defeat and qualified for the elimination rounds. Daniel Delimihalil placed fifth in the finals of the Year 9 section of the Annual Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. Vincent Botton (Year 9) achieved second place in the Secondary Schools Art Exhibition. He was competing against Year 12 students.
- ❖ The Year 11 band with their original composition “Spinning” reached the finals of the inaugural Catholic Youth Services, Catholic Song Writing Competition. This competition was open to all musicians – only two schools from NSW reached the finals.

8. SCHOOL REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ This year the College developed a new Strategic Management Plan. The plan was developed after consultation with staff, students, parents and pastors and is available on the College website.

9. SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COLLEGE’S CURRICULUM



- ❖ The lap top computer program T.E.C. (Technology Enabled Class) continues to be a popular option in the junior school. The use of information technology to enhance learning is encouraged and supported in all curriculum areas.
- ❖ Music has experienced growth this year with an influx of talented students in Year 7 who are able to play musical instruments. There was a strong demand for tutoring in different instruments and the depth of talent was highlighted at our Prize Giving and Concert night.
- ❖ There was a significant increase in the amount of time and energy devoted to literacy with the introduction of the Multilit reading program and the development of strategies to improve literacy levels in all KLA’s.

2002 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Catholic Schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Sydney Catholic Education Office submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the 148 parish primary and regional secondary schools. This statement details the income and expenditure of each school and for the Archdiocesan system of schools. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Education Office are audited annually. A summary of the income and expenditure reported to the Commonwealth Government for 2002 is as follows:

INCOME	\$million	EXPENDITURE \$million	
Parent’s Contributions 1	\$ 82.0 20%	Education & School Support	\$ 101.6 25%
Commonwealth Government 2	\$ 220.7 53%	Total Salary Costs	\$ 299.8 73%
State Government 2	\$ 84.8 21%	CEO Administration & Support 3	\$ 5.2 1%
Government Targetted Grants	\$ 16.2 4%	Surplus	\$ 3.3 1%
Interest and Other	\$ 6.2 2%		
Total Income	\$ 409.9	Total Expenditure	\$ 409.9

Notes

1. Parents’ contributions include Archdiocesan tuition fees of \$40.5 million, School Charges & Building Levy & P&F contributions of \$41.5 million.
2. Income from Commonwealth and State recurrent government grants is received by the Catholic Education Office on behalf of the schools. Staff salaries are paid from this income
3. CEO Administration and Support excludes salaries which are included in total salary costs.

Parents’ contributions to our school as reported in the school’s annual Financial Questionnaire for 2002 was:

Archdiocesan Tuition Fees received	\$ 674,456
School Based Fees	\$ 490,480
Other Income (eg. Parents & Friends, Canteen)	\$ 324,816
	\$ 1,489,752