

Annual Report

To The College Community - 2004

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 complements 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 dominant feature of the site. It was opened in 1898 by Cardinal Moran.
- ❖ The school population at the February Census 2004 was 712 pupils. Between 2001 and 2004, of 145 students who enrolled in Year 7 2001 21 have left the school and 5 students have been enrolled. 2001 Year 7 - 145 students enrolled, 2004 Year 10 - 129 students enrolled. The apparent retention rate is 90%. 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, and retreats as well as the formal Religious Education program ensured the religious dimension of College life was actively promoted during the school year.

4. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- ❖ A Professional Development Program was run for staff. Topics covered included restorative justice practices, programs to counter racism, drug education, development of ICT skills and first aid.
- ❖ Students in Year 7 identified as needing support from the ELLA test were supported by the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program funding to improve reading and comprehension levels.
- ❖ An after school study centre operated each Tuesday in the Library to help students with homework. Staff volunteered their time to help students.
- ❖ Architects were appointed to develop a master plan for the school site.

5. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- ❖ The Parents and Friends Association held regular meetings. They supported the College by fund raising including the sale of Entertainment Books, doughnuts and a Christmas Raffle. A "Welcome Night" was run for Year 7 parents.
- ❖ Paul Dillon spoke to parents at a meeting in relation to drugs and young people.
- ❖ Information evenings were held for parents with students in Years 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. An evening to explain the UAI was also held for Year 12 parents. Parent/Teacher evenings were held for each year.
- ❖ Graduation Mass was held for Year 10 and a Graduation Mass and Dinner held for Year 12. Parents were invited to both functions.
- ❖ Parents supported the Prize Giving Night by attending in good numbers.
- ❖ Parents helped on the tuck shop, at the walkathon, at Open Day, with the volunteer reading program, on working bees, as coaches, managers and officials in affiliated sporting clubs.

6. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE ANNUAL PLAN

Priority One: Catholic Life and Religious Education

- ❖ Strong emphasis on social justice issues during the school year. A student social justice committee was established. Guest speakers visited the school and addressed social justice issues. Students supported social justice issues including St. Vincent De Paul Night Patrol, blood donations to the Red Cross, support of Patrician Missions overseas and various other charities, Christmas Hampers for St. Vincent De Paul and visits to the Villawood Detention Centre.
- ❖ Our students attended Mass each Friday at St. Charles' Parish Church.
- ❖ Whole school celebrations occurred on the Feast of the Holy Cross and St. Patrick's Day.
- ❖ An active program of reflection and retreat days occurred from Years 7 to 12.
- ❖ Religious Education textbooks were provided for all students from Years 7 to 10.

- ❖ Religious Education teachers continued to undertake professional development to improve their ability to deliver appropriate curriculum material.
- ❖ Students were given the opportunity to pray at lunchtime on a voluntary basis each week.
- ❖ Appointment of Youth Ministry Co-ordinator to work in the College and St. Charles' Parish.
- ❖ 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

- ❖ Study skills workshops held for Year 7 to 11.
- ❖ Staff attended conference on Boys' Education conducted by Ian Lillico.
- ❖ Programs developed for new syllabuses over Stages 4 and 5 (Years 7 to 10).
- ❖ Australian Government Quality Teacher Program funds utilized to target Year 7 students who were diagnosed as needing support with writing skills development.
- ❖ Information on assessment provided to all students in the form of assessment manuals.
- ❖ Information evenings held for parents from Years 8 to 12.
- ❖ New vocational education courses introduced in Stage 6. Courses offered include Construction, Business Services and Information Technology.
- ❖ Staff set targets for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Course achievement.
- ❖ Challenge 90 project introduced to encourage academic excellence in Year 11.
- ❖ After school study center ran to provide students with support with homework and assignments.
- ❖ External classes were run during holidays and after school to encourage and support School Certificate and Higher School Certificate students.
- ❖ Gifted and Talented Program expanded to include testing in Year 7, identification of gifted students and differentiation of curriculum material to meet their needs. Progress this year included building a website for the International Year of Rice.

Priority Three: Excellence in the Education of Boys

- ❖ Gifted and Talented Program continues to be developed to include staff training and program differentiation.
- ❖ After school study centre ran in the Library every Tuesday.
- ❖ Study skills courses were run for Years 7, 8 and 11.
- ❖ Reading program run to help students who were experiencing difficulties.
- ❖ Staff undertook professional development in the areas of racism, restorative justice and bullying.
- ❖ School leaders were involved in the social justice program.
- ❖ School leaders trained in restorative practices.
- ❖ Student involvement included the social justice program, open day, visits to primary schools, collections for charities and support of younger students.

Priority Four: Pastoral Care within the College Community

- ❖ Camps and retreats were run for Years 7, 8, 11 and 12.
- ❖ Interaction day ran for Year 9 with girls from Marist Sisters' Woolwich.
- ❖ Year 11 attended a driver education course run by the NSW Police Department.
- ❖ Staff and students trained in the use of restorative justice practices.
- ❖ Celebrations held on St. Patrick's Day and the Feast of the Holy Cross.
- ❖ Healthy canteen policy began to be implemented to improve eating habits of students.
- ❖ Drug and alcohol education program run by Paul Dillion made available for students from Years 10 to 12, staff and parents.
- ❖ Prayer partners were introduced to support students doing the HSC.

Priority Five: College and Wider Community

- ❖ Stronger links established between Holy Cross and St. Charles' Parish by the establishment of the new role of Youth Ministry Co-ordinator.
- ❖ Social Justice Program developed and our students were involved in supporting charities such as St. Vincent De Paul and the Red Cross. Active involvement of students in Social Justice Program.
- ❖ Ryde District Catholic Schools Council continued to work to build closer links with our feeder primary schools.
- ❖ The Old Boys' Association held regular meetings and members of the Executive attended the Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner and the Annual Presentation of Awards evening.

Priority Six: Facilities, Technology and Management

- ❖ Architects PMDL appointed to develop a master plan for the school site. School facilities will be upgraded or replaced in a staged process over coming years. It is planned for some work to commence in the later half of 2005.
- ❖ Improvements this year include refurbishment of two student toilet blocks, new bubblers, construction of locker facilities, air conditioning in computer labs, new computers installed in the Library, classrooms painted and carpets replaced, wireless computer network installed in F Block and extra resources were devoted to painting and cleaning classrooms.

7. STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- ❖ A report on Higher School Certificate performance for 2005 will be published in a supplementary report in February 2005. 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 was in band 1 (below 50%). The percentage of students in the higher bands (4, 5 and 6) was above state average.

Percentage of students in Bands 4, 5 and 6

	HCC (%)	State (%)
English	80	70
Maths	65	52
Science	75	68
History	73	55
Geography	73	60

- ❖ Art Rush (Year 9) won the Junior B Division (Years 9 and 10) of the Australian Japanese Essay Competition for 2004. He will receive a trip to Japan as a result of winning this Australia wide competition.
- ❖ Daniel Yashadhana (Year 9) was placed third in the Religious Art Exhibition run by the Catholic Education Office.
- ❖ Greg Salerno (Year 12) won a Catholic Education Office scholarship to pursue study at the Australian Catholic University for a career in primary teaching.
- ❖ Michael McCarthy was awarded the Archbishop's Award for Student Excellence.
- ❖ The Dux of Year 12 was Alexander Reuter-Town and Year 10 Dux was Tom Picone.
- ❖ Daniel Delimihalis (Year 10) won the award this year for public speaking and Jake Dimarco (Year 8) for debating.
- ❖ Ian Janda (Year 12) was the College Sportsman of the Year.
- ❖ Reece Hibbs, Cameron Kenny (Year 12) and Jake Dimarco received awards for technology.
- ❖ Christopher Golding, Michael Vote, John Buckle and David Lloyd were the winning team in the Challenge 90 Awards for high achievement in Year 11.
- ❖ Joel Stathakis (Year 10), Simon Janda (Year 11), Joshua Carroll, Michael McCarthy and Paul Marino (all Year 12) received Community Service Awards.
- ❖ The following boys represented the College in the NSW CCC swimming championships:- James Davis, Giuliano Fonte, Peter Janzen, Dean Marsh, Sean Molson, Andrew Sciara, Callum Vincent, Nicklaus Vincent and Ricky Yun. Sean Molson and Andrew Sciara continued on to the NSW All Schools carnival.
- ❖ Kyle Stoker, Jarryd Boyd, Edward Yip, Joel Wineera, Brett Jovanovich, James Cossell and Peter Janzen represented the College at the NSW CCC Athletics carnival held at Homebush.
- ❖ Peter Janzen and Tony Joe Akkawi represented the College at the NSW CCC Cross Country Championships. Other boys to perform well in MCS competitions:- Kyle Stoker won U/14s tennis, Luke Brown won U/17 Individual Golf, Luke Brown and Scott Vlahos won U/17 team golf.
- ❖ The following boys gained selection in MCS teams to play at NSW CCC carnivals:- Touch U/15 Patrick Bower and Darren Nicholls, Touch Opens James Dougall and Garrett Miller, Open Rugby Union Eloni Vunakece, U/16 Rugby Union Troy Pearce and Open Rugby League David Pangai.
- ❖ These boys went on to represent NSW CCC at the Australian School Boys Titles:- Eloni Vunakece in the Opens Rugby Union, James Dougall (Touch) and David Pangai (Rugby League).

The College has had a successful year in team sports.

- The A grade cricket team lost the final to St Dominic's Penrith back in early March.
- The U/14 Soccer team won their competition while the U/13's were runners up. The other soccer teams all made the semi finals.
- The A grade Rugby League team won its competition with the B grade team being runners up. The B grade team had been undefeated all year only to fall at the final hurdle.
- The Year 10 soccer team made the final at the NSW CCC Year 10 Open Knockout Competition only to lose to All Saints Liverpool, the MCS Champions.
- The A grade team made the final 32 in the Arrive Alive Cup losing to Chifley College in a wet game at Wollongong Stadium.
- The College U/15s and U/16s Rugby League teams won the Balmain knockout while the U/13's made the final.

Other students who deserve to be mentioned include:-

- Kristian Lindbom won the Australian U/16 Go-Karting Championship for the second year in a row.
- David Mitchell will contest the Australian Sailing Championships in Tasmania early in 2005.
- Nicholas Fonti has been selected in the Australian Deaf Soccer team to contest the World Deaf Olympics.
- Cameron Nicholls has been selected in the Australian U/18 mixed Touch team to contest the world titles in Queensland in January 2005.

8. SCHOOL REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

The current Strategic Management Plan runs from 2003 to 2007. Each year an Annual Plan is developed and staff directed to develop strategies to implement the plan. Copies of both plans are available on the College Web Site.

9. SCHOOL POLICIES

The school has developed a number of policies to support its educational mission. The following list identifies some of the key policies, which are available if anyone would care to view them.

- Enrolment Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Library Policy
- Technology and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement
- Evacuation drill and Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Student Welfare Police/Discipline Policy (this policy is based on the Catholic Education office document Pastoral Care Guidelines for Catholic Schools available on the CEO website: www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au).
- Complaints and Grievance Policies exist within the Catholic Education Office in various areas. Currently the Catholic Education Office is developing a generic "Complain and Grievance Policy" which will draw on best practice from existing policies.

10. SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COLLEGE'S CURRICULUM

- Study Skills Seminars have been conducted over Years 7, 8, 9 and 11. These have all focused on helping students to improve their study habits and manage their time more effectively. In order to facilitate a more favourable environment for homework the Library has been open on a Tuesday until 5pm. This has also allowed students to access the Internet for research purposes.
- Change continues to occur in the field of education and teachers in all faculties have spent many hours programming for the introduction of new syllabuses over Stages 4 and 5.
- Further funding was made available under the Australian Government's Quality Teacher Programme and this was utilized to target Year 7 students who were diagnosed as needing support with writing skills development.
- Much has been done over the year to provide students with as much information as possible about their subject selections. Information nights have been held for students in Years 8, 10, 11 and 12. The focus has been on subject selection, senior assessment, and the University Admissions Index. Year 10 students also attended a teacher-parent interview to discuss subject selections for their senior years of schooling.
- Holy Cross has attempted to provide as broad a curriculum choice as possible over years 8 to 12 and so students have been able to choose vocationally – oriented subjects such as Construction, Business Services, and Information Technology, which do not require students to sit an HSC exam. At the other end of the scale we saw many of our students attempting such subjects as Extension 1 and 2 English, Extension 1 and 2 Mathematics as well as Extension 1 History.
- A new approach was taken with Gifted Education this year which has shown some early success, but with plenty of room still for growth to occur. Focusing on the junior school, Year 7 undertook across the board testing to determine the presence of high learning potential and the possible entry into programs of work which aim at being more challenging. Furthermore, the Year 8 cohort were provided with a differentiated curriculum in Design and Technology for their mini-major work, which was expected to be completed to University standard and provide students with a real Higher School Certificate experience. With all the activities occurring, the aim of Gifted Education is to provide greater challenge to advanced learners. One challenge met by a team of Year 7 & 8 students was to build a website in recognition of the International Year of Rice.

2003 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 2003 is as follows:

INCOME	\$million	EXPENDITURE \$million
Parent's Contributions 1	\$ 88.7 20.0%	Education & School Support \$ 113.0 25.5%
Commonwealth Government 2	\$ 237.0 53.4%	Total Salary Costs \$ 325.4 73.3%
State Government 2	\$ 90.0 20.3%	CEO Administration & Support 3 \$ 5.2 1.2%
Government Targetted Grants	\$ 17.6 4.0%	Surplus \$ 3.3 1.0%
Interest and Other	\$ 10.7 2.3%	
Total Income	\$ 444.0	Total Expenditure \$ 444.0

Notes

1. Parents' contributions include Archdiocesan tuition fees of \$42.8 million, School Charges & Building Levy & P&F contributions of \$45.9 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 2003 was:

Archdiocesan Tuition Fees received	\$ 684,535
School Based Fees	\$ 493,829
Other Income (eg. Parents & Friends, Canteen)	\$ 342,344
	\$ 1,520,708