...educating for liberation and possibility
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EREA COUNCIL MEMBERS
Br Paul Oakley cfc, President
Mr Graham Goerke, Deputy President
Sr Maryanne Confoy rsc
Br Ted Magee cfc

EREA BOARD MEMBERS
Mr Des Powell, Board Chair
Dr Sue McGinty, Deputy Chair
Br Bernie Gartland cfc
Fr Chris Gleeson sj
Mr Tony Lee
Ms Michelle Narracott
Br Henry John Thornber cfc
Br Bill Wilding cfc
Mr Alan Zammit

EREA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STAFF

NATIONAL OFFICE
Dr Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director
Mr Bob White, Director Identity
Mr Peter Leuenberger, Director Education Services
Mr Geoff Doyle, Director Corporate Services
Mr Geoff Hendriks,
Senior Professional Officer Human Resources
Mr Mark Walsh, Professional Officer Identity
Mr Brian Garrone, Professional Officer Identity
Ms Christina Longmire, Professional Officer Finance
Mr Don Walkley, Professional Officer School Board Services
Mrs Helen Bird, PA to the Executive Director
Ms Madeline Kift, PA to the Director Identity
Mrs Michele Mears, PA to the Director Education Services
Mrs Anne Kaushal, PA to the Director Corporate Services
Mrs Barbara Rowland, Executive Assistant

REGIONAL OFFICES
NORTH
Ms Pam Betts, Interim Regional Administrator
Mr Gerard Keating
Mr Tim Young
Ms Rachel Anderson
Mrs Val Beckett
Ms Barbara Bishop
Ms Mary Coman
Br Jim D’Arcy
Mr Brian Flaherty
Mr Steven Jeffery
Ms Carol Lloyd
Ms Prue MacDonald
Br Brian Saward
Mrs Dee Zambelli

SOUTH
Br Kevin Buckley, Interim Regional Administrator
Br Peter Richardson
Ms Kerrie Gilbert

EAST
Mr Denis O’Brien, Interim Regional Administrator
Br Michael Dredge
Mrs Jacquie Corcoran
Mrs Margaret Miller

WEST
Mr Mark McLaughlin, Interim Regional Administrator (P/T)
Mr Bryan Rodgers, Acting Regional Administrator
Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) was formed by the Christian Brothers and commenced on the 1 October 2007 to continue Catholic Education in accord with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in a national family of over 40 schools and other education entities throughout Australia. It does this in partnership with the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers and the wider Catholic Church.

Through excellence in Catholic Education, Edmund Rice Education Australia seeks to transform the minds and hearts of young Australians to build a more just, tolerant and inclusive community in educating for liberation and possibility. All Catholic School and Educational Entities in Australia in the Edmund Rice tradition are bound by a Charter of cultural characteristics which comprise holistic education, spirituality, faith in action, community, pastoral care, service of others, being just, caring for those at the margins, compassion, stewardship and reflective practice.

The current Strategic Directions for Edmund Rice Education Australia reflect the following focus areas and goals:

**Focus Area: Faithfulness to the Values, Vision and Mission**

**Goal:** To ensure that our schools are dynamic, relevant, inclusive and authentic Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition where evangelisation is integral and excellence in education and social justice is promoted.

**Focus Area: Sustainability and Development**

**Goal:** To ensure that our communities of schools grow in line with our Mission and that effective planning, reporting and resource frameworks for sustainability are established.

**Focus Area: Leadership and Governance**

**Goal:** To ensure that excellence in leadership and governance based on EREA values and appropriate understanding of roles, responsibilities and relationships exist.

**Focus Area: Relationships and Partnerships**

**Goal:** To ensure that effective relationships and partnerships through engagement with the Oceania Province, the Edmund Rice Network in collaboration with Church, educational and government bodies are in place.

To support and sustain its schools in mission and education, Edmund Rice Education Australia has established:

A **Council**, with the responsibility for governance of the Schools on behalf of the Christian Brothers and to ensure the continuance of the charism Blessed Edmund Rice;

A **Board**, with responsibility for oversight of the administration of the EREA Schools and Educational Entities; and for developing and monitoring EREA strategic directions.

An **Executive** team with responsibilities for implementing EREA policies and strategic directions, and providing a range of services and support to EREA schools.
On the first day of October 2007 the Province Leadership of the newly established Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers formally delegated to the Council of Edmund Rice Education Australia the governance of its schools and educational facilities across Australia.

This annual report outlines the way that Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) has undertaken that delegation during 2008.

The schools ministry formerly undertaken by the Christian Brothers as part of the mission of the Church is now being undertaken by EREA. In the work leading up to the establishment of EREA the primary focus was on how to ensure the identity of the schools as Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition and how that identity could be expressed and nurtured within the group of schools and educational facilities. This continues to be the primary focus in EREA for its Council, Board and Executive and, indeed, for all members of the EREA community.

Blessed Edmund Rice saw the needs of the young people of his time and applied his gifts to their service and the service of the reign of God. His particular gift, his insight into the Gospel, his charism, shared by others, was recognised by the Catholic Church and so began the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

This insight continues to inspire the Christian Brothers today and is shared by many others.

Blessed Edmund’s insight is a three-fold gift. It involves:

• a unique faith vision – presence;
• a unique form of living; the call to wholeness that is attractive and dynamic – compassion;
• a unique response – liberation.

(D. McLaughlin, The Price of Freedom)

This insight has, over two hundred years, attracted and inspired brothers, teachers, students and their parents and, more recently, administrators and board members. It has provided a way for many to take part in establishing the reign of God.

On behalf of the Council I would like to acknowledge the work of the National Executive, under the inspirational leadership of Dr Wayne Tinsey, for the way that they have been present to each of our school communities.

I also thank the EREA Board which, under the expert leadership of Mr Des Powell, has gained a command of the many varied issues that face an organisation as complex as ours.

May the blessings of God and the inspiration of Blessed Edmund be with us always.
In writing these comments for the EREA annual report I am mindful of two things. The first is the opportunity EREA has presented in terms of the privilege, responsibility and accountability that its establishment brings to those involved in leadership at all levels.

The courage of the former four Christian Brothers Provinces in establishing EREA is significant and, on behalf of the Board, I congratulate and thank the Christian Brothers for the opportunity of service. For many, EREA has afforded us the opportunity for new mission and that has brought many rewards and a great sense of personal enrichment.

The second point I would like to make is to ensure there is a fuller understanding of the scale of EREA and its impact on our society. Today as you read this, in excess of 150,000 people around Australia – be they students, parents, staff, those in the church and community with whom we interface, old students and more – have an interest in what we collectively do. I say collectively as EREA is an association established within the Church for the mission of the Church.

From east to west and north to south, many selflessly give daily to ensure our students are the beneficiary of a Catholic Education in the Tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The pages of this report recall well the work of the last year, primarily in transitioning to stewardship to EREA from the four provinces.

I believe history will judge that the work of EREA has been both significant and carried out with a sense of commitment to Catholic Education and Australian society.

Given the scale of the collective effort, could I take this opportunity to thank all EREA staff throughout the country for their continued giving of their gifts.

Our leaders at national, regional and school level set a great standard, one that I know the Board is very proud of. Thanks also to the EREA Board members for their support and gifts and to those in our school communities who serve in any way that reflects support for the charism of Edmund Rice.

I trust you too have reflected proudly on the past year and I look forward to working with you in the future.
It is with great pleasure and considerable pride that I contribute to this first Annual Report for Edmund Rice Education Australia.

Edmund Rice Education Australia is a unique gift to the whole Australian Church. Since its beginnings, EREA has endeavoured to bring together strong emphasis on the mission of our Church and the particular focus of this mission as it is expressed through the charism and vision of Blessed Edmund Rice. EREA strives to bring together the tradition and the wisdom of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers and a strong commitment to our Church’s mission and to the very best goals that our Church puts forward for Catholic education.

Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition are called to be places where the priorities of the Christian Gospel are brought to bear on and in dialogue with every facet of school life. They are places where individuals form relationships with Christ, and hearts and minds are forever changed. The Jesus we proclaim described his mission as bringing life in its fullness to the whole of humankind. Our schools need to be places where students and teachers – all of the community - can experience Christ and the power of that presence to make deep meaning of life.

A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition is also challenged to evangelise or make permeable to the Gospel, its own structures, culture and curriculum. Priorities, structures, values, budgets, procedures and practices of the school must be permeable to the values of the Gospel.

Not only must our mission statements, policies and formal utterances be directed by a Gospel perspective but so also those ‘hidden’ elements that are part of the school’s life and culture.

The Christian Brothers have not wanted us just to maintain things as they have been. Growth is a clear strategy for EREA. We have said that most of our growth will probably be around the provision of education for those young people who are marginalised in our society. The Charter for Edmund Rice Education and the broader foundations upon which we stand, clearly direct our mission to the ‘margins’, to the disadvantaged, to those who lack hope. The Church we serve promotes service and compassionate engagement with the world as indispensable to the way in which Christians worship a loving God who stands with and for the poor. This has been our way of linking a vision for growth with an understanding of the central emphasis of the Christian gospel and the vision of Edmund Rice.

For growth in mission to happen, all of our schools need to be as successful as they can be. As a family we embrace co-responsibility and support for those in our community who may need it. These values define us and energise our mission.

Edmund Rice Education in this land can model a family of schools where those who can look after those who can’t; where co-responsibility becomes the norm; where the strong accept responsibility for those on the margins. Co-responsibility means much more than just giving money – as important as this is. Co-responsibility is a win, win situation - there aren’t donors and receivers; we all give and we all receive. We contribute according to our possibilities and we receive according to our need. We are all liberated through our participation in the liberation of the weakest.

I think we can all take great pride in what has been achieved, particularly in the knowledge that our progress thus far has been endorsed by the Christian Brothers as being an authentic movement of Blessed Edmund’s vision for education into the future. I look forward to the future with hope and optimism. I give gratitude to all of the members of our EREA family for your belief in and support of Edmund Rice Education Australia. Let us continue to pray that these initial seeds that we have sown in EREA will bear fruit and make a real difference in our society. That the young men and women we educate will commit their gifts and talents to the making of a better world. That our schools and entities will continue to strive for excellence in the fullest sense of what this can mean.

My sincere thanks and prayers for God’s blessing as we continue in the mission.
SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

Since the establishment of EREA on 1st October 2007, the following significant milestones have been reached to the end of 2008:

- The establishment of the National Office in Richmond with appropriate human and physical resources;
- The appointment of quality staff in the National Office;
- The development of significant relationships with the EREA Council and Board;
- The establishment of Regional Offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth;
- The success of the National and Regional Launch experiences;
- The development of quality relationships with the AHERRA Executive, Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers, Heads of Boarding, School Leadership Teams and School Boards;
- The Executive’s development and refinement of the EREA Strategic Directions;
- The partnerships established with a number of Catholic Education Office Directors and personnel where EREA schools are located;
- The appointment of Regional Administrators in the four regions of EREA to commence in 2009;
- Significant development and collaboration with Oceania Province Directors and appropriate staff;
- The development of a Suite of Formation Programs for EREA leaders, staff and School Boards;
- The inaugural formation programs commenced for National and Regional office staff;
- Two successful EREA Immersion experiences, one for senior leaders to India and one for students and staff to South Africa;
- The success of the first five School Renewal processes; St Brendan’s College, Yeppoon; CBC, St Kilda; CBC, Fremantle; St Patrick’s College, Strathfield; St Joseph’s Nudgee College;
- The enactment of subsidiarity in the evolution of decision making processes at the relevant level – EREA national, regional or school;
The comprehensive and exhaustive research and development of appointment and reflection and review processes for senior EREA school leaders;

The establishment of a National project regarding the future prospects of the Flexible Learning model;

Research, consultation and discernment regarding the future of St Joseph's, Melbourne and Christian Brothers' Agricultural School, Tardun;

The successful outcome of the Formation audit and Social Justice audit involving all EREA schools;

The endorsement of four schools Strategic Directions through the Values based model: CBHS, Lewisham; Nudgee International College; CBC, Adelaide; St Paul’s College, Gilles Plains;

The development of protocols and processes around the financial sustainability of all EREA schools and educational entities;

The clarification of the purpose and construction of EREA levies for its schools and educational entities;

The development of the responsibilities for EREA schools regarding co-responsibility;

The negotiations and understandings with relevant Catholic Education Commissions and Offices regarding funding agreements with EREA schools;

The establishment of regular gatherings of EREA senior leaders – Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers, Heads of Boarding;

The commencement phase of the EREA website;

The creation and development of EREA branding elements e.g. flags, stationery, school websites, signage and advertisements.
The core of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), in its unique position in the mission of Catholic education in the Catholic Church of Australia, is through Identity.

This means that quality Catholic education is provided to young people centred on Jesus through the lens of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. For our EREA schools to be authentic, they are called to respond to the cultural characteristics within the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

The cultural characteristics of the Charter include: holistic education, spirituality, faith in action, community, pastoral care, service of others, being just, at the margins, compassion, stewardship and reflective practice.

The year that unfolded enabled EREA to assist its school communities and their leaders to understand, enhance and develop how these cultural characteristics might be articulated within their own unique school community context. This was achieved through considered exploration and deepening of the Charter and its implications through formation opportunities and experiences with significant groups of people in our school communities, including: Principals, especially new Principals; Deputy Principals; Business Managers; Boarding school leaders and emerging leaders.

A considerable amount of time and energy was expended in developing a suite of Formation Programs for those people associated with EREA school communities. A total of 30 programs have been developed with the assistance of the formation staff from the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers. These programs attempt to enhance and contextualise the ministry of those called to our school communities and to assist them to embrace the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice as they serve in Catholic education as church ministry in EREA schools.

The School Renewal process enables schools to reflect upon their culture and to discern their authenticity to the call of the Charter. Each year, five schools are involved in this process and during 2008 Christian Brothers’ College, St Kilda, Victoria; Christian Brothers’ College, Fremantle, Western Australia; St Patrick’s College, Strathfield, New South Wales; and St Joseph’s Nudgee College, Queensland; reflected on their expression of the Charter as articulated through a review of their culture. Such a process will be undertaken for each EREA school every six years.

Further development of the EREA brand was undertaken which resulted in the initial stage of the EREA website, insignia for all of the schools, publications, and core elements for the establishment of the National Office in Richmond and Regional Offices in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

A Values-based Strategic planning model was developed, endorsed and shared with five EREA school communities. This process engages representatives from all member groups of the school community. It enables students to have an active voice in the process and it is owned and driven by the school community. A key focus is that identity is embedded in the very heart of the process.

As one year comes to an end and we prepare for the challenges of a new year, EREA Identity is alive and well throughout its school communities who express the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in their own unique, yet strongly unified and connected way.
In its first full year of operation, Edmund Rice Education Australia began the task of building on the foundations laid down by the Christian Brothers and the National Planning Group for Schools Governance for the operation of 40 schools and two educational entities across all six Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory.

In terms of an organisational framework, the National Executive sought first to define its Strategic Directions based on the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. For the Education Services Directorate, this meant breaking open the concept of a quality Catholic education in the context of the Charter’s call to remain “an authentic Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.”

To this end, much emphasis was placed on the selection of key staff who could model this authenticity as well as the development of rigorous and highly professional processes to monitor the delivery of educational outcomes in our schools, including the establishment of a new program of Professional Reflection and Review for school leaders. To assist in this process, four new Regional Administrators were appointed in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne (Mr Paul Williams, Ms Pam Betts, Dr Doug Ashleigh and Mr Paul Herrick, respectively.)

The early part of 2008 was characterised by a series of meetings with key stakeholders and visits to schools across Australia. This included meetings with Principals and school staffs, school Boards, Directors of Catholic Education offices and local Bishops. We also welcomed five new Principals into the EREA community: Mr Mark Sawle, Aquinas College, Perth; Mr Damian Wallis, Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon; Mr Gerry Crooks, St James College, Brisbane; Mr Peter Fullagar, St Edmund’s College, Canberra; and Mr Daniel Lawler, St Paul’s College, Gilles Plains. In addition, EREA was delighted in the announcement that Mr Paul Tobias from St Joseph’s College, Geelong, was named Victorian Secondary School Principal of the Year.

A key initiative in 2008 was the commencement of a National Leadership Program for school leaders which, in its first year, saw opportunities for Principals, Deputy Principals and Business Managers to experience the benefits of a national network for the first time. In addition, an exciting new Emerging Leaders Program was launched bringing together many talented educators from across the country. The theme of this gathering was “Be Inspired, Be Inspiring”.

In a school context, EREA schools achieved excellent results in national and state-based external examinations and school-based assessments programs, including NAPLAN (the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy). In accommodating the learning needs of all students, much success was also achieved in Flexible Learning Centres and Annexes, school-based apprenticeship programs, Vocational Educational and Training initiatives, Life Skills programs and courses in Applied Learning. Several EREA schools were also successful in attaining grants for the development of Trade Training Centres.

In terms of policy development, the EREA Board embarked upon an extensive period of consultation that will eventually lead to the adoption of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education policy for all schools. It is significant that this important area of education has been identified by the Board as its first priority.

In looking to the future, the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution, Digital Revolution and National Partnerships Programs will provide schools with the capacity to expand their curriculum offerings, support the promotion of quality teaching and add to school infrastructure and resources. The Education Services Directorate has also earmarked funds for educational research to support initiatives at the local, regional and national level.

2009 promises to be an exciting year for all of those involved in an Edmund Rice Education.
From the establishment of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) in 2007, the bringing together of 40 schools and two educational entities into one governance structure, provided extraordinary challenges, especially from the perspective of Corporate Services.

Some of these challenges evolved around different reporting systems, budget processes, government funding distribution models, state based legislation of Occupational Health and Safety and policy and compliance regimes.

Progressively working through these challenges created an opportunity for an experience of collegiality and cooperation among all the stakeholders. Such opportunities were seized to enable EREA to develop its own identity through varied policy and associated processes that were aligned to the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Development was enhanced by the business managers of the schools who worked collaboratively with the Corporate Services Directorate to ensure that: structures were established to allow a consistent reporting framework; processes were in place to identify and formulate financial policy development; key performance indicators were identified to be used in financial management; a process for identifying a risk profile was commenced and the concept of co-responsibility as a base for identifying the possibilities of pursuing a “preferential option for the poor” was accepted.

The future of EREA looks extremely bright as we continue to develop policy in critical corporate service domains.

The concept of belonging to EREA from a national perspective will continue to provide its own challenges for all the schools and educational entities, none of which are too difficult to conquer. By December 2009, it is anticipated that compliance with all applicable accounting standards will be achieved. In itself this latter task will be a mammoth achievement, yet one which clearly indicates the willingness and cooperation that has been openly forthcoming.

The achievements and challenges will continue to empower the schools and educational entities to seek best practice as they forge into the future — thus ensuring that they continue to provide quality Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice Tradition.
The consolidated financial report detailed herein incorporates the financial activities of the forty registered schools and two other affiliated educational entities, under the banner of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), for the twelve month period ending 31 December 2008.

The report details the activities of the Economic Entity and the National Support Entity. The Economic Entity is the consolidated summary of all schools and entities together with the National and Regional administration centres of EREA. The National Support Entity only relates to the financial activities of the National and Regional administration centres of EREA.

The financial statements of each school and entity are subject to audit. There are currently eight Chartered Accounting firms engaged in the conduct of audit over the schools, entities and National Support Entity across Australia. EREA is working with each audit firm to ensure “best practice” accounting policies are in place to allow for accurate reporting and financial management.

The audited financial statements report that the Economic Entity achieved a surplus from ordinary activities of $28.77 million. The supplementary graphs included in this report show that 51% of combined revenue was from government grants and 39% of revenue was generated from student income.

The graph depicting expenditure shows that 67% of the expenditure incurred was for employee benefits.

The National Support Entity generated an operating surplus of $3.9 million for the year under review. Income generated by the National Support Entity was predominately generated from school levies and support from the Congregation of Christian Brothers.

Levies imposed on schools are to generate income which assists with operational expenditure and co-responsibility support for schools that are providing an education to marginalised families across Australia. The surplus generated by the National Support Entity will be used to underpin financial sustainability for EREA, as a consolidated entity, going forward.

Geoff Doyle
Director Corporate Services
FINANCE REPORT

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT
for the twelve months ending 31 December 2008

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<th>Economic Entity 2008</th>
<th>National Support Entity 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from ordinary activities</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Fee Income</td>
<td>182,707,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt Recurrent Grant Income</td>
<td>236,579,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Income</td>
<td>16,996,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Private Income</td>
<td>28,833,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>465,117,263</strong></td>
</tr>
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| **EXPENDITURE**      |                               |
| Administration expenses | 32,279,611                   |
| Boarding expenses     | 7,286,603                     |
| Depreciation and Amortisation expenses | 26,038,609 |
| Employee benefit expenses | 294,264,550                  |
| Faculties and co-curricular expenses | 33,235,390               |
| Finance expenses      | 9,791,154                     |
| Other Expenses        | 33,451,938                    |
| **Total Expenditure** | **436,347,855**               |

**Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary operations**

**EREAN Economic Entity**
**Total Income 2008**

- Student fee Income 4%
- Govt Recurrent Grant Income 51%
- Capital Income 39%
- Other Private Income 6%

**EREAN Economic Entity**
**Total Expenditure 2008**

- Administration Expenses 67%
- Boarding Expenses 8%
- Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses 2%
- Employee benefit Expenses 8%
- Faculties and co-curricular Expenses 7%
- Finance expenses 2%
- Other Expenses 6%
## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Economic Entity 2008</th>
<th>National Support Entity 2008</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>53,392,192</td>
<td>10,212,290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>38,384,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>21,127,712</td>
<td>2,487,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>2,455,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>7,820,075</td>
<td>169,736</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>123,180,641</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,869,429</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non - Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>12,407,438</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>577,040,531</td>
<td>703,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>589,887,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>703,595</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$713,068,610</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,573,024</strong></td>
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</table>

| **LIABILITIES**       |                       |                             |
| **Current Liabilities** |                       |                             |
| Trade and other payables | 21,373,479            | 955,849                     |
| Financial liabilities | 21,019,165            | -                           |
| Provisions            | 34,471,517            | 822,096                     |
| Other liabilities     | 34,061,817            | 295,143                     |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **110,925,978**     | **2,073,088**              |
| **Non-Current Liabilities** |                   |                             |
| Financial liabilities | 133,615,350           | -                           |
| Long-term provisions  | 4,444,311             | 5,306,372                   |
| Other liabilities     | 3,816,921             | -                           |
| **Total Non-Current Liabilities** | **141,876,582** | **5,306,372** |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | **$252,802,560**      | **$7,379,460**              |
| **NET ASSETS**        | **$460,266,050**      | **$6,193,564**              |

| **EQUITY**            |                       |                             |
| Retained surplus      | 301,432,375           | 4,159,236                   |
| Reserves              | 158,833,675           | 2,034,328                   |
| **EQUITY**            | **$460,266,050**      | **$6,193,564**              |
NORTHERN REGION
Pam Betts, Interim Regional Administrator

Northern Region Launch of EREA
The Northern Region launch of Edmund Rice Education Australia was held at Nudgee Junior College on Friday 15 February 2008. The evening was a wonderful celebration of the new national governance structure for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition in Australia. In attendance were Br Vince Duggan and the members of the Oceania Leadership Team, members of the EREA Council and Board and the National Executive Team. Representatives of Catholic Education from across Queensland joined us for this celebration. Our schools were well represented by Principals, Board Chairs, members of College Leadership Teams and students.

EREA Northern Region Staffing
The year 2008 was one of transition for the EREA Northern Region with staffing changes implemented as a result of the implementation of the national governance structures. Significant staffing changes in 2008 included:
• Appointment of Steven Jeffery (Regional Manager, Finance and Resourcing) replacing Peter Tuite who took up the position of Oceania Support Centre Manager
• Appointment of Pam Betts to the position of Regional Administrator
• Ann Isaac, Senior Education Officer retired in January.
• Tim Young, Senior Education Officer, took up the position of Deputy Principal, St Edmund’s College, Ipswich
• Gerard Keating, Senior Education Officer was seconded to the position of Regional Formation Coordinator in Oceania Province.
• Brian Garrone took up a position in the EREA National Office.

Implementation of new Payroll Project
The implementation of the new Alesco payroll system commenced in 2006. Following his appointment as Regional Manager, Finance and Resourcing, Steven Jeffery managed this project to ensure full implementation would occur in all schools in the Northern Region by the middle of 2009.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) Representation
EREA Northern Region was represented on the QCEC Capital Programs Committee by Tim Young. Brian Flaherty represented EREA on the QCEC Industrial Relations Committee and Bev Patterson on the Child Protection Committee. QCEC meets with Principals of Religious Institute schools each term. Pam Betts attends these meetings.

EREA is also invited to participate in, and is acknowledged at, significant Catholic Education celebrations. In 2008 this included the celebration of Catholic Education Week in July and the Brisbane Catholic Education launch of the Religious Life of the Catholic School in September.

Schools:
Flexible Learning Services: Albert Park, Logan, Deception Bay, Noosa and Townsville
Ignatius Park College, Townsville
St Brendan’s College, Yeppoon
St Edmund’s College, Ipswich
St James College, Brisbane
St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane
St Joseph’s Nudgee College, Boondall
St Joseph’s Nudgee Junior College, Indooroopilly
St Patrick’s College, Shorncliffe
St Laurence’s College, South Brisbane
Educational Entities:
Indooroopilly Montessori Children’s House, Indooroopilly
Nudgee International College, Boondall
Flexible Learning Centres Network
Principal: Mr Dale Murray – Enrolment: 406

Supporting Young People through flexible learning:
The Edmund Rice Education Australia Flexible Learning Centre Network is responding to an urgent and significant need in the Australian community. The EREA FLC Network seeks to provide a flexible learning environment that responds holistically to the individual needs of each young person and acknowledges their unique talents and personality.

Foundation Statement:
The EREA FLC Network seeks to respond to the needs of young people disenfranchised from education. They provide a place and an opportunity to re-engage in a suitable, flexible learning environment.

EREA FLCs seek to build honest and authentic relationships with young people, their families and communities, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person.

EREA FLCs are guided by the vision of Edmund Rice about the empowering service of education, to achieve personal and community liberation through educational experiences that enable transformation.

The aim of this Network is to work in collaboration with young people, their families and communities to identify and develop appropriate multifaceted responses to the complex needs of young people in our centres and outreach.

The unique Network works in partnership with government departments, non-government organisations and welfare service providers. The EREA FLC Network has undertaken research partnerships with universities to explore the complexity of our work with young people and to gather evidence to ensure best practice in the development and provision of education to young people with complex needs.

In 2009 - 2010 the Network will embark on 12 Building projects funded through Building the Education Revolution (BER) Nation Building Projects, (totaling $5 million). The Network will begin work on the Bridge Program (a $3 million early intervention program, supporting young people in and out of home care and the Juvenile Justice System) and develop a partnership with Life Without Barriers, supporting Personal Learning Plans for young people in care of the state.

Future statement:
Through evidence-based research and the practical experience of the workforce, EREA FLC Network will continue to provide a flexible and unique learning environment to young people who are disenfranchised from education.

The commitment to the four principles of ‘Respect, Honesty, Safe and Legal and Participation’, provides common ground for young people, their families, the workforce and community. From this foundation the goal of the EREA FLC Network is to ensure young people are afforded the educational and social opportunities to participate fully as active members of the community.
Ignatius Park College, Townsville
Principal: Mr Michael Conn – Enrolment: 813

Ignatius Park College continued to enhance its Social Justice Program in 2008 by increasing opportunities for students to become involved in Service Learning Projects. Students were encouraged to involve themselves with programs that enabled them to receive Service Learning Certificates through the giving of themselves. New programs for 2008 included the Cancer Council’s Relay for Life, tutoring refugees, participating in Saint Vincent de Paul buddy days and visiting the Townsville Community Learning Centre to help intellectually impaired students.

Ignatius Park continued to dominate the local school sport competitions with local victories in Rugby League, Rugby Union, Cricket, Touch and Basketball. The U16 Basketball team lost the national final in Newcastle to finish second in Australia. The First XIII Rugby League team won the prestigious Confraternity Shield and the First XI Cricket team finished third of all Queensland schools.

Ignatius Park enjoyed outstanding academic results in 2008 with 83% of the Overall Position (OP) students receiving an OP of 1 to 15 and 98% of the students receiving either their first or second preference for University courses. Demand for enrolments has reached an unprecedented high, with significant waiting lists now in every year level with the exception of the Year 12 OP Program.

St Brendan’s College, Yeppoon
Principal: Mr Simon Dash – Enrolment: 659

2008 was a year of renewal for St Brendan’s College. This was affirmed in the School Renewal Process that took place early in the year, when an external team from Edmund Rice Education Australian examined our school and its story, and affirmed that, indeed, St Brendan’s College was living out its calling to be an authentic Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition.

While the Renewal Report affirmed that the compass we had followed had guided us well, it rightly pointed out that we have not yet reached our destination. Thus, much time and effort was devoted to the process of formulating the new College Mission Statement and the Strategic Plan for the years 2009 to 2014.

2008 saw a series of initiatives that have enhanced the life of St Brendan’s College.

In education we expanded the Journey Groups in the Middle School from Maths and English to incorporate Science, SOSE and Religious Education.

Our Pastoral Care system has benefited from the introduction of a structured Personal Development Education Program in Year 8, with a view to its further expansion in future years.

Our co-curricular program has received a huge boost through the introduction of Shooting as a new sport, the resurgence of Rugby Union, Rodeo and AFL, and the continued development of the cultural life of the school, with special mentions of those involved in the Musical, the Rock Eisteddfod, and the extraordinary progress that has been made with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers.

Our faith and formation programs have been highlighted over the last two years with the reintroduction of the sacramental program. Service Learning as an integral part of our formation plan has been advanced by the Eddies Van Project, along with the continued strength of the Edmund Rice Camps Program, which provides a holiday experience for disadvantaged young people who are mentored by our students.

Our facilities received a shot in the arm with the construction of new classrooms and the magnificent redevelopment of the old tennis courts into what truly now is the Great Court. I wish to pay tribute to the Parents and Friends Association for their support of the construction of the new gymnasium.
St Edmund’s College, Ipswich, founded in 1892, is rich in the history and tradition of the Ipswich area. Ipswich, although situated only 40 km from Brisbane, is proud of its unique and separate historical and cultural identity. The area has a history of long and strong associations with the coal-mining industry. Ipswich was the site of the largest railway workshops in Queensland. Through 117 years the College has ministered to families born of this background and tradition. The College today rejoices in these ongoing connections.

Accordingly, two events stand out in 2008 for the College:

• The College Foundation was launched. The Foundation’s aim is to draw on the great reservoir of affection and support for the College within the community. The Foundation will thus be enabled to provide input into the College’s future directions, to maintain its traditional outreach to those suffering socio-economic disadvantage and to provide ongoing excellent facilities for the College. The successful establishment of the Foundation is a highly significant event in the College’s development and one which promises well for the future.

• In recognition of the College’s lead status of a supplier of vocational education, St Edmund’s was successful in gaining funding for the construction of the Ipswich Trade Training Centre in the first round of grants under the Commonwealth Government’s Trade Training Centres in Schools Program. $3 million will be provided for the construction of an automotive centre and the extension of construction and engineering facilities. The facility, to be opened in 2011, will contribute towards making real the College’s aim of providing meaningful pathways for all students.

The links that the Foundation and the Trade Training Centre forge with the College’s long history and tradition of ministering to working families are a significant symbol of the College’s future and highlight both the values and achievements of 2008.

St James College, Brisbane

Principal: Mr Tony McCulkin – Enrolment: 491

In 2008, St James College celebrated 140 years of offering Catholic schooling in Brisbane. Throughout its long history it has endeavoured to serve, in particular, families from lower socio-economic backgrounds, those from many cultural traditions, Indigenous and refugee students, and also students with special learning needs.

Throughout the year, the College expanded its International Students Program, working closely with Nudgee International College in providing secondary education to overseas students, particularly from Asian countries. The College is enriched by the presence of our overseas students.

A key development in 2008 was the establishment of Edmund Rice Education Australia, embracing all schools in the Edmund Rice tradition across the country. St James continues to be a valued and respected member of this new organisation.

Ministry and Mission continue to be key factors in life at St James. Liturgy is seen as an important and indispensable part of the life of the school while service programs, such as the Brekkie Van and education programs at Youth Outreach Service in Fortitude Valley, continue to witness to what we see as fundamental to our mission – ‘a preferential option for the poor’.

Likewise, the consolidation of the College’s Pastoral Care structures and the introduction of restorative justice strategies continue to ensure that all students are welcomed, treated respectfully and with dignity, and are made to feel part of the community here at St James.

Other events throughout 2008 provided a variety of opportunities. Students from St James had the enriching experience of attending World Youth Day in Sydney, together with many of their peers from across Queensland. In March, St James hosted the first conference for students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. Entitled ‘Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow’, the conference attracted student delegates from across the state and achieved its outcome of inspiring young Indigenous men and women for the future.

A very special tradition at St James is the Multicultural Night at which the extraordinarily diverse nature of our College community is celebrated. It captures the unique spirit and sense of community for which St James is well known.

Success for teams and individuals at Basketball, Confraternity Football, Netball and Soccer were also celebrated, with students bringing much credit.
On 5 July 2008, St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace, began its 133rd year of education in the traditions of Edmund Rice our blessed Founder. As a College community, we have attempted to foster a partnership between students, parents and staff, centred on the Gospel of Jesus and inspired by the charism of Edmund Rice.

As a community we have sought excellence in teaching and learning with the philosophy of 'Dimensions of Learning' underpinning our planning and delivery of curriculum across the community. As part of the framework of 'Dimensions of Learning' we have focused on quality relationships as fundamental to all we do. It is in this focus of quality relationships and our Edmund Rice traditions that we have continued to encourage our young men to move from the paradigm of “compare and compete”, in other words, to develop a cause beyond themselves – a cause that is contained in the Old Testament from the Book of Job wherein Job describes his life’s work as this:

“I have rescued the poor who cried for help and the fatherless who had none to assist him; I made the widow’s heart sing; I was the eyes for the blind and feet to the lame; I was father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger; I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victim from their teeth.”

It is this cause beyond and through the spirituality of Edmund Rice; a call to presence, liberation and compassion; a process of bringing life to faith and faith to life that, hopefully, we have begun to develop young men who are other-centered and who are able to lead with a good Christian intent.

The instruments for this challenge have been the key initiatives that come from the efforts of our Campus Ministry Team who have seen liturgy and retreat as a means of formation and the ‘why’ to the many service programs that are part of this community. These programs include the Eddie Rice Van, the Kairos and Street Retreats, the Milperra Project, the Luke 24 Project, the Terrace Timore Network, the Retreat program, the Immersion and Explorations programs and World Youth Day.

Also during 2008, much focus was given to the quality of pastoral care in preparation for 2009 with the introduction of Restorative Practice and the addition of three Houses within the College’s pastoral system.

St Joseph’s Nudgee College, Boondall
Principal: Mr Darly Hanly – Enrolment: 1,337

St Joseph’s Nudgee College continued its successful journey throughout 2008. Our movement to the margins continued as we developed our street swag program. The students successfully attempted to provide 10,000 street swags to the homeless during the year, and that was achieved by December. Our mission in the Philippines developed significantly with the donation of $25,000 to the Christian Brothers, and our service in the streets and caravan parks in Brisbane for the homeless has allowed our young men to recognise the face of Jesus behind those who seem to be different.

Academically, we have been applying the ‘Dimensions of Learning’ paradigm and this has had significant affects upon learning outcomes within the College. This, together with appropriate mentoring of students, has led to students choosing appropriate pathways.

Our cultural and sporting activities have continued to provide our young men with exposure to a balance of activities which has been extended across academic, as well as sporting and cultural activities. Our music program continues to grow, and our Musical has become a highlight.

The introduction of Years 5 -7 has been an historical one for this College. We expect our enrolments in this area to peak at 300 by 2011. The development of our College Master Plan and the subsequent refurbishments that are occurring, will ensure that the College infrastructure will continue to support the wonderful work of our teachers, our broader community and our students, as we continue the work of Edmund.
In 2008, the College celebrated its 70th anniversary, marking a long journey in the delivery of boys only, primary education on the Indooroopilly campus. The College successfully had its Master Building plan ratified by the Brisbane City Council and work began on the construction of six new classrooms that will allow it to realise its planned maximum enrolment of 460 students in 2009. This year saw the introduction of regular community Masses at the College that allowed the College community to gather in a prayerful way. On the pastoral front, students were introduced into vertical pastoral care groups to assist the integration of students across all year levels.

The face of learning changed markedly across a number of areas in 2008. The College library was given a face lift with a renewed emphasis on boys’ reading. Additional learning support staff were engaged to assist students experiencing difficulties in literacy and numeracy. A big step forward was made in our across the curriculum ICT program with the introduction of interactive whiteboards in all classrooms. On the wider landscape, the College finalised its water efficiency and management plan with a water bore and large underground tanks installed to drought proof the College ovals.

2008 was another successful year at St Patrick’s College. The school is continuing to grow physically and also in terms of the spiritual and educational opportunities available to all students. As a Year Five to Year Twelve school, we are able to offer our students learning experiences and facilities that spiral through the whole school. The pastoral care of students is integral to our community; it is enhanced through the College House System and practiced through partnership and right relationships developed amongst families, students and staff.

Academically, the College has had an outstanding year. The staff is committed to excellence in teaching and learning, while professional development opportunities are offered to ensure that this continues. The students are rewarded with academic medallions during our Scholar’s Assemblies held upon the completion of each semester. Parents are able to keep abreast of their son’s progress through the availability of three written reports (Terms One, Two and Four) and two Parent/Teacher interviews (Terms Two and Three). Furthermore, progressive reporting updates can be obtained through the appropriate House Tutor.

The College is proud of its participation in the CIC and AIC sporting competitions. Whilst St Patrick’s may be one of the smaller Colleges within the competitions, it enjoys the reputation of being a school that gives its all in every sport and develops amazing spirit within each team. The students are given many cultural opportunities competing in Inter-House and Inter-School debating and chess competitions. There are also many experiences available for students in the band and music program. St Patrick’s strives to develop young men who are prepared to try a number of educational experiences. The College prides itself on this holistic approach to Boys’ Education.

The current growth in student population is being addressed through planned building projects for this year, with completion in 2009.

St Patrick’s has always enjoyed a reputation of developing students who strive to make a difference to the community. The College ministry and service programmes ensure that this will continue to occur. Once again, during 2008, the students had the opportunity to undertake many community activities both within our own College and in the wider community.

St Patrick’s College is proud to be a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Fight the Good Fight.
The College continues to grow and develop as an authentic expression of the charism of Edmund Rice. The excavation and construction of the auditorium/car park project began in late 2008. The Vocational Education program had the largest number of school based apprenticeships and traineeships. These were complemented with outstanding OP scores and record matriculation numbers. Service Learning initiatives grew significantly during the year. Co-curricular programs in the performing arts, sport and service areas enrich the broad curriculum of the College as it endeavours to live the Gospel in the 21st century.

Indooroopilly Montessori Children’s House
Director: Mrs Carmel Ellis – Enrolment: 144

Indooroopilly Montessori Children’s House (IMCH) commenced 2008 on a high note, opening its doors for the first time at the newly constructed 150-place, purpose-built Montessori Long Day Care Centre. Without doubt, the facilities are unequalled anywhere in Australia. IMCH was officially opened on 16 May 2008 by the Governor of Queensland, the Honourable Ms Quentin Bryce. A full complement of children, ranging in age from three months to five years stepped into the ten teaching rooms to be greeted by enthusiastic and highly-qualified staff. Our priorities in 2008 were firstly, to settle staff and children into the new environment; secondly, reaffirm the Montessori Philosophy within the new centre and finally, to continue to implement our innovative social and emotional learning curriculum entitled Guided Choices.

The centre was graced with the attendance of five children with additional needs who were partially funded through Federal Government assistance. IMCH’s innovation, in both its Inclusion Program and its Guided Choices Program were recognised for their quality with the Manager/Director Carmel Ellis, presenting papers at a number of Early Childhood Intervention Association forums and receiving an invitation to present a paper on Guided Choices to the International Montessori Conference in 2009.

A very successful 2008 for the entire centre community heralds good news for the future with 2009 enrolments at capacity and the reputation of high-quality care for children firmly established.
The year 2008 was particularly significant for Nudgee International College (NIC) as we redefined the College’s strategic directions and articulated our vision and mission as an Edmund Rice education entity.

The NIC community collaboratively identified five fundamental values: ‘humanity’, ‘care’, ‘relationships’, ‘integrity’ and ‘excellence’ — that underpin our strategic plans and operational day-to-day behaviours. In redefining its mission, the NIC community committed to utilising NIC’s strategic resources to offer educational opportunities for economically and socially disadvantaged young people across the world.

Over the last four years the NIC staff and board have worked on a strategic growth plan in order to achieve financial stability that would eventually enable NIC to support through education, those who are materially poor.

In keeping with its growth plan, for the fourth successive year, in 2008, NIC enrolled over 1200 students on short-term and long-term programs. Between 2004 and 2008, NIC has achieved a cumulative growth of 60% in enrolments, resulting in consistently sound financial results. In 2008, NIC also introduced a number of innovative changes to its curriculum and student support services. A number of NIC graduates achieved outstanding academic results in their respective high schools.

Overall, the year 2008 was one of consolidation, renewal and re-formation.

NIC’s identity and position within EREA was clarified and confirmed. NIC staff feel privileged to work within the international education sector, as we believe that internationalisation results in equality, peace, justice and global harmony.

NIC has achieved success in recent years because of the tremendous contribution of its staff and Board directors. I take this opportunity to thank the fantastic team of people I am privileged to work with at Nudgee International College.
The National Launch of Edmund Rice Education Australia in January 2008 was hosted by Parade College, the first permanent school of the Christian Brothers in Australia.

In February the Regional Launch of EREA was held at CBC St Kilda, the oldest school of the Christian Brothers in Australia still on its original site. The following weeks saw local Launches occurring at each of the eight schools across the Southern Region.

March 2008 saw a major change in organisational structures of service to schools in the Southern Region as the Christian Brothers Education Commission (Victoria/Tasmania) was closed and its responsibilities transferred to the EREA Southern Region Office. Br Kevin Buckley was appointed Interim Regional Coordinator.

Deputy Principals of the eight schools of the Region gathered at St Virgil’s College, Hobart, for a day of spirituality and reflection, assisted by the Christian Brothers formation team. Long-standing staff members of the schools of the Region enjoyed a three-day spiritual renewal experience at Amberley Edmund Rice Centre, Lower Plenty. Principals gathered periodically with focus on leadership of their communities as Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition.

In July 2008 a new campus was opened for the Year Nine students of Christian Brothers College, St Kilda, at nearby suburb Balaclava, on the site of a former Catholic primary school.

In August 2008 the EREA Board announced that St Joseph’s College, Melbourne, would close at the end of 2010, with the Pascoe Vale (Years 7-10) campus closing at the end of 2009. Commitment was given to ensuring support for students and their families in transition to other schools, and to staff in employment related matters.

In November 2008 Parade College, Bundoora, opened a new campus for Years 7 to 9 boys on the site of a former boys’ secondary school in Preston (Samaritan Catholic College), while also continuing full secondary provision at Bundoora.

In October 2008 a leadership change occurred within the Region as Br Kevin Buckley moved to the EREA National Office and Mr Paul Herrick commenced as the new Regional Administrator, Southern region.

A number of Formation Programs were developed. Four programs are to be offered in 2009 including: Galilee, for staff recently appointed to EREA Schools; Into the Deep, for leaders in schools; Break Every Yoke for senior leaders; and Mt Sinai for those who have been working in EREA schools for a significant amount of time.

All schools agreed to adopt the Melbourne CEO School Improvement Framework for compliance and VRQA Certification (including St Patrick’s Ballarat)

As a result of the announcement of the closure of Saint Joseph’s, Melbourne, at the end of the 2010 school year, the ongoing placement of students for 2009 and beyond was a critical activity.

All school budgets for 2009 were approved, subject to final student enrolments.

Nick Scully, Deputy Principal at St Bernard’s, Essendon, undertook a successful review.

The following appointments were made for 2009:

- Tony Paatsch – Principal, St Bernard’s College, Essendon
- Paul Clohesy – Deputy Principal, St Joseph’s College, Geelong
- Chris Caldow – Deputy Principal, St Patrick’s College, Ballarat
- Mr Wayne Tatersall, Board Chair, St Joseph’s College, Geelong
- Mr Dennis Foley, Board Chair, St Patrick’s College, Ballarat
- Mr Lex Arthurson, Board Chair, St Joseph’s College, Melbourne

Schools:
- Christian Brothers’ College, St Kilda
- Parade College, Bundoora
- St Bernard’s College, Essendon
- St Joseph’s College, Geelong
- St Joseph’s College, Melbourne
- St Kevin’s College, Toorak
- St Patrick’s College, Ballarat
- St Virgil’s College, Hobart
Christian Brothers’ College, St Kilda
Principal: Mr Gerald Bain-King – Enrolment: 619

In 2008 CBC celebrated its 130th Year as an Edmund Rice school in Melbourne. The College continued to meet some important long-term strategic goals, which included improved Year 12 results, the opening of the Year 9 Campus and Year 7 transition program. The Year 9 Campus at Balacalava, and Logue Hall were refurbished in early 2008.

The College prospered on the sporting field winning Division 2, Swimming and Cross Country. CBC maintained our commitment to social justice by raising $25,000 in the Walkathon for Africa and India and undertaking outreach in St Kilda and St Albans.

CBC undertook the School Renewal process with EREA, which offered valuable insights into our achievements, and community understanding of the changes the College is undertaking. 2008 also saw an enhancement of the partnership with Presentation College, Windsor, in cultural and academic activities.

Marketing at the College has been a high priority with the publication of a new prospectus and livery, and the implementation of expanded marketing events. We also began the planning stages for a new website and College uniform. At the conclusion of 2008 there was some restructuring of leadership roles to address marketing and learning initiatives.

Parade College, Bundoora
Principal: Br Denis Moore – Enrolment: 1,489

A fter a lengthy study by the Catholic Education Office on the best provision of boys’ education in the northern suburbs, the College was asked to run a second campus on the site of Samaritan College in Preston. Detailed preparations took place in 2008 to make the transition as smooth as possible and the campus was ready to commence with 300 students in 2009.

Parade College was delighted to host the formal launch of the new governance structure, Edmund Rice Education Australia, on 2 February 2008. At the same time, the College hosted the conference of College Captains from all the EREA schools. In February, also the newly renovated and enlarged Rivergum Theatre was blessed by Bishop Tim Costelloe SDB and opened by Mr Bill Dunne.

A Board committee facilitated the renewal of the College Vision Statement for 2009 - 2012. This was completed by November, allowing detailed work to commence on a revised Strategic Plan and Development Plan for the period. A detailed study was commissioned on students’ needs in sport and the best development of the College sporting facilities.

We continued to encourage and support students in the pursuit of appropriately challenging academic goals. As part of this process, a special Year 9 program was developed during this year for introduction in 2009. The Edmund Rice Pathways Program was opened up for Year 10 students this year, geared to those not wishing to pursue more vocational studies beyond Year 10.

The spiritual dimension was sustained by a well coordinated program of religious education, liturgy and prayer, and opportunities for personal development and action for social justice. We continued to support the Edmund Rice ministries in Africa, and sent pilgrims to World Youth Day.

Year 11 students enjoyed a House retreat and all Year 12s undertook a “ministry” retreat.

The College continued to pursue its vision of an “education which fosters the most wholesome development and growth of all members”.

SCHOOL REFLECTIONS - SOUTHERN REGION

Annual Report 2008
2008, at St Bernard’s College, marked the end of an era with the retirement of Principal Mr Frank Fitzgerald. Frank was Principal from 1996 and led the College during a period of growth in enrolment, facilities and standing within the community. The College Community farewelled him at a dinner in December.

Academic performance was again impressive with 11% of year 12 students achieving study scores above 40 with a mean study score of 31.4 and 95% of Yr 12 students offered a place in a tertiary institution.

Retention rates remain high and places in the College parallel programs are highly sought. The Year 9 program, run over four weeks at the College Campus at Santa Monica on the Great Ocean Road, continues to flourish.

The College’s building master plan is nearing completion as the new administration block, incorporating refurbishment of the old Brother’s House, reaches completion. The recent installation of a bore and desalinisation plant has made possible the refurbishment of the ovals and will ensure water is available to keep them in good order.

The commitment of the College community to social justice remains strong with groups visiting the Brother Beausang School at Embulsbul, in Kenya, annually. The groups stay in the Bernard’s Bungalow, built by St Bernard’s to encourage visitors. Visitors benefit from their interaction with the local community and can see first hand the impact of money raised by the student body in supporting education for our African brothers and sisters.

By any measure the 2008 school year has been a very successful one. Senior students have experienced an expansion of alternative programs such as the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning and, at the same time, academic outcomes in terms of VCE results have remained strong. 10% of study scores were again over 40.

2008 was an outstanding year for student leadership with the Tri-umph Festival. The three Catholic secondary schools located in the city gathered together at St Joseph’s College to ‘Make Poverty History’.

The day was organised by student leaders from the three Colleges and was highly successful with some $43,000 raised.

The College has, for many years, been promoting the importance of the creative and performing arts. In December, the announcement was made by the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria at their annual awards presentation, that the winner of the Junior Production of the Year was St Joseph’s College for ‘Seussical the Musical’.

St Joseph’s staff member Janine McLean won the award for Best Direction of a Junior Production.

This recognition from an external body highlights the strength of music and drama within our curriculum.

I commend all staff for their commitment to striving to be the best educational institution we can be, within the Catholic tradition.
During 2008 our community celebrated our 90th year as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. At the many functions and events held to mark the milestone, we gave thanks for the wonderful heritage of service and community that have become hallmarks of a St Kevin’s education.

The opening of year Mass in St Patrick’s Cathedral saw over 2,500 gather at the Eucharistic Table in praise and thanksgiving. We are thankful for our history, but we also marvel at the way in which God continues to create new life for us.

The Ministry Team and its work remained central to our mission. Be it community service, street retreat, refugee tutoring, year level retreats or formal worship, there was much to celebrate in 2008.

Academically, the College had another strong year with NAPlan and VCE results among the best in the state. Culturally, hundreds of boys were involved in music spectaculars, such as ‘St Kevin’s Plays Hamer’ and the seven plays and musicals the College produced. Sports gave all our young men healthy competition and physical development with our Swimming, Squash, Athletics, Cross Country, Rugby and Lawn Bowls bringing particular credit to the College.

The refurbishment of Smith Hall and the commencement of the Godfrey Building were the major infrastructure developments. As always though, the key element of any school is the quality of the relationships. Students and staff worked superbly together supported by the many generous parent and old collegian associations. We had two very significant staffing changes at the end of year with the Head of

Glendalough (Prep – 6) Peter Tellefson and the Head of Waterford (Year 9) Bill Doherty moving to new challenges. Our ninetieth year was a good vintage.

Omnia Pro Deo
St Patrick’s College, Ballarat, continued to provide quality Catholic education in the Edmund Rice Tradition to the city of Ballarat and throughout the Western Districts in 2008. This provision has been witnessed through the development of its unique culture, educational programs and infrastructure. Specific growth occurred through the creation of a new leadership model for the College as a direct result of staff consultation and review. Such a model was based on the most effective provision of educational and pastoral support for students and has led to the appointment of separate Deputy Principals for Teaching & Learning and Student & Staff Wellbeing. The enhancement of pathways developed for students (Years 7 to 12) in English and Mathematics was a significant achievement.

Public speaking, music and the performing arts opportunities significantly increased throughout the year, giving students broader options for a holistic educational experience. Coupled with this, the inaugural St Patrick’s Art Exhibition proved to be a great and encouraging success for the Ballarat community.

Indigenous education made its appropriate mark with the appointment of an Indigenous Education Manager and the establishment of a wonderful, inspiring Indigenous space named Yimullanburrdoo. Such developments have been extremely well integrated in the community.

Significant infrastructure developments were realised in 2008 which included the relocation of the Handball Pavilion, construction of the Old Collegians’ Association multipurpose pavilion and the installation of water tanks holding 750,000 litres to increase the capacity to capture waste and storm water. This clearly indicates the College’s commitment to the environment and its related challenges. The blessing of the Br R M Miller Wing for the Sciences and Technology by Cardinal Pell (SPC 1949-59) was a highlight of the year.

St Patrick’s has always enjoyed a prominent place with local Ballarat community support and 2008 was no exception as evidenced in the enrolment figures for both the boarding and day school, as well as the quality of its teaching and support staff living in a rewarding working environment. Working collaboratively with the College, the Old Collegians’ Association and Foundation made it a priority to clearly define their purpose and intent for future support of the College.

The challenge of 2009 will be to continue to focus on the teaching and learning culture of St Patrick’s through development of programs, staffing and guided choices and advice to students.

St Virgil’s College, Hobart
Principal: Mr Chris Smith – Enrolment: 655

2008 saw St Virgil’s College as a busy and involved community of boys, teachers and their parents enjoying opportunities provided for growth and development in a wide range of areas.

Enrolments were strong with growth on each campus due to an extra class at the Grade 5/6 level in the Junior School and the continuation of the 5th stream at Austins Ferry. By the middle of the year nearly all classes were full. While total enrolments increased from 610 to 652, average class sizes fell at most levels.

The implementation of the Tasmanian Curriculum was a major focus for educational planning at all levels of the College, requiring the redevelopment of assessment and reporting processes, particularly at the secondary level.

One major initiative was the introduction of the secondary Literacy Program. A structured and methodical teaching of reading, spelling and grammar in ability groupings has seen the boys approach the Literacy classes positively. Results at the end of the year saw an average improvement of two years over the 9 month period. Capital works for the year included the completion of the Junior School development of two classrooms and hall, the Administration building at Austins Ferry and the Quadrangle re-development.
A major focus for the 2008 school year was the development of Edmund Rice Education Australia, culminating in a regional launch held at the Sydney Town Hall, involving 1500 students and 300 special guests.

2008 saw the Eastern Region schools involved with the celebration of World Youth Day. St Patrick’s College, Strathfield, St Pius X College, Chatswood and Waverley College all provided accommodation for WYD pilgrims; while Strathfield was also a centre for catechesis during World Youth Week in July, St Edmund’s College, Canberra, hosted pilgrims in the week prior as well as leading the Edmund Rice Festival held at CBHS, Lewisham.

During 2008 significant appointments were made within the Eastern Region with Mr Peter Fullagar appointed Principal of St Edmund’s College, Canberra, and Mr Michael Ronchetti appointed Deputy Principal of Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham.

New management structures were also implemented within the Edmund Rice Special Education Schools (ERSES) resulting in Campus Heads Kerrin Enright and Dianne Hooke being appointed.

The EREA Renewal process focused on St Patrick’s College, Strathfield, in 2008 with an external committee spending a number of days interviewing stakeholders and reviewing school processes and practices, culminating in the presentation by the Director of EREA, Dr Wayne Tinsey, of a school certificate of renewal. This certificate affirmed the work of the College in support and inculcation of the Edmund Rice core values and charism. A range of senior leadership appraisals were also conducted during 2008 involving Deputy Principals and Principals in EREA Eastern Region schools.

As part of EREA’s formation program, all 65 staff new to Edmund Rice Schools participated in a one day induction program, organised jointly by the regional office and Edmund Rice Formation Services. Br Michael Walsh made significant contributions to these programs, as well as visiting each of the new staff later in the year. Br Michael also interviewed all teachers of Religious Education and provided a report with recommendations to the eastern Regional Office.

Throughout the year various meetings of school personnel were organised and facilitated.

These included meetings of Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers, Board Chairs, Religious Education, Curriculum, Learning Support, Social Justice, IT and English Coordinators.

Most industrial awards covering school personnel were up for review in 2008. The regional office, through membership of the Catholic Independent Schools Employment Relations Committee (CISERC), contributed to this process, resulting in new awards being settled late in 2008.

During 2008 a concerted effort was made to support the return to work process in schools for injured staff resulting in a careful review of insurance claims and a more prudent stewardship of resources. The development of the OHS website continued.

**Schools:**
- Christian Brothers’ College, Lewisham
- Edmund Rice College, Wollongong
- The Annexe, Cominal
- St Dominic’s College, Penrith
- Obley Education Centre, St Mary’s Savio Education Centre, Penrith
- Edmund Rice Special Education Services, Sydney
- St Edmund’s School, Wahroonga
- St Gabriel’s School, Castle Hill
- St Edmund’s College, Canberra
- St Edward’s College, Gosford
- The Haven Education Centre, Terrigal
- St Patrick’s College, Strathfield
- St Pius X College, Strathfield
- Waverley College, Waverley
One of the most significant things achieved in 2008 was the development of a Values Based Strategic Plan. This Plan called Respecting Tradition, Celebrating Now, Creating Tomorrow will guide the school into the future, ensuring that the school is faithful to its mission. Another exciting time for the school in 2008 was the opening of the new facilities, including the Br McDonald Centre and Dr Victor Chang Science Laboratories. The new multipurpose hall allows for whole school liturgies and assemblies to be conducted all year round, regardless of the weather.

This same building project included an upgrade of the main playground. Towards the end of the year, in a very historic move and after 117 years, the Christian Brothers community moved off the Lewisham site. Downstairs of the existing Brothers’ Residence was refurbished to enable the school to run state-of-the-art Hospitality courses on site. This was up and running for the commencement of the 2009 school year. A major building project will commence at the start of 2009, looking at the upstairs area of the Brothers’ Residence, the Treacy Centre, Lecture Theatre, Administration Area and Chapel.

The school also introduced new courses in Year 11 that are designed to provide an equal status alternative education pathway for students who wish to explore subjects that are not traditional university entry subjects. These new subjects, as well as Hospitality, include Marine Science, Photography and Entertainment.

As the 2008 school year began Edmund Rice College, for the first time in its 83 years serving the Illawarra Community, did not have a Christian Brother on its staff. Whilst this may have come later for us than in some other places, it is nonetheless deeply significant, placing upon those who build on the legacy of the Brothers a strong sense of stewardship of that tradition.

The cultural broadening of College life continued and we were able to celebrate achievements of our students across a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular areas. Within this breadth of opportunity, the increasing focus across the school on the Christian Service-Learning Program is bringing great benefit to the students and receiving high praise in the wider community.

Perhaps it is best evidenced by these words from the parent of a senior student:

“My son entered your school as a little boy and with the guidance of all the wonderful teachers and staff he has become a hard-working, thoughtful, kind and caring young man. This is due to the academic, social, values and life experience taught at Edmund Rice”. 

For St. Dominics College 2008 was very much a transition year. With one-third of the College a construction site for the renovation and expansion of the hall, redevelopment of science building-labs and 21 learning spaces, along with new canteen and outside basketball courts, this necessitated the College to provide demountable buildings on the oval and the canteen moved into a temporary space. Several environmentally sustainable features were included in the design, such as: cross-flow ventilation, power management system, VRV air cooling and water recycling. This interruption thankfully ended with access to the new learning spaces in February 2009. The experience was exciting and marks a platform for future development of the College.

Further, the College Executive and Board launched the 2008-11 Strategic Plan which set goals on a range of fronts to achieve development of the College’s needs. A key area of planning undertaken was around the Commonwealth Government’s Digital Education Revolution which saw the College granted 286 computers and matching infrastructure money. This has necessitated much preparation of infrastructure and professional learning for staff. Central to this is the rolling out of the College’s intranet / Learning management system ‘Domiknow’, utilising the Moodle platform. Along with ICT, much staff developmental work has continued in the areas of Quality Teaching-Assessment and Literacy.

A key success has been the development in the area of Indigenous indications, with the number of students rising towards 40 by the end of 2008 and a well functioning Indigenous aide supporting their learning through class support and family support. Strong local networks have been developed to bring mentors into the school along with developing their cultural awareness and communicating that to all the College community.

On the extra-curricular front, the College continues its successful involvement in MCS competitions in Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Basketball, Touch and Cricket, along with other involvements such as Chess, Public Speaking, Debating and a rich Social justice program that all students are required to participate in.
The year ended well with the continued improvement in the academic performance of the Year 12 students of 2008. Our Dux, Chris Grocott, scored an impressive 99.2 UAI. In the last two years the College showed the second highest improvement of the 20 ACT Colleges. This is the result of a more focused effort by the students and a revitalised approach to teaching.

I congratulate our Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr Alex Damo, for his initiative and leadership.

A major success of the restructure to the College has been the quality of education and pastoral care offered to the boys in the Middle School, Years 4 - 7. Under the dedicated and inspiring leadership of Ms Patricia Doyle, middle schooling is flourishing.

There is a sound structure to provide the boys with opportunities to seek their personal best. A new pastoral care House system introduced at the beginning of the year has revitalised the way we care for and guide the boys. This initiative, under the unflappable leadership of our Heads of House, Therese Kitney, Denyse Gibbs, Rohan Langford, Matt Negline, Max Green and Ryan Greer, has made a significant difference. The fruits of the framework will become even more apparent next year as the student leaders play an even greater role in establishing high standards of effort and commitment.

Our identity as an Edmund Rice school is emphasised at every available moment. Under the astute guidance of Mr Peter Woods our mission teams contribution to liturgies, retreats, Religious Education, World Youth Day and Youth Ministry across Australia has given the College a reputation of living the mission of the Church.

Our school also opened its doors in hospitality to 400 French pilgrims for two nights during the World Youth Days in the Diocese.

We are blessed to still have the presence of three Christian Brothers on staff in Br Matt McKeon, Br Don Gallagher and Br Phill Grundy. Their presence and engagement in the life of the school is a very tangible example for the boys and staff of Edmund’s vision of humility, generosity and faithful service.

As the only secondary boys school on the Central Coast, and in its 55th year of existence in 2008, St. Edward’s, Gosford, continued to provide a thriving educational environment where “Young Men Achieved.” In aiming to be faithful to the 11 cultural characteristics of the Edmund Rice Charter of 2004, St Edward’s College staff in 2008 increasingly placed emphasis on the nurturing and developing of fully rounded responsible young men of character and vision, who are destined to make a positive contribution to the wider community. Nowhere was this trend more evident than in the thriving Social Justice program, which continued to be so influential in the development and formation of young men who are committed to the authentic Gospel values of care and compassion for those who are disadvantaged in our society.

We shared this countercultural vision of education with our brother schools within the EREA network across Australia.

The theme and focus of the year’s activities at St Edward’s in 2008 was to ensure that, as the year unfolded, the 11 cultural characteristics would be increasingly embedded within the culture of the College. That aim was achieved. We now have a reasonable assurance that the original vision and charism of Blessed Edmund Rice will continue to flourish at St Edward’s, even when there are no longer Christian Brothers present on the staff.
2008 began with the national launch of EREA in Melbourne, which was then followed by both a regional and school-based celebration. For St Gabriel’s this has meant a strengthening of the links between Edmund Rice schools and a new commitment to living up to the ideals and values expressed in the Charter. Unfortunately, 2008 also had a most sad beginning when one of its younger students, Jack Abdoo, died. This was a most traumatic event for all staff and students, particularly those who were present on site when it occurred.

Much energy and love went into supporting Jack’s parents in their grief, as well as supporting the rest of the school community. Despite being a registered charity, St Gabriel’s attempts to make their students aware of those less fortunate than themselves. To that end, the staff and students participated in charity events such as Jeans for Genes and Bandaged Bear Day.

Fundraising is critical to the survival of St Gabriel’s and over the years a number of key events bring in significant funds. One such event was the annual Dinner Dance which has been in the calendar for 40 years.

Joy Longfield must be congratulated for being the driving force behind this for all that time. She has worked tirelessly for St Gabriel’s with the proceeds of the final dinner dance going to the playground.

Lynne Paul concluded her appointment as Principal of St Gabriel’s in December with a number of farewells. She will be remembered for her work in the field of hearing impairment.

Kathy Freeman was appointed as Principal for 2009 and Dianne Hooke was appointed as Head of Campus. St Gabriel’s will undergo comprehensive strategic planning in 2009.

The project which includes the building of a multipurpose space, sickbay, new staffroom, technology block and change facilities in the pool enclosure were made possible through a successful application for a Catholic Block Grant and Interest Subsidy Loan. St Edmund’s has not had any major building work done in over 30 years.

Over the year much energy went into rebadging the school to better represent the current student population. A beautiful new crest was designed and approved by EREA. In addition, the school colours were changed to red and navy, reflected in a new uniform to be released in 2009. There is great excitement around this as our students love St Edmund’s and will proudly wear the new uniform.

With over a hundred teenage students with disabilities, life at St. Edmund’s continued to be extremely dynamic and unpredictable, with great success being achieved both academically and socially; all within an atmosphere of much humour and goodwill.
2008 heralded many changes for St Patrick’s College: the year began with a new Principal, a new Board Chair and a new structure — Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). These changes in personnel and structure created a sense of curiosity and interest, but certainly did not diminish the sense of community and involvement nor the drive for excellence in all fields of endeavour.

St Patrick’s, with its vast co-curricular activities and expectation that students participate in them, is well placed to assist in developing young men committed to and attuned to responsibility and co-responsibility. The quality of interactions that are encouraged and, indeed, developed at all levels – student to student, staff to student, parent to parent - through Saturday sport, Friday Night Debating, Musical and Drama opportunities, is very evident within the College community. It is pleasing to see St Patrick’s offering this great opportunity and even more pleasing to see it eagerly and gratefully taken up by the majority within the College community.

The strong sense of spirituality and the ease with which the College community enters into prayer makes the Catholic identity of the College very tangible. The Lenten appeal, the outreach to various community groups in need, combined with the regular participation in the St Vincent De Paul Night Patrol, situates the lessons taught during the College day into a lived experience of faith in action for many of the students and families of the College.

In 2008 the College commenced the redevelopment of the western side of the campus which will see the building of new toilet facilities for students and visitors; two substantial bays for lockers; new ‘home’ and ‘visitor’ change facilities; a re-established covered walkway between the buildings; improved spaces for storage and other uses; and the redevelopment of the senior yard giving better access for disabled persons.
At the beginning of 2008 we witnessed various launches of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). The Eastern Regional Launch of our schools (NSW/ACT) was held on Friday, February 8 at the Sydney Town Hall. At this launch we were represented very well by our Prefects and all of our Year 8 students.

The College had its own launch with the College Commencement Mass on Thursday, February 14, attended by Years 5-12.

The College hosted some 370 pilgrims in the College Hall and Gymnasium for World Youth Day. These pilgrims were from the USA, Ireland and El Salvador. The College had some thirty (30) students who attended the final two days.

During the Term Two vacation period all stakeholders of the College received a “Signs of Progress” brochure or report from the College. In this report were listed a number of significant changes that have occurred in the Refurbishment and Building program since 2004.

The College hopes to continue with a series of these brochures to “articulate to our Waverley community the changes and the positive effects they are having at the school”.

The College continues to refurbish its classrooms; the Kenny Building was completed over the Christmas period of 2007. More classrooms in the main building, especially the western side have been completely refurbished. There are still a few rooms to be completed on the East wing.

We started the year celebrating success of the 2007 Higher School Certificate. Thirty percent of boys gained UAI’s above 90 – an outstanding effort.

The College Community came together in prayer on Monday 11 February to participate in the opening Mass for the school year. The Mass provided an opportunity to launch EREA in the school community here, following on from the national launch in Melbourne.

2008 also saw the first stages in a plan to increase the size of the school’s site and thereby allow for another substantial building.

Of course there were many other events in the year. There were many other stories of outstanding success.

The College is settling into the new structure of EREA; involved in the purchase of new properties; living with extensive local redevelopment; adjusting to new Government policies and implementing new curriculum requirements. All this went on as well as managing the round of ceremonies, classes, sports, music, debating, presentations and the seemingly endless activities of school days.

I pay great credit to all staff, parents and students who made 2008 such a success.

St Pius X, Chatswood
Principal: Br Michael Hoffman – Enrolment: 1,077

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St Pius X, Chatswood
Principal: Br Michael Hoffman – Enrolment: 1,077

Namu Lyoo came first in Mathematics in the 2008 HSC. Luke Jones and Michael Hooper continued their great careers in Rugby playing for the Australian Schoolboys.

The College Vice-Captain, Patrick Collins, was invited to represent Australia on a two-week study of Russia in June/July, as a guest of the All-Russian Youth Aerospace Society.

The students continued to be responsive to the needs of the community by providing finance and support for many community projects.

To all who contributed to the College during 2008, we extend our thanks.

Waverley College, Waverley
Principal: Br Paul Leary – Enrolment: 1,336

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The launch for Edmund Rice Education in the Western Region was held on Monday, February 11 at University Park, Western Australia and at Christian Brothers’ College Adelaide on February 13, 2009. The event was organised by Mr Mark McGlaughlin who was filling two roles, one with the Province as Formation Coordinator for the Western Region and his other role as Acting Regional Administrator for EREA. Mark filled this position until I took over the acting role at the start of Term 2. The announcement of Paul Williams as the Regional Administrator for 2009 was made in June.

The Regional Administrator role was a new one to the region so, much of my time was given to establishing an identity with the eight schools, five schools in WA and three schools in SA. Visits to the schools and establishing a relationship that would compliment the services that the schools already received from the two Catholic Education Offices was the first priority.

The establishment of an office in Western Australia saw two additional staff added to the team. Mr Mark Bianchini was initially appointed to work as Commercial Manager for both Christian Brothers’ Agricultural School, Tardun, and Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon. This role was later to expand and his role includes that of Regional Finance Manager (Western Region). The other addition to the team was Miss Irene Soon who is PA for both the Regional Administrator and the Regional Finance Manager.

Work in the region included appointments of Frank Norton as Deputy Headmaster at Aquinas College and Jon Franzin as Acting Deputy Principal St Paul’s College, Gilles Plains. Numerous personal and school appraisals were conducted. The announcement of the closure of Christian Brothers’ Agricultural School, Tardun, in July brought much sadness to the Western Region.

The School has been in operation for over 80 years and offered a unique educational opportunity to many young people from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, especially indigenous students.

Schools:
- Aquinas College, Salter Point
- Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon
- Christian Brothers’ Agricultural School, Tardun
- Christian Brothers’ College, Adelaide
- Christian Brothers’ College, Fremantle
- Rostrevor College, Woodforde
- St Paul’s College, Gilles Plains
- Trinity College, East Perth
As I reflect upon my first year as the Headmaster of Aquinas College, I am extremely proud to have been appointed to this position of service, one that I am honoured by and committed to.

2008 brought many College highlights, including the focus on improved academic achievement; student leadership including World Youth Day and the Student 2012 Summit; above expectation NAPLAN results in Years 5, 7 and 9; an outstanding College production of Blood Brothers; successful Foundation Ball; PSA sporting achievements; immersion programs to Derby and the Philippines; House activities; arts performances; academic awards and external competitions; retreat programs; completion of the Design & Technology Building; announcement of the new Hockey Turf; enjoying the harmonious boarding lifestyle; and the emotional silence of Brother Clery renewing his vows of charity, poverty and obedience in the presence of the student body.

One aspect of the year which has been progressing is the Aquinas College Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013.

Our Strategic Objective: “Aquinas College will be the leading educator, developing boys who achieve their best and who are inspiring contributors to society.”

To achieve this we require a shared set of beliefs, which form the scaffolding for progressive growth.

Our Strategic Beliefs:

• Aquinas College provides a distinctive Catholic education for boys.

• The Edmund Rice tradition and Charter is inherent in everything we do.

• Great teachers are essential for boys’ learning.

• The pursuit of excellence is essential and is achieved through a holistic approach to education.

• Evidence based research and innovation will be a foundation of the College’s approach to education.

• Meaningful parent and community relationships are important in the successful education of boys.

• A commitment to local and global social justice is fundamental in a boys’ education.

Six focus goals were then created for the coming five years:

• To continually improve the academic outcomes of the school.

• To provide opportunities for all students to participate in integrated educational programs which encompass Catholic values.

• To ensure the complete well-being of each boy.

• To attract, retain and develop outstanding and committed staff.

• To ensure that the school has sufficient funds to continue to develop competitive facilities and enabling programs.

• To establish meaningful relationships to ensure the school is valued by the community and to increase awareness, participation and contribution to the College.

Our six Strategic Themes can be summarised into:

• Academic Excellence

• Pastoral Care

• Integrated Education

• Employer of Choice

• Infrastructure and Resources

• Relationships

These are the themes for the pillars of our Strategic Plan for 2009 to 2013.

Measuring the success of the Plan is essential in determining the progress. Traditionally, education has not ventured into developing measures of school plans. Our measures need to be collected in future times well after graduation and be located in office blocks, farms or the family homes where our former students are contributing to society.
In 2008 the College appointed a new Principal, Mr Damian Wallis. The College has grown in student numbers by 27%, partially because of the increase of day students, due to the establishment of two bus runs to Toodyay and Bindoon.

The main area of value adding to the College in 2008 was with the Middle School Active Research Project.

As part of the College-wide push for school improvement, a middle school trial was run in Semester 2 of 2008. This was part of an Action Research Project that was ably co-ordinated by the Middle School team leader. The Middle School Active Research Project involved the Year 8 students being split into two streams and their timetable altered so that it was more in line with the principles underpinning Middle Schooling. This project has helped to inform our structure in Middle School for the next five years.

CAC, Bindoon, also managed to receive approval for two Capital Development projects in 2008. These included: the Trade Training Centre and the development of our boarding facilities. The College has raised $1.75 million to redevelop our old Technical Block into a Trade Training Centre. This Centre will provide students with certificate courses in engineering. In the area of boarding, the College has raised $3.9 million. This will enable us to build two new dormitories and to partially renovate our existing dormitories. These projects have been supported by the Australian Government, Catholic Education Office and EREA.

The year started early at Tardun in 2008. Due to the long distances many of the students travel, permission was granted to start before other schools and to have an extended break at Easter. It was quite a challenge for the students having to start in the middle of a hot WA summer.

Students and staff travelled to Perth to join with our fellow EREA schools for the Western Australia launch of EREA. It was a long trip for the day and the students are to be congratulated on their efforts.

It is not often that Tardun students get to meet with the Perth schools, so it was a real highlight.

The year was a challenging one and the announcement of the closure in 2009 certainly did add extra challenges. The school did carry on and highlights for the year included the Outward Bound trip, the North West trip and the Sydney Canberra trip.

For many, this was their first visit east, so it was a fantastic new experience. On the sporting field, the school did well with the boys winning the AFL and the girls winning netball in the local Geraldton competitions.

The end of year Awards Day was a very sad one as long-term Principal Mr Nick Lynch, his wife Rebecca and their family, along with a large number of students and other staff, were leaving and would not return for the School’s final year. It is hoped that they, and all of the visitors to CBAS, take with them many happy memories from their time at Tardun.
2008 at Christian Brothers’ College, Adelaide, was a year of significant celebration. A new Values based Strategic Plan heralded a new direction forward for our College in our 130 years of educating the hearts, minds and souls of Adelaide boys. The identified strategic values: Faith, Excellence, Community and Compassion, resonated the vision of Blessed Edmund, in the following achievements we celebrated in 2008.

The 130 year celebrations included a street parade, Eucharist, dinner dances and fashion parade. Significant appointments were made, including a full-time Chaplain, Fr Peter Gardiner. Student learning innovations were a high priority with the success of the integration of Year 10 students into Year 11/12. Advisory Pastoral Care groups, the introduction of Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Camps, in addition to Year 10 camps, and the trial of the New SACE PLP in Year 10, were also highlights.

Other significant activities included: involvement in World Youth Day and hosting German pilgrims; and the drama production La Dispute, which was produced and performed for both Year 12 moderation and the South Australian Fringe Festival.

The development of a new CBC Master Plan enabled confirmation of the appointment of architects, Swanbury Penglase, to plan for 2009-2012 Capital Development works.

A new CBC Business Directory was produced in conjunction with the release of redesigned Prospectus and Business Cards. The realisation of a common Senior/Junior School newsletter provided a cohesive approach to College communication.

Some students and staff began an inaugural pilgrimage to the Philippines, which complemented the Vietnam pilgrimage. These experiences of service proved to be beneficial to all involved.

The school developed Sun Smart and Healthy Foods policies, and a new Personal Responsibility Plan (Behaviour Management) was implemented. The Red Cross bestowed the City Schools’ Award to CBC for the second year in succession.

The past 12 months have been characterised by a strong sense of history. As well as celebrating the first 12 months of a new Edmund Rice governance structure, the journey of the World Youth Day Cross included a visit to CBC.

To witness our young men proclaiming and acknowledging the Good News of Christ’s love was a memorable and faith filled occasion. It was complemented by a group of our students venturing to Sydney for the WYD celebration. The spirit of Edmund Rice was very much alive at CBC in 2008.

It was a year when our students continued to shine academically. Curriculum Council statistics ranked CBC in the top 25 schools, according to Tertiary Entrance scores. This is an outstanding performance and a credit to our boys and teachers, given that our results were significantly better than other schools with a comparable socio-economic profile. Winning “A” division carnivals in swimming, athletics and cross country enhanced the College’s reputation as a strong sporting college.

A comprehensive building program commenced to welcome a new intake of year 7 students and to improve existing performing arts’ facilities.

Throughout a busy school year, the boys remained thoroughly good company and excellent ambassadors for a College in the tradition of Edmund Rice.
he enrolment numbers at Rostrevor continue to be over 1,100. Year 12 (Stage 2) results were the best that Rostrevor has achieved in well over a decade – 74% of all students’ results were A or B. Connectedness was the College theme in 2008. The Board’s Strategic Plan was almost completed. 2008 was a very challenging year for Rostrevor College from a financial view point. The College employed 182 staff as at August census of which 102 were full-time and 82 part-time (many due to boarding).

Celebrations
• First Day welcoming ceremony in the Valley
• Dux Assembly and Prefects’ Investiture
• Music Night and Music tour to Mt Gambier – Senior Jazz Band, National Champion Schools Band
• Year 12 Graduation Ceremonies (all went extremely well)
• Sacramental programs in Years 3 and 4 – strong focus in Junior School

Pastoral Care highlights
• Father (Male Mentor) – Son / Rite of Passage / Induction Camp for Yr 9 students
• 11th biennial Indian Pilgrimage
• Indigenous Immersion – Year 9
• Wandana Breakfast Program
• Inaugural Enculturation Day
• Rock ‘n Water
• Mother and Son Nights

Co-curricular highlights
• Number and type of activities continues to grow - Involvement of students and staff again at a near maximum level. For example, St Kevin’s exchange to Melbourne, First XI Cricket team were the State 20 / 20 Champions, Senior Volleyball team remains undefeated, SAPSSA finals in football and soccer and focus on Athletics – Junior School Catholic Schools Champions

Curriculum highlights
• New Japanese Learning Space for Junior School
• Brickfield House upgrade – Adaptive Education, OT, Speech new ESO support
• NAPLAN Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 performed well in the NAPLAN testing this year with between 90% to 98% achieving at or above the National Standard.
• Environmental Program embedded into Junior School and developing in Middle School
• The development of an R-12 Timetable
• Appointment of a Coordinator of Flexible Learning
• Planning for the Personal Learning Plan and Future SACE Literacy and Numeracy implementation in 2009

RISA (New to Rostrevor in 2008)
• The introduction of the Rostrevor Indigenous Sports Academy has proven to be a huge success. It has added an extra dimension to the culture of the school, having added much depth to our pastoral care system and providing a wonderful opportunity for boys from the most remote parts of Australia. The extra demands this has placed on staff were significant and the teachers involved need both praise and congratulations for their outstanding patience, work ethic and support of these boys.
2008 was St Paul’s College’s 50th Jubilee Year, with celebrations capping a busy year of change, development and action. Highlights included:

- The 50th Jubilee mass celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, a commemorative assembly, ‘Return to St Paul’s’ day, and a Jubilee Dinner.
- The opening of the new Brothers’ Building - the new physical face to the college, now providing a contemporary and attractive working and administrative centre for staff, students and parents.

- A College leadership restructure, resulting in new roles of Deputy Principal and Heads of Administration and Pastoral Care, along with changed pastoral care structures for boys in the senior years.
- In curriculum, work continued on increased levels of accountability and consistency, the introduction of a new report format, and ongoing collaboration with Kildare College at Year 12 level.
- New or revitalised co-curricular ventures included the formation of a Social Justice Group – ‘Fight 4 J’, stemming from World Youth Day, and the reintroduction of a 1st XVIII football team for the first time in many years. In addition, the regular cycle of teaching, learning and other activities from Years 5 to 12 continued, including – the annual Musical, Christian Service Learning, Pedal Prix, Premier’s Reading Challenge, music concerts and the extensive inter-school sporting program.

Trinity College proudly acknowledges four pillars of education – faith, academic, cultural and sport. We are pleased to report that our students achieved considerable success in all these areas. Perhaps the highlight of 2008 for many of our students was their involvement in our sacramental and retreat programs; for nine students their selection for the India Pilgrimage where they worked with some of the poorest of people will be well remembered. We supported both the National and State launch of EREA and held our own school assembly to celebrate this affirmation of our identity.

Our academic successes were evident in many competitions throughout the different Year levels and culminated in the outstanding results achieved by our Leaving students in the 2008 Tertiary Entrance Exams.

For the fifth year in succession Trinity College was awarded the Catholic Performing Arts Festival overall trophy, plus nine individual shields for various aspects of chorale, instrumental, drama and dance performance.

In 1968 the Christian Brothers, under the leadership of Br John Carrigg, made a decision for Trinity College to accept an invitation to be part of the Public School’s Association (PSA). In 2008, we honoured 40 years of Trinity’s membership of the PSA with a function at our Waterford playing fields. From very humble beginnings we are now considered one of the dominant PSA schools in many of the major sports.

As an adjunct to our formal curriculum our students’ participation in World Youth Day, the Music tour to Beijing, the Basketball tour to the USA, the Year 7 tour to Canberra and Year 6 tour to Kalgoorlie will remain with them as a highlight.

The low point of 2008 was the death of our beloved chaplain, Fr Michael McMahon, much loved and respected by students and staff alike – we still feel his loss.

In the Capital Development area we were pleased to see the groundwork begin for our new four storey Cultural Centre which will provide a purpose built facility for Art and Music as well as much needed staff facilities.

As a school we look forward with excitement to 2009.
2008 was St Paul's College’s 50th Jubilee Year, with celebrations capping a busy year of change, development and action. Highlights included:

- The 50th Jubilee mass celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, a commemorative assembly, ‘Return to St Paul’s’ day, and a Jubilee Dinner.
- The opening of the new Brothers’ Building - the new physical face to the College, now providing a contemporary and attractive working and administrative centre for staff, students and parents.
- A College leadership restructure, resulting in new roles of Deputy Principal and Heads of Administration and Pastoral Care, along with changed pastoral care structures for boys in the senior years.
- In curriculum, work continued on increased levels of accountability and consistency, the introduction of a new report format, and ongoing collaboration with Kildare College at Year 12 level.
- New or revitalised co-curricular ventures included the formation of a Social Justice Group – ‘Fight 4 J’, stemming from World Youth Day, and the reintroduction of a 1st XVIII football team for the first time in many years. In addition, the regular cycle of teaching, learning and other activities from Years 5 to 12 continued, including – the annual Musical, Christian Service Learning, Pedal Prix, Premier’s Reading Challenge, music concerts and the extensive inter-school sporting program.

SCHOOL REFLECTIONS - WESTERN REGION

St Paul's College, Gilles Plains
Principal: Mr Daniel Lawler – Enrolment: 603

Trinity College, East Perth
Principal: Mr Ivan Banks – Enrolment: 1,192

Trinity College proudly acknowledges four pillars of education – faith, academic, cultural and sport. We are pleased to report that our students achieved considerable success in all these areas. Perhaps the highlight of 2008 for many of our students was their involvement in our sacramental and retreat programs; for nine students their selection for the India Pilgrimage where they worked with some of the poorest of people will be well remembered. We supported both the National and State launch of EREA and held our own school assembly to celebrate this affirmation of our identity.

Our academic successes were evident in many competitions throughout the different Year levels and culminated in the outstanding results achieved by our Leaving students in the 2008 Tertiary Entrance Exams. For the fifth year in succession Trinity College was awarded the Catholic Performing Arts Festival overall trophy, plus nine individual shields for various aspects of chorale, instrumental, drama and dance performance.

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