ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction
The College Board has been active this year in trying to implement the vision of the College to provide quality Catholic education for the students in the Geraldton region. You will have noted that there is a rather large construction, being the College’s gymnasium, taking place on the western end of the property and this will be a considerable asset for the education of the students.

The quality of education, the student results and the commitment of our staff is fantastic in all regards and it really gives me an enormous sense of pride to represent the College and to be associated with it. It continues to function at such a high level and for that we are most grateful to all involved.

Student Performance

WACE Exams
The College’s students performed particularly well in the 2011 WACE exams. There were twelve students who achieved an ATAR score above ninety and this is a really terrific result for our young people. In particular, Simon Thuijs received a General Exhibition, which places him in the top 40 students in Western Australia, and for that he should be heartily congratulated.

Naplan Testing
The students at the College in Years 7 and 9 participate in the Naplan Results, which is a national testing for students in 3, 5, 7 and 9. The results of the students improved at a rate equivalent to the students in the rest of Australia from Years 7 to 9. In education circles, this is called value adding. In other words, the school is making a difference to how the students perform and we are pleased with the results the students are achieving. One of the useful aspects of Naplan testing is that it does identify and diagnose student performance and it gives us information to alter our teaching and learning programs, to make sure that students are getting the best out of themselves.

Strategic Planning
The College engaged the services of Dr Liz Pattison to develop a Strategic Plan for the College, for the third time. The Plan will take us through the next four years and it will support the Quality Catholic Schooling framework. This project
was supported by a grant from the Federal Government under the Empowering Schools Project. The Plan will set objectives for the College, over the next four years under the headings of:

- Catholic Identity
- Community
- Student Learning and Support
- Stewardship.

It is useful to report that a review of our previous Strategic Plan indicated that of the goals which it set for the College, all were achieved except for one, which has been included in the new Plan. It is important to review progress of such things, otherwise they just become documents filed away somewhere.

I have to note, with some pride, that the feedback that I received from Dr Pattison, indicated that the College is well advanced in comparison to other similar schools and she reported that the College is a cycle ahead of most schools. So that provided us with a good degree of comfort. The process also gathered feedback from parents, students and staff and there were many, many positive comments gathered in that process and I believe that it is a credit to the College that each of these groups is happy in most ways. That is not to say that there is not improvement that can be made, but there was an overwhelming response from parents, students and staff.

**Parents’ and Friends’ Association**

I would like to commend the work of the Parents’ and Friends’ Association at the College this year. I find them a really useful sounding board and I particularly value the views that they share with us. As well as being a consultative group, they also are responsible for administering the P & F Levy and they have supported a number of projects.

The Parents’ and Friends’ Association have chosen to set aside some of this year’s funds to add to next year’s funds to purchase the equipment for the weights room in the gymnasium and to purchase chairs for school assemblies. They were also responsible for the initiative of running an Open Day at the College on the Year 6 Orientation Day. This was an opportunity for new parents to view the College and to be welcomed into our community.
I particularly value the work of this group and I would also like to recognise Luci Bailey’s efforts as President, as she is stepping down from that role in 2013. We are always keen for new members of our group to participate in our discussions and deliberations.

**Religious Education and Faith**
The College participated in the Bishop’s Religious Literacy testing for Year 9 students, once again and our students appear to be making improvements in their knowledge of their Religious Education curriculum. Teaching Religious Education to a not always motivated audience is a challenging job for our teachers and in many ways it is a counter-cultural activity in the world in which we live. I commend them for their efforts in this area. It is worth noting that many of our students include Religion and Life in their WACE graduation requirement and most of our students have included it in their top 4 subjects to calculate an ATAR.

An interesting initiative which articulated to the Year 12 Retreat this year was the Camino Salvado Walk from Subiaco to New Norcia. This activity was organised by Damian Ramos and he walked the distance with twelve of our senior students to arrive at New Norcia for the commencement of the Year 12 Retreat. The students reported this as being a fantastic event at which the solved most of the problems of the world, whilst travelling to New Norcia.

The College’s first Remar group began activities this year and I am delighted to report that this youth formation program has made a grand start and the students are participating with a high level of enthusiasm and engagement.

I would also like to commend the work of Mr Donaldson, with his Youth Ministry Team and the Junior St Vincent de Paul Group, which operate in Year 12. These students are really a marvellous example to all of us and they carry out much good work.

**Education Initiatives**
The teachers continue to prepare for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and they have engaged in a considerable amount of professional learning to support this initiative. It is worth noting that Mrs Judith Burrows was part of a research group to prepare assessments and resourcing for the
History curriculum and Judith reported that this was an entirely valuable exercise as it gave her insights into the process.

The Year 10 structure underwent considerable change in 2012 with the implementation of a senior school model for our students. The initial feedback from teachers is entirely positive in that they have highlighted that the students have a greater degree of preparation for their senior school studies, which they have already commenced in Year 11.

The students in our current Year 9 cohort, as you know, are six months older than in the past and the school needs to respond to this change in starting age and the greater age of the students.

I would like to commend the Heads of Learning Areas, in particular, who orchestrated this change in curriculum under a very short timeframe. They did an outstanding job. The students were delighted with the freedom that it gave them to choose the pathways which best suited their interests and career aspirations.

**Staff**

Each year, we have a number of staff who leave the College and I wish to recognise their efforts and wish them well for the future:

- Kyohhei Futaki – Perth
- Stephanie Pope – returning to Perth
- Julie Martin-Carabes – retiring
- Pia Metcalfe – travelling
- Tom Jones – Perth
- Dale Mosedale – retiring.

Whilst Julie Martin-Carabes and Dale Mosedale have officially resigned, they both say they are actually not retiring. Each of them has already indicated that they will continue to serve the College through relief teaching and short term contracts. However, it is important for us to note the contribution of both these ladies, who are long-standing members of our community and both have a reputation for achieving outstanding results with their students. Whilst we know that we will see them about the school in 2013, we recognise that they will have more time to pursue other interests and we certainly hope that that is an enjoyable time for them.