



## Principal's Address 2017

### Introduction

Good evening and welcome,

Our focus this year on the College value of Presence has encouraged our community to be more aware of our relationships with others and by being personally present. Our immersion experiences and outreach activities have provided opportunities to immerse ourselves in the lives of others by going out to meet them in their own space and in their own culture.

For 2018, the College will focus on the value of Compassion.

The work of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice, is centred upon their response to the needs of those less fortunate than themselves. Their compassion for others moved them to give of their material goods and to give of their life so that others would benefit. This compassion is enshrined in our motto 'For Others.

### Thank You to Robyn Gummery

I was fortunate to be on Long Service Leave for Semester 1 of this year.

During my absence, Mrs Robyn Gummery was the acting Principal. I want to acknowledge her generosity in agreeing to take on the role of Principal for an extended period of time and to congratulate her upon the successful manner in which she did so. Robyn not only managed to keep the College functioning smoothly and efficiently but also managed to organise the installation and Blessing of the Nano Nagle statue and gathering area, celebrate Bishop Justin Bianchini's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the College Gymnasium and facilitate the ordination of our new Bishop, Michael Morrissey in the same Gymnasium.

### Nagle Catholic College 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It is my pleasure to announce the commencement of a year of celebration to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nagle Catholic College. A special logo has been created to mark this event.

The amalgamation of Stella Maris Presentation College and St Patrick's College gave rise to the tentative beginnings of Nagle in 1994. The student population then was approximately 660 students.

As we commence this year of celebration, I want to acknowledge the foundation upon which the College stands. The selfless and dedicated work of both the Presentation Sisters and the Christian Brothers cannot be understated. Their outstanding commitment to the students and their families in very challenging times sets a standard for all to aspire to. Their legacy lives on in the form of the College values, which have been modelled upon the lives of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice.

The appreciation of our heritage extends to the former students of St Pat's and Stella Maris. Whilst the establishment of Nagle marked a new beginning, the connection and shared history of the three schools remains entrenched forever.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work of the two former Principals, Brother Warwick Bryant and Mr Declan Tanham, and all of the staff who have made a magnificent contribution over the years. I want to



acknowledge all of the Board members and the P & F members, the parents and every single student who attended any of the three associated schools. On behalf of the College, I thank you for your contribution.

There are a number of activities and occasions planned to mark this special achievement that we celebrate. As we were planning these celebrations, I did spend some time thinking about what it is that we are actually celebrating.

The obvious came to mind easily:

- A doubling of student numbers and teachers;
- Outstanding academic results which enable access to universities and other training organisations;
- The creation of pathways, which lead to apprenticeships or further vocational training;
- Exceptional sporting achievements within team structures and as individuals; and
- The spiritual nourishment and development of the Nagle community.

Whilst these achievements are commendable, Nagle is a learning community with a deep and deliberate focus upon the development of the human person.

I recently met with some of our successful Year 12 Gap Year students. This interaction, and more importantly, their responses gave great insight into what we celebrate. I would like to share some of their responses with you.

**Question 1: What attracts you to this position?**

- The income from this job will help remove some of the financial burden from my family.
- This position would be an excellent chance to put something back into the school community.
- My goal is to help improve student self esteem and prove to them that they are capable of achieving their goals.

**Question 2: What understanding have you gained from your time at Nagle?**

- With hard work comes rewards.
- No task is ever too big or a question too small to ask.
- If you don't succeed try again.
- Kindness and patience are the keys to success in life.
- Nagle has shown me the importance of family and has become my family in my years at the school.

**Question 3: What have you learnt during your time at Nagle?**

- To always smile and enjoy the beautiful place we live in.
- To always be 'For Others'.
- To try your hardest.
- To be different and unique, accepting everyone's differences and embracing your own.
- To not be afraid to ask the difficult questions and strive for what is right.

**Question 4: What statement would you like to make about your experience?**

- Teamwork gets you further in life than you do by yourself. Nagle is a community of people who work together. I have learnt that if we all work together we will all enjoy our roles within the Nagle Community.



- Throughout my life I have learnt that no one is the same and people learn and cope with situations in many different ways. No one way is right or wrong.
- What I have gained from my education at Nagle is far greater than any ATAR score. I have learnt to have faith in myself from those around me and I wish to have a role in inspiring others.

When I compare the Mission Statement of the College and the statements from our students, it is deeply satisfying to note the congruence and alignment of both.

This is why we celebrate!

### **Celebrations Planned**

#### St Pat's Students – March 2018

Invitation to St Pat's Day Games (As spectators and for the 'Boomalacker' War Cry);  
College Tour; and  
Sundowner on St Pat's Oval.

#### Stella Maris Students – June 2018

College Tour; and  
Champagne Sundowner in the Staff Room.

#### Nagle Students

Refurbishment of the Einstein Circuit in the Library (in conjunction with the P & F);  
Refurbishment of a new learning space designed to support a contemporary, flexible and dynamic approach to learning; and  
Four occasions (one per Term) of special treats or activities.

#### Nagle Staff

Refurbishment of the Staff Room (in conjunction with the P & F); and  
Part scholarship (to the value of \$1,500) for staff to deepen their knowledge of Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice, by participating in a study pilgrimage to Ireland.

#### Nagle Community

A Silver Jubilee Mass;  
A Gala Function to be held on the College oval; and  
The establishment of an Alumni Organisation, to be known as 'Friends of Nagle', to encompass former students of all three schools, their teachers, other supporters and business associates. The 'Friends of Nagle' motto which will encapsulate their mission is 'For Others, For Life'.

### **Long Serving Staff**

Three staff members will celebrate 25 years of employment at Nagle in 2018. They become the first recipients of a new award to be known as the 'Nagle Catholic College Silver Jubilee Staff Award'. Staff who qualify for this award are presented with a personal plaque at the commencement of their 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to the College. Their names will also be added to a perpetual trophy to formally record and acknowledge their years of service and dedication to the College.

*Mr Danny Bowen* has had a number of roles at the College including teacher, Head of Learning Area - Health & Physical Education, Director of Students and he is now Deputy Principal - Faith & Life. When asked about his thoughts on Nagle, Danny stated "There is a wonderful feel around the school. I probably put the



school before my home life. I am grateful that I have worked in this type of school. It's a nice place to work, people are great. It's a nice working environment. I'm pretty happy."

Thank you Danny for the outstanding service which you have given to the College.

*Mrs Judith Burrows* initially came to Geraldton for two years to teach at Stella Maris as her first teaching job. Thirty years on she is still here. Judith loves the town, loves the people and loves the students. Judith is one of ten teachers selected to participate in a Catholic system initiative to build a Virtual School Network. Thank you Judith for the amazing teaching contribution which you have given to the students, staff and parents of the College.

*Mr Peter Saunders* is the Property and Maintenance Manager and leads a team of dedicated women and men. Peter is a chippy by trade and when he got a job at St Pat's his starting wage was \$187.00 week. As the school was going broke, he used to go out to the tip on Saturdays and get timber and metal so he had stuff to work with during the week. When the amalgamation was announced in early 1993, Peter met with Brother Tony Daley and let him know he had been given a job elsewhere. Tony's response was "Don't leave Pete, I need ya!" and that was it, Peter stayed and was appointed as Property Manager. Peter loves being involved with Nagle and says that it's great to work here.

Thank you Peter for your dedication to the College and for all of the hidden work that gets done behind the scenes to ensure that the College is able to operate efficiently.

In recognition of the leadership that Danny and Peter have given to the College, it is my pleasure to inform you that their legacy will remain. From this time forward, the Sanford Street Oval will be known as the Peter Saunders Oval and the current Year 7 Oval will be known as the Danny Bowen Oval. Congratulations to the both of you and thank you for your outstanding leadership.

### **Retiring Staff**

I would also like to acknowledge the work of three staff members who will complete 24 years of service to the College when they retire at the end of this year.

*Breid and Mike Peake* are presently sitting on a beach in Streaky Bay, South Australia. Breid has been the Personal Assistant to myself and to past Principals. She has performed this role not only with a great sense of professionalism and commitment but also with a smile. Mike has worked as a teacher in the Technologies department and until recently was the Head of Learning Area. He is highly regarded as an outstanding teacher and individual within the College.

*Robin Meder*, who is with us tonight, has been a long serving teacher within the Technologies department. Her focus has been primarily upon Food Technologies (or Home Economics or Cooking as it has been referred to in the past). She has been a willing contributor to the life of the College and a significant force in helping to grow the *Rags to Riches* event through her own contribution and that of her classes. Robin, thank you for your dedication and service to our community.

Whilst the recognition of our major milestone leads us to celebrate what has been achieved, it also challenges us to consider what opportunities lie ahead.

Guided by our Aspiration Statement within the Strategic Plan, Nagle Catholic College will strive to be a learning community that applies the best theory, practice and evidence about contemporary learning.



Under the guidance of our expert teachers, learning boundaries will be pushed to provide a flexible curriculum that encourages students to take risks as self directed and independent learners.

Our learning environment will transform to support a contemporary and dynamic approach to learning that promotes the entrepreneurial skills of:

- Collaboration;
- Communication;
- Critical thinking;
- Problem solving; and
- Leadership.

Nagle Catholic College will continue to emerge as a community, which fosters faith, learning, collaboration, imagination and innovation. From a practical perspective, an application for Nagle to permanently increase student enrolment from seven streams to eight streams will be presented to the Catholic Education Commission later this week.

A new Capital Development Plan is also being submitted as part of the application.

Major capital works scheduled for approval include:

A new Music and Arts building scheduled for completion in 2020;

A new Technologies building scheduled for completion in 2023; and

And new Science Laboratories scheduled for completion in 2024.

In closing my address, I extend my thanks to all of the staff at Nagle. They work so hard and give so generously of themselves and I want them to know that they are greatly appreciated. I also extend my thanks to the Board members and the P& F Committee for their support, advice and contribution, which I find to be so valuable.

I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and rejuvenating holiday and a peace filled Christmas.