I would like to thank Dr Watson for giving us the opportunity to sit on the Board as advisory members. We look forward to offering continued support for the Mission and Vision of the College. Indeed, the Mission and Vision of Thomas Carr College has blossomed and grown throughout 2014. The tireless efforts of Dr Watson and the College Executive have
“A board has the responsibility of ensuring that the college is faithful to its character as a Catholic school. It develops policies to enable the college to function, it supervises the college’s financial arrangements and it offers significant support to the principal and other key leaders of the college.”

(Catholic Education Office Melbourne: Guidelines for Boards of Regional and Diocesan Colleges)

resulted in the initiation, planning and completion of three new facilities for our children’s faith development and education.

It was with pride and joy that the College community celebrated the realisation of the great vision of Mr Bruce Runnalls (College Principal 2000–2010) with the Blessing and Opening of the Bruce Runnalls Middle Years Centre. This wonderful facility allows our students to learn in an open, inspiring and supportive environment. It was a pleasure to attend Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews in the Centre. The friendly atmosphere was heightened by the gathering place in its centre, where refreshments were served by our hard working and dedicated Parents and Friends Association.

Yet another wonderful achievement was the solemn blessing and opening of the Good Samaritan Campus. This facility is the jewel in the iD9 Program for our Year 9 students.

The dedicated staff are to be congratulated for the wonderful effort that it obviously takes to co-ordinate such an educational endeavor. Their care and support of the students are commendable and as parents we are truly grateful.

Last year the College was successful in securing a capital development grant to build a Trade Training Centre. This wonderful facility will soon be ready to provide students at Thomas Carr College, and those of the Wyndham Cluster, with the opportunity to undertake a Building and Construction course. Students will be able to obtain a certificate in Carpentry, Furniture Making or Bricklaying.

The Board fully supports Dr Watson’s vision to provide state of the art facilities for our students. It was with great excitement that we supported his mission and vision to establish a College Chapel. After two long years of research and meetings, we now have a special place to in which to gather and connect with each other and our God. The official blessing and opening took place on Wednesday December 9.

Other events that have highlighted the amazing talents and achievements of our students include the very entertaining production ‘High School Spoof-ical’; the showcase of musical talent at the annual concert; the annual Art and Technology exhibition and fashion parade titled ‘Vision’; and the annual Awards Night, ‘A Night to Shine.’ I encourage you to attend all College events and liturgies. They are a wonderful opportunity to gather, support and celebrate our children’s wonderful achievements.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all Board members for their generous gift of time and expertise in support of the College and its endeavors. Their interest in the welfare and education of our students and the College is valued and most appreciated.
I have the pleasure of presenting my annual report covering key aspects of College life in 2014.

2014 COLLEGE THEME
Our theme for 2014 was:

‘Entrust yourselves to God and dare to dream’.

This was drawn from the same theme of Catholic Education Week in 2014 and was paraphrased from Pope Francis’ message to World Youth Day pilgrims in Rio de Janeiro, 2013. In his actual words, Pope Francis proposed a great challenge:

Dear young people do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you!

Do not be afraid to dream of great things.

Dreams are not only God inspired but also God given. God places the seeds in our hearts and, as we become closer to Christ and more attuned to his heart, these seeds flourish into dreams. May we not be afraid to dream nor afraid to pursue our dream when God opens the door, even if this requires us taking a huge leap of faith. When we allow God to guide our every step, we step into moments and places of grace.

Therefore, our challenge for 2014 was:
Together at Thomas Carr, we will dare to dream to reach our full potential, with God at the centre of our plan.

ENROLMENT
Our enrolment for 2014 was a total 1174 students, with the breakdown of year levels as follows:
Year 7: 206
Year 8: 206
Year 9: 207
Year 10: 192
Year 11: 177
Year 12: 186

STAFFING
This year we welcomed to Thomas Carr College the following new staff:
• Ms Costantina Stephanou
• Mr Ernie Rijs
• Ms Jen Mahony
• Ms Sarah Parcesepe

We welcomed back the following staff who return after periods of leave:
• Mr Nik Brundenell
• Mrs Tamara Lourdes
• Mrs Simone Lucas

During and at the end of this year, the following staff concluded their time at the College. I thank each of them for their commitment and dedication and wish them all the very best for 2015:
• Ms Costantina Stephanou
• Ms Colleen Pope
• Mr Michael Goss
• Mr Nik Brundenell
• Mr Rovaun Alexander
• Mr Peter Roberston
• Mr Sergio Pomasan
• Mrs Kristy Argus
• Sr Lorraine Testa
• Mrs Tess Rundell
• Mr Marco Cardinali
• Ms Maya Wong
• Mr Vinod Boompagul
• Ms Lauren Smith
• Mr Jack Smith
• Mr Luke Hodgart
• Mrs Susan Colacino
• Mr Dan Galvin
• Mrs Sasha Dickson
The commencement assembly also provided a fitting forum to present the Art Acquisition Awards:

- **People’s Choice Award**
  - Katarina Carapina

- **Middle School Art Acquisition Award**
  - Sally Ryan

- **Senior School Art Acquisition Award**
  - Ashleigh Barnes

- **Art & Technology Art Acquisition Award**
  - Daniel Negrulj

- **Deputy Principal’s Art Acquisition Award**
  - Leinahtan Sisson

- **Principal’s Art Acquisition Award**
  - Courtney Cheasley

We then recognised the outstanding academic achievement of 6 students from the Class of 2013. A presentation was made to Vuong Phan, Dux of the College, who achieved an ATAR of 99.65. The presentation was accepted by Mariana Nguyen due to Vuong being in Vietnam with family. The following students were recognised for achieving an ATAR of greater than 90:

- **Nicholas Mastos**
  - 97.30

- **Aaron Diker**
  - 92.85

- **Quynh Diep**
  - 91.50

- **Harsh Bhambra**
  - 90.10

- **Isaac Lobo**
  - 90.00

**SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCEMENT**

In February, we gathered to celebrate the commencement of the new school year and the academic achievements of our top performing VCE students in 2013. We were fortunate to have Bishop Vincent Long, our Regional Bishop, as the principal celebrant, along with our Canonical Administrators, Fr Jude, Fr Pius and Fr Frank.

Our new College Captains were acknowledged during the assembly:

- **College Captains**
  - Abby McDonald and Nicholas Parella

- **College Vice Captains**
  - Helena Carapina and Adrian Debrincat

- **Middle School Captains**
  - Erin Sidwell and Jacob Sigismondi

**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

Over the past four years, the College has undertaken over $12 million of capital development.
with a desire to ensure that every student who attended the College would receive the best Catholic education possible. Bruce worked tirelessly on establishing good relationships with staff and students and on providing a positive climate for learning.

Bruce ensured that Thomas Carr College was well placed to deal with the demands of educating in the 21st century. This requires a move away from teacher-centred classrooms to collaborative learning and inquiry, as well as the development of best practices in teaching and learning. The new Middle Years Centre will certainly allow for this to occur.

The renaming of a building in honour of Bruce does not tell the whole story of Bruce Runnalls. The legacy of a wonderful person committed to Catholic education will continue to be ever present each and every time the school gathers. There are countless students and staff who can recount their individual encounters with a person who cared deeply, took time to recognise individuals, and who was able to put people at ease in his company. During his time as Principal, he always made time for staff and students no matter who they were. Bruce would wander the grounds of the College, catching up with students and staff, and it would not take much to get him onto the topic of his beloved Brisbane Lions.

During his career in Catholic Education and particularly as Principal, Bruce was a great mentor to many people. I valued greatly Bruce as a mentor since our days working together at St Patrick's College. I am delighted that Bruce's legacy at Thomas Carr College and to Catholic education will be remembered through the naming of our Middle Years Centre.

Our wonderful new building has involved the construction of twenty general purpose learning areas, two science laboratories, associated preparation and staff rooms, and a Computer Centre. The total cost of the building project was $7 million, totally funded by the College (no government grants, state or federal). The ability of the College to undertake a project of such size is due to the support we have received from the Catholic Development Fund (CDF). We are most grateful to CDF for providing the finance for this project so that we can continue to provide the best possible facilities for families that seek a Catholic education.

I would like to pay tribute to and thank a number of people instrumental in the planning, design and construction of the Bruce Runnalls Middle Years Centre:

• Architects, Smith and Tracey
• Builders, Total Construction
• Business Manager, Ms Sharon O'Neill
• Property Manager, Mr Shane Werner
• The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Property Services

The completion of this project has now provided our College with the infrastructure to ensure our students are able to learn within a contemporary learning environment.

The Good Samaritan Campus
On a beautiful winter’s afternoon on Sunday 3 August, the community of Coragulac gathered with members of the College community for the Solemn Blessing and Officially Opening of the Good Samaritan Campus, officiated by Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat. Below is an excerpt from my address on this occasion, along with a paraphrased acknowledgement of the people and groups who played a vital role in the successful completion of the Campus.

Today marks a significant occasion in the life of our College and also the Parish of Cororooke and St Brendan’s Community here in Coragulac, where we are able to name our new campus in honour of the Good Samaritan Sisters. The sisters have been an integral part of the history of this parish and local community. It is wonderful to have a number of Good Samaritan sisters return for this occasion.
In November, the Trade training Centre was completed and handed over to the College in time for our building and construction students to complete their year's work. The new facility incorporates a large workshop area to accommodate carpentry, furniture making and bricklaying courses. The facility also has a learning lab, staff office areas and associated bathroom facilities, along with ample storage. Many visitors to the College have commented that it is one of the most impressive trade training facilities for building and construction they have seen. The architecturally designed building will be officially blessed and opened by Bishop Vincent Long in February 2015.

The total cost of our refurbishments was $800,000, totally funded by the College. No government grants (state or federal) have been provided to assist us in this major capital work.

I would not be able to stand before you today to celebrate this blessing and opening if it were not for a number of people who played a significant part in making our vision for a country campus become a reality. I would like to thank:

- Members of the Parish Leadership Team, in particular Mrs Lucy Darcy and Mrs Carmel Finlayson, along with Mrs Kathleen O'Donnell and Mrs Margaret Allan
- Mr Mark Bromley, the Diocesan Business Manager
- Bishop Paul Bird for his support
- Our architect, Mr Owen Meade
- Our builders, Spence Construction
- The Interior Designer, Mrs Dianne Gow
- Our Business Manager, Ms Sharon O’Neill
- Our Property Manager, Mr Shane Werner
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Property Services, particularly Mr Dao Tran
- The Principal of St Brendan’s Primary School, Anne Ruddell

The completion of this project has now provided our College with a facility that is the envy of many Catholic secondary schools.

The last two years has seen many meetings and negotiations with Church authorities, local government, school boards and parish communities to realise our dream of establishing a country campus for our students in this wonderful part of Victoria and in this former Good Samaritan Convent.

From my point of view, the transformation of a tired but much loved convent into a bright and vibrant accommodation and learning facility has been quiet remarkable. We are so very pleased that once again this magnificent old building is being used for the Catholic education of young people.

Our wonderful new campus has seen a total refurbishment of the former convent. It has involved the installation of a commercial kitchen, the renovations of the bathrooms, a repainting of the entire convent, and new carpets and window furnishings.

I am particularly pleased to have been able to retain the Chapel as a sacred space. Of particular note is the restoration of the original tabernacle and the placement of this under the wonderful stained glass window, with a striking grey colour for the sanctuary area.

While working through the building, we were able to uncover the original Stations of the Cross. They were found in the small confessional, a little worse for wear. Time had taken their toll on these icons. However, they too have now been restored and are back on the walls of the Chapel.

Trade Training Centre

The Centre will provide for many additional pathways for our senior students, particularly with the delivery of the Certificate II and III in Building and Construction from the beginning of 2015.
College Chapel
After 18 years, Thomas Carr College now has a dedicated sacred space which takes pride of place at the front of the College. It is a tangible sign of the importance of our Catholic identity and ethos and the importance our faith in the education of our children. The Chapel was blessed and officially opened on Tuesday 9 December by Archbishop Denis Hart, in a very moving liturgy.

Redevelopment of the Front of the College
After having received the necessary planning permits from Wyndham City Council, work commenced late in 2014 on the redevelopment of the frontage of the College, along Thomas Carr Drive. The works comprise:

• the creation of 10 additional car parking spaces in front of the Gym
• the development of a dedicated ‘Bus Only’ inlet and associated bus pick-up and drop-off zone
• the establishment of car parking spaces for the Trade Training Centre
• the creation of a 15-minute car parking spaces close to the College reception
• the establishment of a 1-minute drop off and pick up zone in the existing bus zone
• the replacement of the fence along Thomas Carr Drive
• the provision of electronic gates along Thomas Carr Drive
• the remodeling of the College’s main entrance

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends (P & F) Association was held in April. The annual report was presented and elections held for the positions on the Executive. The following parents were duly elected to the Executive of the Association:

President
Mrs Carmen Gleeson

Secretary
Mrs Ange Drever

Treasurer
Mrs Deb Griffiths

I thank the abovementioned for their willingness to lead the P & F Association and all the other parents who attend the meetings during the course of the year.

This year the Association held a very successful Trivia Night. It featured a significant increase in the value of prizes and challenging trivia questions. It was a great event was enjoyed by all. Other fundraising initiatives included a fees raffle and the annual Bunnings BBQ.

In addition, the College was accepted to be a polling station for the November State Election. The Association took advantage of this and held a very successful BBQ during the course of the day.

Under the guidance of Mrs Janice Hodgart, the Association continued to provide a wonderful service to our families with the operation of the secondhand uniform shop. Not only does the shop provide an option for parents looking at purchasing items, it also assists parents who are looking to sell various items.

The Association also contributed significantly to the acquisition of liturgical furniture for the Chapel. I was delighted to receive a cheque for $30,000 for this purpose. This was a very tangible way for the Association to demonstrate support for our Catholic identity and ethos. This furniture has been duly recognised as a P & F donation.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY
Once again the Catholic Identity Team provided us with many opportunities to celebrate the significant events in the life of the College through the celebration of the Eucharist. They ensured that the liturgical life of the College continued to flourish.

The College marked the beginning of Lent with the distribution of ashes during Homeroom. Soon after, the College Choir led...
The Social Justice team has been working very hard this year. Again, the Winter Sleep Out was one of the events organised by the committee, along with the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal conducted through our Homerooms. The Winter Sleep Out provided a wonderful opportunity for over 50 of our students to sleep in less comfortable conditions than normal and to hear from a number of guest speakers, who highlighted the problem of homelessness.

COLLEGE SPORTING CARNIVALS
The College continued the tradition of holding sporting carnivals in which our Houses battle it out for overall first place in the House Competition.

The Swimming Carnival saw all students and staff have a most enjoyable day. Many very eager students participated in the swimming events and novelty activities. Congratulations to Westport House on winning the House Swimming Shield. Congratulations also to the following student champions:

Year 7
Dean Currao
Tayla Venner

Year 8
Thomas Darlington
Shanais Rauner-Smith

Year 9
James Brasher
Montana Whittingham

Earlier, in July, Fr Jude, Mrs McCarthy and I had the good fortune of visiting Malta on our return from the Holy Lands. While in Malta, we visited St Paul’s Missionary College. I was delighted to find out that Fr Silvio was going to be visiting Australia in August, and as such invited him to visit Thomas Carr College. It was a joy and privilege to have him as the principal celebrant of our Assumption Day Eucharist.
The overall points and results for the 2014 House Competition were:

**First Place**
Galway 8643 points

**Second Place**
Westport 8382 points

**Third Place**
Moylough 7381 points

**Fourth Place**
Maynooth 6519 points

Congratulations Galway!

**ACS COMPETITION**

Once again the College participated in the sporting carnivals of the ASC (Association of Co-Educational Schools) Competition and the fixture matches of the Year 7 & 8, Year 9 and Senior competitions. The College enjoyed success in some of the carnivals and fixture matches, with a number of Grand Final victories. A more detailed report is contained in the Sports Report.

In March, the ASC Swimming Carnival was held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Well done to all students who were part of the swimming team on the way in which you competed and represented the College.

Our Athletics team ventured to the Albert Park Athletics facilities in May. The athletes and their committed teachers and coaches were blessed with beautiful weather.
Congratulations to our students and staff for their participation in and organisation of the Carnival.

Finally, in August, our Cross Country Team participated in the ACS Cross Country championships. For a pleasant change the weather was most favourable for this event.

September saw the annual presentation of the ACS All Star Teams at Loyola College, Watsonia. The students selected in this team represent the ACS in the annual competition against the Ballarat Associated Schools (BAS). Once again, Thomas Carr College was well represented in the ACS All Stars.

All students who participated in the various ACS competitions should be very proud of the way in which they represented the College. Congratulations to the following teams who won their competitions:

- Yr 7 Boys Volleyball A
- Yr 9 Girls Netball A
- Senior Girls Football

STUDENT LIFE

College Musical

September saw the premiere of ‘High School Spoof-ical’ and what a wonderful show! The cast and crew did an excellent job of bringing this musical comedy to life on stage at the Altona Theatre. The acting, staging, costumes and choreography were all superb, along with the comedic talents of our students.

Under the Direction of Mr Michael Dalley and the Musical Direction of Mr Mat Morse, along with the assistance of Ms Jen Mahony, the students were able to portray, quite magnificently, the humor of this musical. Congratulations to our cast and crew on providing such wonderful entertainment.

College Choir

Under the direction of Mr Mat Morse, the College Choir was prominent in all our College liturgies and major events. Their talents and achievements were constantly recognised and praised. There is no doubt that the College Choir has contributed greatly to the cultural life of Thomas Carr.

Year 9

All our Year 9 students participated in the College’s newly developed and innovative curriculum titled iD9. Year 9 marks the beginning of transition between the Middle and Senior School years, which is an important stage of development for our students. As part of the iD9 program, students participate in both a City Experience and a Country Experience:

City Experience

2014 saw a change to how the City Experience program was conducted. The emphasis was on respect, resilience and reliance on self. Students were issued with a passport which they had to have stamped whilst visiting key locations. The program recognised students’ increasing independence and a feature was for students to develop their own transport plans in order to complete set activities.

Year 7

In Term 1, the Year 7s completed a 3-day camp just outside of Woodend, providing them with an opportunity to enjoy each other’s company, to be introduced to the world of outdoor education and to establish learning goals for their first year in secondary school. As part of the transition from primary to secondary school, a number of our Year 7s also participated in the Parish Primary Schools Day with our feeder Catholic primary schools.

Year 8

Our Year 8 students this year enjoyed the Shine Program, designed to provide them with a number of varied physical challenges in an outdoor environment, such as surfing and mountain bike riding.

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Country Experience
The Country Experience aimed to provide all students with an exciting and challenging program in an environment that is safe, caring, structured and engaging. Students lived onsite for 2 weeks at the College’s Good Samaritan Campus, located at Coragulac. Their learning was linked with the ‘My Country’ curriculum outline. Living away from home gave each student an opportunity for growth and self-reflection. Their sense of independence was tempered with a better understanding of what it is to be a responsible adult living in a country community.

Year 10
Each year our Year 10 students participate in a week-long Work Experience Program. This provides a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience challenges of day-to-day work, such as travelling to and from places of employment and hours of work, and they also begin to explore work/career options once they have completed secondary school. This is a most worthwhile program and from all reports the Year 10 students have enjoyed.

I also enjoyed attending the Annual Year 10 Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful evening and the students are to be commended on their outstanding behaviour. This evening is evidence that our young people can enjoy themselves with having to resort to the consumption of alcohol.

Year 11
The focus in Year 11 remains on making a good start to either the VCE or VCAL and establishing good study habits. Our Year 11 students undertook their reflection days during the course of this year and also participated in various community service programs, such as visits to Oznam House, with the focus being, as it has for many years, on service to others.

Year 12
The Year 12 program focuses on preparing our students for life beyond secondary school. Much work is done with students on selection of tertiary institutions and investigating options for study, work and in some cases a gap year.

Our Year 12 students commenced the year with several reflection days which provided an opportunity to prepare for the rigours of Year 12 and the demands of life in this very important year. They concluded their time at the College with a Graduation Mass held at St Mary’s Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne, followed by the presentation of the graduates and a Graduation Dinner at the Flemington Racecourse. At each occasion, our Year 12 students are acknowledged for their contribution to the College. We thank them for being part of our community and wish them all the very best for the future.

Student Representative Council
This year, under the direction of Ms McDonald, Deputy Principal, the College continued to develop its Student Representative Council (SRC), with a continued increase in the number of student leadership opportunities within the College. I am delighted with this program and thank Ms McDonald for her work in establishing the SRC and for organising the SRC Workshop held during the year.

Student Principal for a Day
Again this year, the College participated in Student Principal for a Day initiative, a national event co-ordinated by the Principals Australia Institute. Student Principal for a Day provides a student with an opportunity to experience some of the elements of school leadership and the participating principals with an opportunity to listen to the voice of their student. Kerry Wang was the successfully nominated student.
Our students achieved outstanding results this year, with 5 distinction, 6 credits, 3 merits and 17 Participation Certificates being awarded.

Malaya and Borneo Veterans Service
Again this year, on 30 August, as part of our ongoing commitment to the Malaya Borneo Veterans, the College Choir and Student Representative Council participated in the annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Commemoration Service, held in front of the eternal flame at the Shrine of Remembrance. Our College Captains, Vice Captains and Middle School Leaders were the Banner Bearers and our College Choir performed the National Anthem. After the service, the former Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett, approached me and commented on the wonderful way in which the students represented the College at this significant occasion.

Thomas Carr Day
In May, the College celebrated our 18th Thomas Carr Day. Fr Jude celebrated Mass in the morning, followed by our students and staff enjoying various forms of entertainment, activities and rides. While the day is a welcome relief from the classroom, it also serves the purpose of allowing the school community to reflect upon the life of Thomas Carr and gain understanding of why our College was named in his honour. Thomas Carr’s life and legacy enables our students to engage with a person who dedicated his life to his God and ensured that the Gospel values, as expressed by Christ, were evidenced in his leadership of the early Catholic Church of Melbourne.

Recognition of our High Achieving Students
Again this year, the College will recognise the academic achievement of our students for Semester 1 & 2. Those students who have achieved the following results will be invited to attend a special luncheon where they will be presented with a Certificate of Achievement. The criteria for receiving this recognition for each year level are as follows:
• Students in Year 7 who achieved 90% or better in two examination
• Students in Year 8 who achieved 90% or better in three examinations
• Students in Year 9 – 11 who achieved 90% or better in four examinations

2014 ICAS Mathematics Competition
This year, 31 students from Years 7–12 participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Mathematics competition. The ICAS suite is developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), a leading international educational assessment organisation specialising in large-scale measurement and assessment programs in Australia and 20 countries globally. Almost one million entries are received each year.

ANZAC Day
Thomas Carr College was represented by our students at various ANZAC services held in the region, as well as the march on ANZAC day to the Shrine of Remembrance. In May, we also celebrated the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Service at the College. It was a wonderful occasion led by our College Captains, Vice Captains and Middle School Captains. Daisy Andrews played a very moving rendition of the Last Post.

A Night to Shine
In October each year, the College community gathers at Williamstown Town Hall to recognise and celebrate the achievement of over 200 students. It is an event that recognises high achieving students, students who have given great service to the College, and our student leaders. It also showcases the talents of our Performing Arts students. Our Night to Shine this year was once again a wonderful evening.

Art & Technology Exhibition – Vision
On Thursday 23 October, the official opening of the 2014 Art and Technology Exhibition – Vision – was held. We were delighted to
have Mr Andrew Elsberry MLA and Cr Glen Goodfellow attended the opening night. The exhibition displayed the art work of students from Years 7–12, along with the work of students from the Technology faculty, which included both textiles and woodwork pieces. The Textile Fashion Parade was again a highlight of the evening, with over 60 students displaying various garments they had made during the course of the year. Our music students provided entertainment and set the mood for the evening.

MacThom Cup
The annual MacKillop College versus Thomas Carr College fixture was a successful event. As always, this is a great opportunity for the two Catholic schools in the Wyndham region to compete in various sports and develop a healthy competitive spirit.

Student Leaders
Abbey McDonald and Nicholas Parrella have led the student body through example and service. They have been wonderful role models for our younger students and at all times have been willing to give their time for the benefit of the College. They have represented the College on numerous occasions and have been wonderful ambassadors for Thomas Carr. I am indeed grateful to them for their enthusiasm and the way in which they have fulfilled their duties.

I have pleasure in announcing and congratulating the following students who have been appointed as College Captains and Vice Captains for 2015:

**2015 College Captains**
Jacqueline O'Brien
Julius Torres

**2015 College Vice Captains**
Emily O'Connor
Connor Graham

I am also pleased to announce the House Captains for 2015:

**MAYNOOTH**
Captains
Brandon Fredrickson
Ashlyn Boyce

Vice Captains
Henoch Kebede
Shannon Hume

**WESTPORT**
Captains
Sara Collier
Aimee Drever

Vice Captains
Emma O'Boyle
Elyse Haddad

**GALWAY**
Captain
Liam Neville

Vice Captains
Daniel Skillen
Rebecca Sneddon

**MOYLOUGH**
Captains
Nathan Williams
Simerjeet Kaur

Vice Captains
Bradley Bennett
Lucy Toulantas

OUR GENEROUS, COMMITTED STAFF
The various programs outlined above under ‘Student Life’ could not happen without the dedicated staff of Thomas Carr College who give freely of their own time to allow these programs to operate. I think it is very important to note that not one teacher who attended the various camps, activities and retreats received any extra remuneration for their time and effort. In all cases, our teachers made considerable personal sacrifices to attend the camps and retreats and to organise and make arrangements for the other co-curricular activities. It means significant time away from their own families.
Of note during the course of this year were the several professional learning days held at the College.

At the end of July, all teaching staff participated in our annual Staff Faith Day. Joining us on this occasion were 170 teachers from Emmanuel College and another 10 from Mount Saint Joseph Girls’ College. The Principals Association of Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools sponsored this day, which was facilitated by the internationally renowned scripture scholar, Dr Amy-Jill Levine, from the United States. We were indeed very lucky to have Dr Levine conduct our professional learning in the important area of religious education and faith development.

In October, to begin Term 4, the day focused on a number of important issues for the teaching profession. Mr Tony O’Byrne from the Office of Professional Conduct and Ethical Standards, Catholic Education Office Melbourne, addressed the staff on the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct and related matters.

As our first partner school, Wenzhou, currently has the most developed program. This is the third year they have had students sitting the VCE exams. To date, all students completing the program have received an offer for a tertiary institution in Victoria.

Our second partner school, Lianyungang Foreign Language School, celebrated the graduation of its second cohort of students and like Wenzhou, they continue to achieve great success in this program.

The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program is an academic enrichment program designed to support high-achieving students. The program was established in 2007 and is named in honour of eminent scholar, leading educationalist and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Kwong Lee Dow.

I am pleased to announce that the following student has been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program for 2015:

- Austin Deppler
- Michael Lloyd

An important aspect of life at Thomas Carr College is the continuing professional learning of our staff. During the course of 2014, our staff participated in a large number of individual professional learning opportunities as well as whole-staff professional development activities.

Our focus then turned to the Refugee Experience, with Ms Maureen O’Keefe and Ms Simone Cassidy outlining strategies for working with students from refugee backgrounds. The day concluded with the Core Wellbeing Team revisiting ‘Restorative Practices Conversations’. This important session reinforced the College desire to continue to work with all our students in a restorative way.

The VCE in China program enables a dedicated team of Australian and Chinese teachers to work together for the benefit of Chinese students. The program continues to strengthen at Thomas Carr College and its partner schools.

In the second week of the Pentecost holidays, the VCE in China team headed to Suzhou to facilitate the third VCE in China Conference. The conference ran for five days and all participants enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences, develop plans and learn more about what the VCE has to offer. Importantly, there were discussions of the values underpinning the VCE, with the focus being on student-centred learning and the development of critical reasoning. The keynote presenter for this conference was Dr Jonathon Sargent, a member of the College Board and lecturer from Australian Catholic University. I thank Dr Tom O’Connor for his organisation of the conference and the VCE in China Mentors for being prepared to be part of the conference during their holidays.

In October, to begin Term 4, the day focused on a number of important issues for the teaching profession. Mr Tony O’Byrne from the Office of Professional Conduct and Ethical Standards, Catholic Education Office Melbourne, addressed the staff on the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct and related matters.

Our focus then turned to the Refugee Experience, with Ms Maureen O’Keefe and Ms Simone Cassidy outlining strategies for working with students from refugee backgrounds. The day concluded with the Core Wellbeing Team revisiting ‘Restorative Practices Conversations’. This important session reinforced the College desire to continue to work with all our students in a restorative way.
THOMAS CARR COLLEGE

An end-of-year Professional Learning Conference, held over 4 days in December, completed our program for 2014. The program commenced with a Mass, celebrated by Fr Jude Pirotta, followed by sessions focusing on the areas of Catholic Identity, Technology, Learning and Teaching and Student Wellbeing. There were also several planning sessions for 2015. It was very pleasing that many of the sessions were led by staff who were willing to share their expertise and experience with their colleagues.

ANNUAL STAFF DINNER
On Friday 3 August, we gathered at the Werribee Mansion for our annual dinner. Traditionally at this event, we present the peer-nominated Thomas Carr Staff Award and we recognise staff who have contributed 10 years of service to the College.

Thomas Carr Staff Award
The criteria for the successful recipient of this award is someone who has displayed the following qualities during the past 12 months:

- A commitment to the Catholic identity of the College
- Engendered school spirit
- Involvement in the co-curricular life of the College
- Engagement in the life of the College above and beyond normal expectations
- A professional approach to all aspects of College life

A most worthy recipient for 2014 was Mr Shane Werner, our Property Manager. Shane has been with the College since 2000. He goes about his work quietly and assists all members of staff. He is instrumental in the set-up and preparation of College events and has also had extensive involvement in the major building projects the College has undertaken. He has assisted me greatly in very practical ways to bring about a significant change in the physical facilities and resources of the College.

Congratulations Shane!

10 Years of Service
During the evening, the College was also delighted to acknowledge the following staff for their 10 years of dedicated service:

- Daniela Franze-Hamra
- Joan Lewins
- Jacinta Mercieca

FORTHCOMING ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION
Thomas Carr College will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its foundation in 2016. This important anniversary will be marked by a number of celebrations, including the publication of a history of the College covering these first 20 years. While the College is relatively young, it is important to remember those who had the vision to conceive of a new secondary college in the Hoppers Crossing and Tarneit area, along with those who have contributed to the development of the fine traditions of the College.

The history of the College will also include a brief biography of our patron, Archbishop Thomas Carr, whose life and work, especially as Archbishop of Melbourne, is not well known but which has had a profound impact on the development of the Catholic Church in Melbourne. This part of the history of the College will become an important source of inspiration for the College community as it reflects on his life, his faith and his achievements.

I have commissioned our College Chaplain and former Director of Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese, Mr Larry Burn, to write the history. He has already drafted a large amount of the text for this project and I can assure you it will be a significant piece of work, providing us with a wonderful resource and account of the life of Thomas Carr and the establishment of our great College.
The Annual General Meeting of the Thomas Carr College Board was held in March. The annual reports from the Principal, Board Chair and Finance Committee were presented. The meeting also formally appointed the members of the Board for 2014.

**Canonical Administrators of the College**
Fr Jude Pirott
Parish Priest of St James the Apostle Hoppers Crossing North and President of the Canonical Administrators

Fr Pius Kodakathanath
Parish Priest of St Peter the Apostle Hoppers Crossing

Fr Frank Buhagair
Parish Priest of St Andrew’s Werribee

**BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2014**
Chairperson and St Peter’s Parish Representative
Mrs Connie Skinner

Principal
Dr Andrew Watson

St James’ Parish Representative
Mr Mark Gleeson

Honorary Financial Accountant
Mr Peter Collery

Parent Representative
Mrs Tanya Tesario

Parent Representative
Mrs Antoinette Fava

Parent Representative
Mr Stephen Butler

Co-opted Board Member
Dr Jonathon Sargeant

Co-opted Board Member
Mr Josh Ryan

Staff Representative
Mrs Geralyn McCarthy

St Andrew’s Parish Representative
Vacant

Board Secretary
Mrs Kerrie Deller

Business Manager (in attendance)
Ms Sharon O’Neill

I thank all Board members for their support and wise counsel over the course of 2014. Their support and commitment has ensured that Thomas Carr College continues to develop and grow in providing Catholic education to families in the outer western region of Melbourne.

**THANKS**
To conclude, I would like to thank staff, students and parents of Thomas Carr College for your continued support and encouragement throughout the year. It is very much appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank most sincerely the College’s three Canonical Administrators, Fathers Jude, Frank and Pius, the College Board, chaired by Mrs Connie Skinner, and the Catholic Education Office for their ongoing support, advice and encouragement.

I thank the members of the College Executive: Ms Brigitte McDonald (Deputy Principal), Ms Sharon O’Neill (Business Manager), Ms Anne Berandinelli (Director of Catholic Identity), Mr Michael Goss (Director of Learning & Teaching) Mr Cris Scarlatta (Director of Operations), Mrs Geralyn McCarthy (Director of Student Services), Mrs Margaret Knurek (Head of Senior School) and Mr Stephan leRoux (Head of Middle School). They shoulder great responsibilities and I value their support.

As we near the conclusion of our first 20 years of operation, I am certainly looking forward to a very exciting 2015 at Thomas Carr College.
THEY WILL SHINE