THEY WILL SHINE
It is with great pleasure that I present to you the College Board end-of-year report for 2015.

The College Board meets monthly to carry out its role and responsibilities. Regular meetings give members the opportunity to listen to reports and engage in constructive conversation with our Principal, Business Manager, various members of the College Executive. Reports inform us of their achievements, challenges and vision for the future.

On Tuesday 24 February, the College Board held its first meeting for 2015. In his Principal’s report, Dr Watson highlighted the College theme for this year: “Seek God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 4:29). This challenge invites us to stop and reconnect with our loving God, who is forever present amongst us in the people and events that are part of our lives. Opportunities to realise this challenge were given throughout the year.

At the Annual General Meeting, the following people were confirmed as representative members of the College Board:

- **Fr Jude Pirotta**
  - Head of Canonical Administrators
- **Fr Pius Kodakkathanath**
  - Parish Priest of St Andrew’s Werribee
- **Fr Frank Buhagair**
  - Parish Priest and St Andrew’s Werribee
- **Mrs Connie Skinner**
  - Chair and St Peter’s Parish Representative
- **Dr Andrew Watson**
  - Principal and Executive Officer
- **Mrs Geralyn McCarthy**
  - St James Parish Representative
- **Mr Stephen Butler**
  - Parent Representative
- **Mrs Angela Drever**
  - Parent Representative
- **Mrs Antoinette Fava**
  - Parent Representative
- **Mr Cris Scarlata**
  - Staff Representative
- **Mr Peter Collery**
  - Deputy Chair and Honorary Financial Accountant
- **Mr Josh Ryan**
  - Co-opted Member
- **Ms Sharon O’Neil**
  - Business Manager
- **Ms Kerrie Deller**
  - Board Secretary

As new members were welcomed, we farewelled a number of Board members.
“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)
tricksters and practical jokes gone awry. Congratulations to Mr Michael Dalley and the cast and crew for their wonderful performances!

The annual Art and Technology Exhibition and Fashion Parade, titled “Luminous”, once again showcased the amazing gifts and talents of the students. The annual Awards Night, “A Night to Shine”, was also a great opportunity for the College community to celebrate wonderful achievements attained by 200 students from Year 7 through to Year 12. I would like to thank Ms Brigitte McDonald and the staff for planning, coordinating and presenting these events so that we as parents have the opportunity to support our children and enjoy their hard work and talents.

I am sure that you will agree that the remodelled entrance to the College – a drop off area and exiting layout – has helped to ensure the safety of the students, staff and visitors to the College, as well as enabling an organised flow of traffic. Special thanks to Mr Mathew Howell, who ensures the areas are well marked and supervised on a daily basis.

As a parent, I am reassured that the educational, spiritual and emotional needs of our children are being met. I take this opportunity to thank Dr Watson, Ms McDonald, the College Executive, teaching and support staff for their continued dedication and commitment to providing our children with a safe, effective, engaging and supportive learning environment in which they are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Thank you also to 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 in the future.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all Board members for their generous gift of time and expertise in support of the College and all its endeavors. Their interest in the welfare and education of the students and the College is valued and most appreciated.
I have the pleasure of presenting below the Principal’s report for 2015. It is an attempt at reporting on all aspects of school life during the course of 2015.

**2015 COLLEGE THEME**

Our theme for 2015 was:

‘Seek God with all your heart’

*(Deuteronomy 4:29)*

Our College theme looks to Moses’ great sermon in the Book of Deuteronomy; the second giving of the law before the children of Israel are ready to go into the Promised Land. In Chapter 4, Moses urges the greatness, glory, and goodness of God and gives this piece of advice, “Seek God with all your heart and with all your soul and he will be found.”

Seeking God is a lifelong quest. You could say that continuing to seek God, continuing to draw closer to Him and continuing to grow in our knowledge of Him is what our faith is all about. To be authentically Catholic is to be in an ongoing relationship and in an ever-deepening search and experience of God.

When God calls us to search for Him, He never hides Himself so well that He cannot be found. We can seek God knowing that no matter how much we give, or sacrifice, or suffer, we will receive far more in return. May we thirst to know God, to love Him, to discover and explore His greatness, to encounter His goodness and experience His power. We can’t rest on what we already know and what we’ve already experienced. “Seek” is a verb, which implies that it is an action. So we have to put work into it.

Opening our hearts to seek the presence of God in our lives allows us to live a life blessed with gratitude. We cannot become complacent and miss out on a life of grace; rather, we must seek God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, every day of our lives.

There are many physical and tangible ways God can reveal himself to us. However, a profoundly powerful way to seek out a relationship with God is through prayer. Next year, as a College community inspired by the words of our College theme, we will look for further ways to enrich our prayer life. Our new College Chapel will play a pivotal role in seeking, and striving, and pursuing God in our lives, just as Moses promised the people of Israel thousands of years ago.

**ENROLMENT**

Our enrolment for 2015 was a total 1143 students. Below is a breakdown of the various year levels:

- Year 7: 192
- Year 8: 210
- Year 9: 204
- Year 10: 210
- Year 11: 171
- Year 12: 156
STAFFING
In 2015 we welcomed to Thomas Carr College the following new staff:
• Mr Jacoby Levy
• Ms Lee Tadic
• Mrs Mary Udovicic
• Ms Sam De Silva
• Ms Barbara King
• Mr Daine Johnston
• Mr Joseph Kingston
• Mr Geoffrey Hon
• Mr Stephen Broome
• Ms Louise Curtis
• Ms Georgina Hodge
• Ms Tiarne Pressley.

We also welcomed back the following staff after periods of leave:
• Ms Charmaine Schembri
• Ms Lauren Girardi
• Ms Payal Tangri.

During and at the end of this year, the following staff concluded their time at Thomas Carr College. I thank each of them for their commitment and dedication and wish them all the very best for 2016:
• Ms Wenny Hollingdale
• Ms Melissa Masari

• Mr Anthony Patti
• Dr Tom O’Connor
• Mrs Kerry Casey.

2015 YEAR 12 RESULTS
Monday December 14 2015 was the date for the release of the Year 12 results for 2015. I am pleased to report to the school community that our class of 2015 achieved some excellent results. The Dux of the College for 2015 with an ATAR score of 95.45 was Teagan Gatt.

COMMENCEMENT MASS AND ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY
In February, the College community gathered to celebrate the commencement of the new school year and the academic achievements of our top performing students. We were very fortunate to have Bishop Vincent Long, our Regional Bishop, as our celebrant on this day.

Following the Mass, the College then recognised the outstanding academic achievement of students from the Class of 2014. A presentation was made to Ashlee Cremona Dux of the College for 2014 with an ATAR score of 89.5.

Our new College Captains were also acknowledged during the assembly:

Middle School Captains
Grace Newland and Benjamin Singleton

College Vice Captains
Emily O’Connor and Connor Graham

College Captains
Jacqueline O’Brien and Julius Torres.

JAMES SALIBA RIP
It was with deep sadness that in February I informed the College community that James Saliba, of Year 9 Green, had lost his long and brave battle against bone cancer.

James died with his loving family at his side. James commenced at Thomas Carr College in 2013, ready for his new life at secondary school, having been diagnosed with bone cancer while in Grade 6 at St James Primary School. James bravely commenced Year 7 at Thomas Carr College with the knowledge that he needed to begin chemotherapy treatment. A brave and courageous battle by James commenced, and what an inspiration he provided for all in our community. Over the past three years, James has enjoyed the constant love of his family, the caring support of his friends and the dedication of his doctors and nurses.

As a community we are all deeply saddened by James’ passing but we are comforted in the knowledge that James has entered eternal life with his heavenly Father.
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
College Chapel

On Tuesday 9 December 2014, the College community gathered to celebrate the blessing and opening of the College Chapel, officiated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart. The blessing and opening marked a most significant occasion in the life of the College, as we now finally have a sacred place which truly signifies for all the Catholic identity of the school. It had been a four-year journey of discernment to ensure that the Chapel met the needs of the College and that it be a sacred space which truly reflected the unique story and history of Thomas Carr College. It was also important that the Chapel captured the faith and spirituality of the College’s patron, Thomas Joseph Carr, the second Archbishop of Melbourne.

With the creative talents of architects, Smith and Tracey, the College has been able to achieve a significant architecturally design sacred space to mark clearly for our community the important place of our faith within our school. The Chapel allows the College community to reflect on the life of Archbishop Thomas Carr through the creation of the Thomas Carr windows. The beautifully worded stone Stations of the Cross allow a reflection on the death and resurrection of Christ, which leads the eye to the magnificent crucifix window, which signifies to the community the significant part faith plays in the education of students.

At the blessing and opening, sincere gratitude was expressed to the Parents and Friends Association, who donated $30,000 to the College to enable the commissioning of Mr Anthony Russo to craft the liturgical furniture for the Chapel, incorporating the use of both timber and bluestone. Anthony also designed and installed the Thomas Carr windows and the crucifix window.

The College Chapel reminds all that Thomas Carr was:

- A man of faith
- A leader of the Catholic Church in Melbourne for thirty years
- A scholar who taught and wrote throughout his life and who made Catholic education a priority as Archbishop of Melbourne
- A pastoral person who cared for all in Melbourne, and especially the poor and needy.

Tribute was paid to architects, Smith and Tracey and the builders, Searle Brothers, who worked together to plan, design and construct the College Chapel.

Trade Training Centre

At the beginning of the Lenten Term, our school community gathered together again for the Blessing and Official Opening of the Trade Training Centre. This was yet again another great occasion for the College and provided us with the opportunity to continue to give thanks for the provision of wonderful learning facilities for our students. As a College, we have certainly invested significantly in our capital works.

In 2009, the Wyndham Cluster was granted funds to construct a Trade Training Centre to deliver Building and Construction, Engineering, Automotive and Electro-Technology Certificate I and II courses. Initially, the Centre was to be constructed on a site located on Victoria University (VU) land in Hoppers Lane. After VU withdrew their support for the Trade Training Centre, the decision was reached to locate each of the certificate areas on four different school sites, with the Building and Construction course being allocated to Thomas Carr College. It was a long and interesting journey over seven years, dealing with government bureaucracy at both state and federal levels. But the end product has made it worthwhile. I certainly believe that this was the best outcome for our neighbouring schools and for Thomas Carr College. Students within the Wyndham Region now have first class facilities located at four schools for those wishing to pursue a number of trades. They are:

- Engineering at Mackillop College
- Electro-technology at Wyndham Central College
- Automotive at The Grange P – 12 College, and
- Building and Construction here at Thomas Carr College.
Stage 3 of the Master Plan
I am pleased to be able to outline to the College community our exciting capital development works to occur during 2016 and completed ready for the commencement of the 2017 school year. The capital development plans are very extensive and will require 12 months to complete.

Performing Arts Centre. A state of the art Performing Arts Centre will be constructed adjacent to the gymnasium. The building will include significant architectural features, both internally and externally, and include:

- a 500 seat auditorium with the latest technical production equipment, lighting and sound
- extensive foyer and performance spaces for both drama and music
- dedicated drama rooms and extensive backstage facilities, such as change rooms and a green room
- acoustically treated music and band rooms, along with individual music tutorial suites and a recording studio
- office spaces and staff amenities.

Extension of Gymnasium. Our current gymnasium will be extended to double the size of the existing building and will include:

- two full-size basketball courts with alternate line makings for other sports
- retractable tier seating to provide for a show court
- refurbished change rooms
- a new dedicated Weights room
- a dedicated Physical Education classroom
- additional staff offices, amenities and meeting room
- additional storage
- a sound and lighting system to enable the provision of high quality audio visual for significant school liturgies, assemblies and other events.

Refurbishment of the Administration Building. The current administration building will undergo a refurbishment for both the ground and first floor to provide:

- welcoming foyer and reception space
- interview rooms
- open plan office spaces
- additional staff amenities, including comfortable staff lounge and associated areas
- refurbished office spaces and staff study.

This capital development works constitute Stage 3 of our 10-year master building plan. These exciting developments will contribute significantly to the facilities of our College as we celebrate our 20th anniversary.

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

President
Mrs Carmen Gleeson

Secretary
Mrs Ange Drever

Treasurer
Mrs Deb Griffiths.

I thank the abovementioned for their willingness to lead a very important organisation within the College. I thank also all the other parents who attend the meetings during the course of the year.

In 2015, the P & F Association held a major raffle, along with other smaller fundraising initiatives, such as the P&F Café at the Student/Teacher conferences and their annual Bunnings BBQ, with a good amount of money raised.
Under the guidance of Mrs Janice Hodgarts and Mrs Carol Casaretto, the Association continued to provide a wonderful service to our families with the operation of the secondhand uniform shop. Not only does it provide an option for parents looking at purchasing items of uniform, it also assists parents who are looking to sell various items.

The money that the Association has raised has contributed greatly to the improvement of the facilities of the College, including the pending purchase of a grand piano for our new Performing Arts Centre, which is the current fundraising project.

**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 also ensured that the liturgical life of the College continued to flourish.

The College marked the beginning of Lent with the distribution of ashes during our Commencement Mass on Ash Wednesday. In this liturgy, we were asked reflect upon the fact that every year Lent provides us with an opportunity for reflection on the pattern of life and our faith. It is a time for prayer and works of generosity. Lent is a time to recommit ourselves to God.

During Catholic Education Week, a number of our music students and staff participated in the Catholic Education Week Mass, held at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Mrs Margaret Knurek, Head of the Senior School, was appointed as the Musical Director for this significant Mass. During the course of Catholic Education Week, the school had many and varied events to celebrate this important week. It was not only an opportunity to highlight all the wonderful things we do at Thomas Carr College, but a time to reflect on ways to share in the growth and wellbeing of one another.

During the course of the year, our College Leaders, Emily O’Connor, Connor Graham, Jacqueline O’Brien and Julius Torres, attended the annual conversation with the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, held at Genazzano FCJ College in Kew. Our students again represented the College very well and enabled them to engage in dialogue with the Archbishop. This opportunity also provided our students with the chance to meet with secondary students from the other Catholic secondary colleges across the archdiocese.

Our tradition of celebrating Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day with Mass and Breakfast on the Friday prior continued this year. In May, Fr Jude celebrated our Mothers’ Day Mass. Then in September, Fr Jude again celebrated the second Fathers’ Day Mass and Breakfast. It was wonderful to see both students and staff present with their parents. They were very special liturgies.

On Friday 14 August, on the eve of the Feast of the Assumption, the College gathered as a faith community to celebrate one of the most important feasts of the Church’s year. Our liturgy on Friday officially recognised the naming of Term 3 as the Assumption Term. Our principal celebrant was Fr Ivan Burdian, Congregational Leader of the Missionary Society of St Paul for the Australian Province. The Feast of the Assumption is particularly important for the Paulist Missionaries and Joseph DePirro, the founder of the Paulists, who placed the care of the Congregation in the hands of Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God. The College continues to enjoy a very close relationship with the Paulist Missionaries, particularly through the Parish of St James being under the pastoral care of the Paulists and with Fr Jude, as our parish priest and canonical administrator.

As part of our Catholic identity, the Social Justice team has been working very hard this year. Again the Winter Sleep Out was one of those 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. It was wonderful to gather for this annual event since we were unable to do so last year. Our students were cooperative during the day and many were very eager to participate in the carnival’s swimming events and novelty activities. Congratulations to Moylough House on winning the House Swimming Shield.

In May, the entire College gathered at Newport for our annual Athletics Carnival. The weather held out for this occasion and our students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of track and field events. Congratulations to Westport House on winning the House Shield.

The last carnival to be held for the House Competition was the Cross Country, with all students taking to the local streets and terrain. Westport House were the winners.

The overall points and results for the 2015 House Competition were:

- **First Place**
  - Westport 8502 points

- **Second Place**
  - Moylough 8029 points

- **Third Place**
  - Maynooth 7635 points

- **Fourth Place**
  - Galway 7525 points.

Congratulations Westport!

ACS COMPETITION
(Association of Co-educational Schools)
Once again the College participated in the sporting carnivals of the ASC competition and the fixture matches in the Years 7 and 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 Swimming team students on the way in which you competed and represented the College.

In May, the 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 and organisation of the ACS Athletics 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.

This year a number of students also participated in the ACS Public Speaking Competition.

September saw the annual presentation of the ACS All Star Teams at St Leonard’s College. Once again, Thomas Carr College was well represented in the ACS All Stars.

All students who participated in the various ACS competitions during the course of the year should be very proud of the way in which they represented the College.

STUDENT LIFE
College Production
The 2015 College Productions were “Black Comedy” and “A Mad Breakfast”. The audience certainly appreciated these two comedies, which saw our students display their wonderful acting ability and comedic talents. The sets were terrific, costing superb and, as always, the back stage crew did a wonderful job. This year’s production
certainly demonstrated that the performing arts are very much part of life at Thomas Carr College.

Our Year 9 Drama students represented the College in the annual Student Wellbeing Drama Festival. This is a great event that profiles the performing arts within our Catholic schools. It dramatically portrays issues that impact upon a student’s wellbeing and encourages the development of resilience for all those involved in the festival.

College Music and Choir
Music Concert. In August, our instrumental music students and members of the College choir held a most memorable Music Concert. It was a wonderful evening showcasing the very best of Thomas Carr College’s performing arts students. The finale, which brought all our music students and members of the choir together, along with their teachers, certainly demonstrated the great achievement the College has made in the performing arts over the past five years.

Music Soirees. This year, Music Soirees were held in both Semester 1 and 2, showcasing the music talents of our students. The evenings included performances from individual students preparing for the AMEB examinations, the Thomas Carr College Concert Band, the Year 7 Honours Band, the College Jazz Band, the Woodwind Ensemble and the Brass Ensemble.

Battle of the Bands. The tradition of the Battle of the Bands continued. A night of entertainment was provided, highlighting the talents of our students. It was wonderful to see so many students being prepared to compete in this competition.

Choir. Under the direction of Mr Mat Morse, the College Choir was instrumental 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 College.

Student Representative Council
Throughout the year, the Student Representative Council (SRC) met regularly under the direction of Ms McDonald, Deputy Principal. The SRC have contributed to the decision making processes of the College and have developed a number of initiatives to raise money for enhancing the environs of the College. I am delighted with the growth and development of student leadership within the College and I thank Ms McDonald for her work in this area.

ANZAC Day
Our nation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the landing of the ANZACs at Gallipoli. Thomas Carr College was represented at the March Shrine of Remembrance commemoration by our student leaders (Jacqueline O’Brien, Julius Torres, Emily O’Connor, Connor Graham, Grace Newland, Ben Singleton, Rahwa Berhane), and by Mr Allen, Ms Alphonso and Mrs Tyrrell, who accompanied the students. The involvement of our school in this national day of remembrance is most important to ensure that we as a community reflect upon the sacrifice made by others in defending our country and continue to reflect on the need to ensure peace for the future.

Malaya and Borneo Veterans Services
In May, we celebrated the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Service at the College. Thomas Carr College has been associated with the Malaya Borneo Veterans for over ten years. Veterans were initially invited to the College to speak to students as part of the history program, instigated by Mr Anthony Diamond. This marked the beginning of a great partnership between Mr John O’Regan from the Malay Borneo Veterans and the College. Together they implemented a plan for the Veterans and the students to develop a relationship which would do two things:
• promote knowledge and understanding for the students
• ensure recognition for the veterans, something which at the time had not been forthcoming amongst the community at large.

Consequently, every year since, students from Thomas Carr College participate in both the Werribee Pre-ANZAC Day March and the ANZAC Day March. We are one of only two Victorian Colleges that are allowed to carry a banner for the Veterans at the Melbourne ANZAC Day March to the War Memorial and to regularly participate in memorial events with the Veterans, including an annual event held at the College every May.

The memorial in our grounds is the first memorial to the Veterans in Victoria and is sited at the eastern end of the College’s Information Centre. The Veterans have expressed many times their thanks for the support of the College and the role that it has played in trying to raise the profile of their involvement in the Malayan Borneo emergency.

Those students who have participated in these events have always expressed a great sense of honour and pride at being able to assist and support our Veterans. It has been extremely rewarding for the College to see this relationship develop and witness the connection between our students, the Veterans and our Australian war history.

The 2015 service was a wonderful occasion led by our College Captains, Vice Captains and Middle School Captains. Thank you to the students and musicians who supported the moving ceremony, in particular Mr David Rattigan, who played the Last Post.

On Monday 31 August, the College was once again instrumental in the National Day of commemoration service of the Malaya and Borneo Veterans, held at the Shrine of Remembrance. Our students were flag bearers and carried the Malaya Borneo banner, and our College Choir sang the hymn and the National Anthem. The service concluded with our student leaders participating in the laying of poppies. The solemn service once again calls to mind the sacrifice that members of our Armed forces have made during the various wars and conflicts and reminds us of the need to preserve peace at all costs.

Thomas Carr Day
Also in May, the College celebrated our 19th Thomas Carr Day. With Fr Jude celebrating Mass in the morning, our students and staff then enjoyed 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 recognised the academic achievement of our students for Semester 1 and 2. Students who achieved excellent results were invited to a special luncheon, where they were 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 Years 9 to 11 who achieved 90% or better in four examinations.

A Night to Shine
In October, the College community gathered at the Encore Events Centre, part of the newly refurbished Wyndham Events Leisure & Centre, to recognise and celebrate the 2015 achievements of over 200 students. It is a wonderful evening of acknowledging high achieving students who have been
a great service to the College, to pay tribute to our student leaders, and to showcase the talents of our performing arts students.

Art and Technology Exhibition – Luminous
On Thursday 22 October, the official opening of the Thomas Carr College 2015 Art and Technology Exhibition – “Luminous” – was held. The exhibition displayed the artwork of students from Years 7 to 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 which set the mood for the evening.

During the evening selections were made for the following arts prizes:

The People’s Choice Award
Breanne Lamber

The Middle School Art Acquisition Award
Jazlyn Hodgson

The Senior School Art Acquisition Award
Jake Farrugia

The Art & Technology Art Acquisition Award
Christopher Micaleff

College Leaders
Jacqueline O’Brien and Julius Torres have led the student body through example and service. They have been wonderful role models for our younger students and at all times both Jacqueline and Julius 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 College. I am indeed grateful to them for their enthusiasm and for the way in which they have fulfilled their duties as College Captains.

I have pleasure in announcing the following students have been appointed as College Captains and Vice Captains for 2016. Congratulations to our newly appointed College Leaders.

2016 College Captains
Amy Bongetti and Luke Gleeson

2016 College Vice Captains
Emily Reeves and Thomas Duxson

2016 House Captains and Vice Captains
Galway
Captains
Jake Farrugia and Brianna Herman
Vice Captains
Bailee Vilcins and Alexie White

Maynooth
Captains
John Tomelty and Ally Wilson
Vice Captains
Dylan Kamath and Janet Basioni

Moylough
Captains
Ben Hurn and Amy Roulston
Vice Captains
Mitchell Florence and Alannah Burgess

Westport
Captains
Campbell Barlow and Rachel Attard
Vice Captains
Mitchell Florence and Alannah Burgess

The various programs outlined above could not happen without the dedicated staff 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 receive 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 also means significant time away from their own families.

### STAFF

#### Professional Learning

During the course of 2015, our staff participated in a large number of individual professional learning opportunities, as well as whole-staff professional development activities. Of note during the course of this year were the following two professional learning days:

1. On Thursday 30 July (a student free day), all teaching staff participated in our annual Staff Faith Day. Joining us on this occasion were 100 teachers from Mt St Joseph Girls’ College. The Principals Association of Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools sponsored this day, which was facilitated by the internationally renowned theologian, Dr Richard Gaillardetz. Dr Gaillardetz is the Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College and the Director of Graduate Studies. We were indeed very lucky to have Dr Gaillardetz conduct our professional learning in the important area of religious education and faith development.

2. Commencing on Monday 7 December and concluding on Thursday 10 December, all staff participated in an end-of-year Professional Learning conference pertaining to the areas of Catholic Identity, Technology, Learning and Teaching and Student Wellbeing, as well as several planning sessions for 2016. The program commenced with a Mass celebrated by Fr Richard Leonard, a Jesuit priest, and also featured a number of sessions facilitated by theologian Fr Gerald O’Collins, also a Jesuit priest. It was very pleasing that many of the elective sessions were led by staff members who were willing to share their expertise and experience with their colleagues.

#### Annual Staff Dinner

On Friday 14 August, staff gathered at the Werribee Mansion for our Annual Dinner. The dinner provides the opportunity for the College to recognise staff who have contributed 10 years of dedicated service to the College and to present the Thomas Carr College Staff Award. This year also saw the conferring of the first Luceat Lux Vestra Teaching Scholarship to a member of our teaching staff. This provides the recipient with $5,000 to assist with undertaking some significant professional learning during the course of 2016 in an area that will contribute significantly to the continued improvement of the learning and teaching program at the College.

I was pleased to have received many nominations, which made the task of the Staff Award Panel very difficult, but in the end we felt that there was one very deserving recipient – Ms Margie White. Margie has consistently demonstrated, through her actions and interactions with staff and students, that she is indeed engaged in the life of the College. She goes about her work quietly and assists all members of the College community. Comments from the nomination forms regarding Margie included:

- She goes beyond the expectations of the College.
• She conducts herself in a professional and caring manner
• She has a positive approach to all aspects of the College
• She is a great ambassador for the school
• She encourages others to do the right thing
• She committed to the school in both love for the job and the students
• She always gives 100% and makes herself available to students both before and after school hours.

Margie is instrumental in ensuring that the ACS program is run efficiently and she consistently strives to improve upon it. She desires to see students achieve the absolute best they can and this has resulted in the College winning many pennants through the ACS program, including our girls Football team coming third in the state Herald Sun Championships.

Luceat Lux Vestra Teaching Scholarship
The term Luceat Lux Vestra translates to ‘let your light shine’, and this is something that we encourage both our staff and students to do. This scholarship has been created as an acknowledgement that great teaching is far more than just classroom performance. It is the ability to consistently create situations in which effective learning occurs. The conferring of this scholarship is a recognition of expert knowledge, exemplary practice, continuous improvement and commitment to meet the needs of the learners.

I was pleased to announce that the inaugural winner of this scholarship for 2015 was Mr Alex Guedes. As part of his scholarship, Alex will work with Dr Christian Van Nieuwerburgh from the University of Reading, an internationally recognised academic and authority in the field of coaching who has pioneered much of the work around coaching in educational settings. Alex will have access to a number of schools and other organisations that have faced significant challenges in their journey of building a culture of coaching and improvement. Additionally, Alex will visit Manorfield, in East London, a school that at one stage failed the Ofsted (the inspection from the Office for Standards in Education) and only a few years later was ranked as “Outstanding”.

10 Year Service Awards
The following staff were recognised for their 10 years of service to Thomas Carr College:
Mr Andrew Weir
Ms Shirley Dagmang
Ms Cecile Pitpit
Ms Andrea Spagnolo
Ms Georgie Wilson

Mrs Monica Morrissy
Mrs Carolyn King
Ms Anne Berardinelli.

VCE IN CHINA PROGRAM
As in previous years, the VCE in China Team headed to Harbin during the term break to facilitate the fourth 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, the focus on student-centred learning and the development of critical reasoning.

KWONG LEE DOW YOUNG SCHOLARS (KLDYS)
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 students have been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program for 2015:
Emily Bradley and Monique Tran
The Annual General Meeting of the Thomas Carr College Board was held in April. At this meeting the annual reports from the Principal, Board Chair and Finance Committee were presented. The meeting also formally appointed the members of the Board for 2015.

I thank all Board members for their support and wise counsel over the course of 2015. Their support and commitment to the College over the year has ensured that Thomas Carr College continues to develop and grow to provide Catholic Education to families in the outer western region of Melbourne.

FAREWELL FOR MR MARTIN ENRIGHT
At the end of Semester 1, I represented the College at the Mass and Farewell of Mr Martin Enright, Principal of St James the Apostle Primary School, which was a celebration of 21 years of outstanding leadership to the school and parish. Many people spoke warmly about Martin’s leadership, his care for the school community and his desire to provide the best possible primary education for students within the St James Parish.

Martin’s time as Principal of St James began before the establishment of Thomas Carr College. As such, he has well and truly seen the growth of development of our great College.

At the farewell celebration, Martin recounted those years when he would travel down Sayers Road, with no development on either side.

We wish Martin well for the next stage of his life and thank him most sincerely for his support of Thomas Carr College over the past 19 years.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
In October, the College received our annual School Improvement data analysis report from the Catholic Education Office. This data are gathered from students, parents and staff. For the fifth successive year, the data showed significant improvement in the key areas of the school – Educating in Faith; Learning and Teaching; Student Wellbeing; Leadership and Management; and School Community.

This data provide us with evidence that the significant structural changes we have been implementing over the past four years continue to pay dividends.

20TH ANNIVERSARY
Thomas Carr College will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its foundation in 2016. This important anniversary will be marked by a number of events:

• The celebration of our anniversary Mass at the Cathedral, a place of such importance in the life of Thomas Carr
• The unveiling of a bronze casting of Thomas Carr, our Patron
• The publication of a history of the College
• An Open Day in October for all members of the College community, past and present.

While the College is relatively young, it is important to remember those who had the vision to conceive 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 over its first 20 years. As we celebrate our anniversary, we will reflect upon the achievements of our College and remember the qualities of our patron, Archbishop Thomas Carr.

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 – and the College Board chaired by Mrs Connie Skinner, for their ongoing support, advice and encouragement throughout 2015.

I thank all Board members for their support and wise counsel over the course of 2015. Their support and commitment to the College over the year has ensured that Thomas Carr College continues to develop and grow to provide Catholic Education to families in the outer western region of Melbourne.
I thank in particular the members of the College Executive: Ms Brigitte McDonald (Deputy Principal), Ms Sharon O’Neill (Business Manager), Mr Cris Scarlata (Senior Director), Ms Anne Berardinelli (Director of Catholic Identity), Mrs Geralyn McCarthy (Director of Student Services), Mrs Margaret Knurek (Head of Senior School), and Mr Stephan le Roux (Head of Middle School). They shoulder great responsibilities and I value their support.

As we move into 2016, we will continue as a College to:

• Nurture the faith of our students
• Stimulate a desire for our student to learn
• Promote the importance of wellbeing for our students
• Develop a community for our students to embrace
• Invest in the future for our students.

I am certainly looking forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2016.
THEM CARR
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THEY WILL SHINE