

Spirit

of Sandhurst



Issue 2
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Catholic Education Sandhurst

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Reflections from the Director



As I write I am preparing to go on pilgrimage to Rome for the Canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and my reflections have centred on the vision, courage, faith and tenacity of Mary in establishing schools so that all children would receive the gift of education – something we may tend to take for granted today. In Catholic Education Sandhurst we acknowledge our colleagues with the Educaré Awards in October each year and we celebrate UNESCO World Teachers' Day on October 29.

So what indeed is at the heart of education and teaching? What difference do our schools and our teachers make in the lives of our students? I would like to share with you an excerpt from the address by Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippini, nationally respected bio-ethicist and ex-student at the celebration of 150 years of Catholic education at St Monica's Kangaroo Flat recently:

"I would like to talk about the debt that I owe this [St Monica's] community. This was a place that helped my family to introduce me to truth, to goodness and to beauty. This was a place that received a young mind and opened the doors of knowledge and understanding, a place that shaped our behaviour so that we could learn to appreciate and respect each other, a place that showed us the greatness of God's creation beyond ourselves and beyond the littleness of Kangaroo Flat.

This was the place that taught us that the religious dimension is intrinsic to culture. Here in this laboratory of culture and humanity we were formed as children to discover goodness and to grow in responsibility, to seek comparisons and to refine our critical senses, to learn our history and geography and become skilled in language, science and mathematics, so that we could draw from the gifts of the past to understand the present better and to be able to plan wisely for the future...

St Monica's is a place of discovery and of love. Those of us who are past students owe a debt for the beginning that we were given, for the people here who taught us to know and to love."

As an educator I am inspired, heartened and motivated by these words. Let us not lose sight of the sacred responsibility and awesome privilege it is to 'draw forth the hidden wholeness' of the students who parents entrust into our care each day. I give thanks for all educators – principals, teachers, parents and school staff – may we continue to be inspired and to inspire each other as we work together across home, school and parish to enable young people to 'live life to the full' (Jn 10:10) in the courageous spirit of Mary MacKillop.

Blessings

Phil Billington
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Educaré

Acknowledging excellence
in classroom teaching

The Diocesan Educaré Award for Outstanding Contribution to Classroom Teaching and Curriculum Innovation gives our community the chance to celebrate our core work.

What is the essence of teaching? Herbert Kohl in his reflection after a lifetime of learning from teaching calls it the Discipline of Hope. He says,

"For me the source of hope lies in teaching itself, hard work requiring ingenuity, patience, and a focus on what is effective with children. At its core, it is not mechanical or technological. I have always thought of myself as a teacher the way other people think of themselves as gardeners, painters, composers, mathematicians, and poets. I am a craftsman of learning, working to refine what I do with young people to the point where it is both free and structured, spontaneous and disciplined, innovative and classical, fun and very difficult."

Yes teaching is all of this; it's hard work, it's a craft, it's both free and structured, disciplined, innovative and classical. Kohl's observations are counter intuitive, the freer and more student centered we become in teaching the more structured we need to be.

As a profession we need to be cautioned about this as we explore such innovations as self directed learning, one-to-one laptops and play based curriculum. These are in no way a substitute for the craft of teaching, having a broad and well practiced repertoire so that the environment of freedom proceeds with rigour and that quality learning are still the outcome.

The Educaré Awards challenge us to reflect deeply about the essence of teaching. The teaching process has at its heart the purpose of drawing from, sparking the divine and

empowering individual learners to develop confidence in their own ability and the insight to recognize how they can contribute to the community.

The drawing out of the talent and ability from within is central to the tradition of Catholic Education. Our beliefs in a "positive anthropology" and the giftedness of all, provides us with the inspiration to continually strive for, to reach the ideals of what Educaré stands for.

The likes of Helen Bandrowski (St Monica's Kangaroo Flat) and others provide us with models of how we go about meeting the challenge of providing spontaneity, discipline, innovation and fun all simultaneously.



Festival of the Sacred

Now in its second year, the Festival of the Sacred continues to grow as a celebration of The Arts across the diocese and as a partnership with the Australian School of Performing Arts which has exceeded all expectations.

It is an impressive sight to experience over 800 primary school students performing in a massed choir; the energy and excitement generated by eight weeks of workshops with the a3 Australian Arts Alive tutors all comes together on performance day, and the result is spectacular.

There is a nervous energy as the students gather for the Festival of the Sacred; each school has been rehearsing with a3 tutors during the term in their own school settings, waiting for the moment when they will all come together for the first time.

A perfectly orchestrated rehearsal in the morning settles nerves and ensures a polished performance. Individual students have been selected for public speaking roles and in some cases, for solo vocal performances. This is a big day for them and they do not disappoint. Months of practice has paid off and words are remembered and delivered with just the right touch of drama.

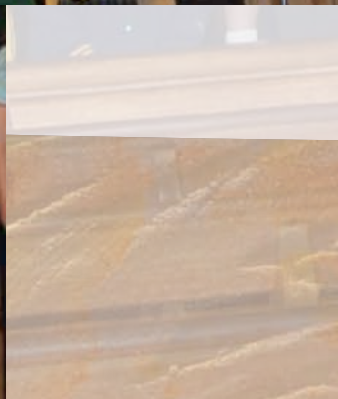
As schools learn individual songs in the lead up to the festival they are instructed in the techniques required to produce the best performance possible, including vocal warm ups and the development of public speaking and

performance skills. The aim of the program is to foster the talents of each child and to encourage students to explore the performing arts in a unique and dynamic way.

The outcome of the program is an experience that few of the students will ever forget, an opportunity to be part of a festival which enables them to share the experience with students from other Catholic schools in their region and an appreciation for The Arts that will last a lifetime.

When the Festival of the Sacred began in 2009 it was as part of an Arts vision for Catholic Education in the Sandhurst Diocese and a commitment to expanding opportunities for students and teachers to grow in The Arts. Since the festival's inception the vision for the program has expanded to incorporate more musical and dramatic performances by primary and secondary students, adding another dimension to the festival.

Some students, who experienced their first festival in grade five, have been fortunate to have a second year in the program, honing their skills and awakening their God given talents through dramatic and music performance. For staff, especially music teachers, the festival has enabled them to develop their own skills and knowledge with the opportunity to learn from the specialist tutors from a3 Australian Arts Alive, who are exceptional at what they do.



the Sacred

A celebration of The Arts



There are three Festival of the Sacred performances each year involving over two thousand grade five and six students from the three deaneries and talented secondary students from each region. Each setting provides a unique and special experience as venues vary from the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo, the Mercy Centennial Stadium at Notre Dame College Shepparton, and the final festival, at the Dr Peter Casey Auditorium at Catholic College Wodonga.

It is said that The Arts transcend cultural, economic and social barriers, inspiring us all to a greater appreciation of creative thinking, imagination and cultural awareness. As the Festival of the Sacred continues to grow, we celebrate the beauty and creativity of each performance and the students, teachers, a3 tutors and leaders of Catholic Education Sandhurst who ensure that the language of The Arts is alive in our schools and in our diocese.



Mary



If a picture paints a thousand words then the MacKillop Art Exhibition speaks volumes about the life of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop. The inaugural art exhibition honours St Mary of the Cross, her courage, her enduring faith and the contribution to Catholic Education which has inspired countless generations of Australians.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated to celebrate the Canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop, was fittingly launched as thousands of Australians prepared to embark on a pilgrimage to Rome for the historical event.

The official launch began outside the Sacred Heart Cathedral in the newly created Mary MacKillop Memorial Garden. A Welcome to Country by local Koori Elder, Louise Sinnapan and a traditional dance by the Red Ochre Dance Group provided a perfect prelude for the first planting to take place. Bishop Joseph Grech was called forward to plant the first rose as our spiritual leader, followed by Sr Mary Ryan representing the Sisters of St Joseph sj, Ms Phil Billington as the Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst and Mr Terry Jarvis representing artists and the creative talents of our students.

Inside the Cathedral Bishop Joseph Grech solemnly blessed a magnificent icon of St Mary MacKillop, commissioned by the Sandhurst Diocese for the occasion. The icon was created by talented local artist, Ivan Morozoff, whose immense skill as an iconographer is displayed in this incredible art piece. The exhibition was officially opened by Monsignor Marriott and Director of Catholic Education, Phil Billington, acknowledging the joint initiative between Catholic Education Sandhurst and the Cathedral community. The collection of paintings created by students especially for the exhibition is a wonderful tribute to St Mary of the Cross and her incredible spirit.

Beautiful landscapes incorporating primitive school buildings, gum trees and Australian animals were displayed alongside portraits of Mary, photographic studies and mixed media creations. All exhibits captured the theme for 2010, "Called to Bring Hope" which is inspired by the words and actions of St Mary of the Cross.

In the lead up to the exhibition a visiting artist program was introduced, enabling schools to take part in artistic workshops with renowned Australian artist Terry Jarvis. Based in Bendigo, Terry Jarvis is a major award winning artist whose works hang in collections in Australia and many other countries around the world. Mr Jarvis is one of Australia's most sought after artists, particularly in the medium of watercolour.



*"The Cathedral community is delighted to welcome the artwork of children celebrating the life of Mary MacKillop who in another era opened the lives of children to a new way of learning that had not been thought of before."
Mgr Frank Marriott*

MacKillop Art Exhibition

Under the guidance of Terry Jarvis, students were equipped with the skills and techniques to produce an artistic piece that best expressed their interpretation of the theme, "Called to Bring Hope". The result was an array of colourful paintings, each one as unique as the individuals who created them.

The artist in residence workshops began at St Joseph's Primary School in Numurkah, which has the honour of being the first Josephite school in Victoria established by Blessed Mary MacKillop. The school, opened in 1890, has a proud history which honours the legacy of St Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. It is hoped that the exhibition will continue to share the story of Mary MacKillop and the countless Sisters of St Joseph who have served the families of the Sandhurst Diocese so faithfully and generously over the years.

The MacKillop Art Exhibition will become an annual event for the Sandhurst Diocese, ensuring that the creative talents of students are nurtured and encouraged in a positive way. The Catholic Education theme for each year will inspire the exhibition and the artist in residence program will continue to provide inspiration and guidance for students to showcase their talents.



This magnificent icon was commissioned by Sacred Heart Cathedral to inaugurate the initial Mary MacKillop Art Exhibition, a joint venture between the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office and the Cathedral.

The iconographer, Ivan Morozoff was born in Manchuria, China of Russian parents, the family migrated to Melbourne in 1962.

Ivan commenced studies in theology and religious art at Jordanville Monastery, New York State, USA in 1965. He completed four years study for a BA during which time he worked on elaborate interiors of many Orthodox Cathedrals in USA and Canada, including the magnificent San Francisco Russian Cathedral.

Ivan was involved in an accident at the completion of his four years which left him paralyzed below the shoulders. He returned to Australia in 1970 and retrained himself to continue his artwork using modified techniques and equipment.

Ivan moved to the Central Goldfields area in 1985 and now lives and works from a home studio in Redesdale. Ivan has works in private collections and churches both here and overseas.

The Icon was solemnly blessed by Bishop Joseph Grech on the 8th October 2010.

McAuley Champagnat Programme is still deadly!

Marcellin Champagne Program (MCP)

Notre Dame College's McAuley Champagnat Programme (MCP) may have returned empty handed from the 2010 Deadly Awards at Sydney Opera House but staff came home feeling like winners!

MCP, an alternative education setting providing accredited curriculum to at-risk youth in Shepparton since 2006, was one of four finalists in the **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education** category by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music, Sport, Entertainment and Community Awards, aka The Deadlys, on September 27.

MCP Director Kimberley Tempest said although MCP didn't win the award, MCP was still a winner. "Just to be amongst such high calibre nominees within Indigenous education nation-wide is a huge success for MCP, especially when we have only been running since 2006. We've worked hard and remain committed to providing the best possible education and care for all our students and we're blown away by the recognition."

Reconciliation is a natural part of everyday life at MCP, which results in Indigenous students developing a strong sense of identity and pride in their culture and heritage, and assists non-Indigenous students to gain a healthy respect for all cultures and honour for Australia's traditional custodians.

Although MCP did not win the coveted Deadly Award they have shown themselves to be worthy of both the public nomination and their selection as a finalist. The award nomination recognises this exceptional program which is providing a truly unique environment for students to learn, succeed and become positive contributors within their communities. MCP is making a real difference in the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth of the Shepparton region.



Self-Directed Learning a winner

St Mary's Primary COHUNA

The staff and students at St Mary's are on a teaching and learning journey that is marking the way of the future for primary schools in the 21st century. St Mary's, Cohuna has introduced a Self Directed Learning program which is engaging and challenging students to learn in a new and exciting way. The program was introduced in 2009 for grade 5/6 students after Principal Sonia Parker experienced Self Directed Learning in New Zealand and Canada. "I was blown away by the intensity and passion for learning that these students had, so when I came back to Cohuna, I knew it was time for us to change what we had been doing and try something new," said Ms Parker.

Self Directed Learning allows students to work on topics when they choose within the schedule guidelines and allows flexible methods for presentation. "We have modified and personalized this approach and now have our curriculum on line for the students to access either at school or at home," Sonia said. To cater for this type of change to teaching and learning, St Mary's implemented the Teacher Advisory Program which involves staff meeting with students and parents every term to set goals. The success of the program has relied on the dedication and leadership of the staff at St Mary's and the positive response from both students and parents.



Snapshots

New Schools - New Beginnings

Six years on, the newest schools in the Sandhurst Diocese have become a reality in the North Shepparton and Baranduda regions. St Luke's Shepparton and St Mary's Baranduda haven't looked back.

St Luke's Catholic Primary

From humble beginnings in 2005 with a foundational enrolment of 36 children and five staff members, St Luke's now hosts 161 children across the seven years of primary school, with 19 staff members to cater for their needs.

The school is well supported by an active School Board, Community Group (P&F) and the St Luke's Catholic Primary School Sports Club. The school has established a number of community partnerships which have seen the establishment of ECOpark, our sustainable environment education facility (with Shepparton Access) and more recently, the St. Luke's Playgroup, (with the Goulburn Ovens Institute of Tafe), which coordinates an activity-based fungroup for pre-schoolers and their parents, whilst supporting the training of Certificate 3 Early Childhood students.



The school looks forward to 2011 with great anticipation as the foundational Prep children and their classmates move into their final year of primary education at the school. This will also be the largest year 6 cohort in the history of the school. Plans are underway at School Board level to significantly mark this special chapter in the life of the school.



150 Year Celebrations

St Monica's Primary KANGAROO FLAT

You would be mistaken for thinking St Monica's school had stepped back in time last month as they dressed up in traditional clothing of the 1860's to mark the 150th anniversary of the school.

The original St Monica's school building, made of vertical slab walls and bark roof, was built in 1860 for Dr Henry Backhaus. The bark school was believed to have been situated within the boundary of the present school grounds. As one of the oldest schools in the Sandhurst Diocese, the community of St Monica's has much to celebrate during their sesquicentennial anniversary. Months of planning went into preparing for the significant milestone during which time students gained a greater appreciation of the history of their school. A book recording the school's history was launched at the anniversary weekend, co-authored by past student and teacher Terry Cogan and current teacher James Lerk with the assistance of the 150 year committee, the book is a valuable documentation of the school's history. Past staff and students gathered with the St Monica's school community on 10th October for a welcoming mass which honoured those who pioneered Catholic education in the region. A family day, displays and performances were also part of the celebrations.



Hot of Sandhurst

New Communities

The thriving communities providing a first class education for students in the Sandhurst Frayne College Baranduda both opened their doors in 2005 and they have thrived ever since.

Frayne College P-8

In the past six years the community of Frayne college has accomplished a great deal. Establishing a school from scratch is an enormous task in both a physical and cultural sense. Enrolments have steadily grown, community identity has been established and a unique culture of recognising our Catholic identity as a community, whilst at the same time respecting our responsibilities as a positive member of society, has developed. Under the governance structure of Catholic Education Wodonga, Frayne College has changed its initial setting from a prep to year nine to one that caters for students up to year eight. This was done to make the best use of the resources across the school settings in Wodonga. Currently Frayne College has an enrolment of around 190 occupying nine classrooms. The staff now numbers twenty four. It has established programs across all areas of school life with a strong emphasis on sustainability, self direction as a learner and on the use of twenty first century learning tools.

The community has active membership of the Catholic Education Wodonga Council. There is great support for school life through the actions of the Friends of Frayne, the Finance and Resources committee, the Grounds and Facilities committee, the Educational Reference group and the Catholic Identity team.

2011 promises to be another great year with increased enrolments, a stronger move to self-directed learning, embracing the next step in our twenty first century learning plans and a movement to a new leadership structure.



Important Steps towards Reconciliation

Blue skies greeted guests in Echuca for the opening of St Mary's Indigenous gardens and FIRE Carrier ceremony in October this year. The magnificent garden areas designed by local indigenous artist, Vera Cooper, feature important symbols of the region - the long neck turtle, the Murray cod and the goanna - each a totem of the Yorta Yorta people.



"Today in this special place for gathering and coming together, it brings a pathway to a place for education, learning, cultural expression, hope, gracefulness, sharing and caring, good fellowship, joy, beauty and a blessing of its future to all the children," said Ms Cooper.

Following the opening of the Indigenous garden, the commissioning of the FIRE Carriers took place. The FIRE Carrier project, an initiative of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and the Open the Doors Foundation, promotes reconciliation in Victorian schools using the power of fire as a symbol of new beginnings and of trust and understanding. FIRE stands for Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education and FIRE Carriers are elected within the student body both to represent students on the school's journey to reconciliation and to educate the school community about the local Aboriginal story.

Making a difference Building the Education Revolution



St Mary's Primary Echuca

To say that schools around Australia have benefited from the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) would be an understatement! If you look beyond the bricks and mortar, the real value lies within the school communities which now have places to gather, an indelible pride in their school surroundings and a stronger connection between home, school and parish community.

Mr Tom Sexton, CEO Consultant – Planning, explains how the Building Education Revolution has transformed school settings across the Sandhurst Diocese.

In 2009 the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution was implemented leading to unprecedented levels of capital funding for all schools in Australia. The equivalent of 15 to 20 years capital funding was made available for schools to be spent in 18 months, an unparalleled program that would ubiquitously reshape school settings.

The Building the Education Revolution is made up of three programs:

- the National School Pride (NSP) Program for primary and secondary schools to complete minor capital works and maintenance projects,
- the Primary Schools of the 21st Century (P21) Program which was available for all primary schools for major capital works projects and
- the Science and Language Centres (SLC) Program, aimed at secondary schools for the construction of new science laboratories or language learning centres.



St Patrick's Primary Tongala

St Michael's Primary



difference Education Revolution

During 2008 information was made available for school leaders across Sandhurst on the current trends in educational facility design; this information was put to immediate use in 2009 as schools began the enormous task of working on their building designs. Considerable efforts were undertaken at school, CEO Sandhurst and Catholic Capital Grants Company (Victoria) level to ensure Building the Education Revolution guidelines and timelines could be met and that schools were well supported during the process.

A significant feature of the Building the Education Revolution roll out in Catholic Schools in Victoria, was the high level of local decision making, with each building project individually designed to meet the needs of the local community and still comply with the guidelines and timelines.

The difference the Building the Education Revolution has made in individual school settings is significant, it is impossible to put a price on the value of a community centre in a school that has never before had a space to gather for school assemblies, meetings and community events. Similarly, classrooms have become vibrant learning centres providing the latest design innovations to support teaching and learning.

As people travel across the Sandhurst Diocese they will see first hand these fantastic building projects that have incorporated the latest research into educational and sustainable design. There is no doubt that staff, students and broader communities across Sandhurst will benefit from these state of the art buildings for many years to come.

Tallangatta



St Joseph's Primary Numurkah



Sacred Heart P-7 Corryong



Holy Rosary Primary White Hills

St Joseph's Primary Beechworth



The heart Sacred

History

There are few sights in Bendigo more imposing than the looming spires of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Situated in the heart of the City of Greater Bendigo the Cathedral is the spiritual home of the Sandhurst Diocese and a major tourist attraction for the region.

Initial construction of the Cathedral began in 1897 and was built in two stages. The first, comprising the nave and side aisles, was opened in September 1901. After a long interval, work recommenced in 1954 and the second stage was finally completed in 1977. The construction of the Cathedral was made possible through the remarkable achievements of Rev. Dr. Henry Backhaus (1811-1882), the first Catholic priest on the Bendigo goldfields.

Dr Backhaus in addition to his priestly duties was very skilled in financial matters. Between his arrival in 1852 and his death thirty years later, Dr Backhaus accumulated considerable property and this was left for the benefit of the church and enabled the Cathedral, among other things, to be built.

In 1874, the northern part of Victoria was separated from the Diocese of Melbourne and became the new Diocese of Sandhurst; an Irish Augustinian priest Dr Martin Crane OSA was appointed the first Bishop. In the early 1890's, there was a severe economic depression in Victoria and the banking system collapsed. In an attempt to alleviate the effects of high unemployment that existed in Bendigo in the mid 1890's, Bishop Crane embarked on a project to build a cathedral.

Bishop Crane wanted the Cathedral to be an impressive building and to occupy a prominent place among other major buildings recently completed in the city. Accordingly, Sacred Heart Cathedral was built on a hill slope in the centre of Bendigo where its magnificent architecture dominates the skyline of Bendigo as one of the city's most treasured landmarks.

Built in an early English Gothic style with enclosed flying buttresses, Sacred Heart Cathedral measures 76 metres in length and almost 90 metres at its highest point. With granite foundations and sandstone walls the Cathedral is an architectural masterpiece. Limestone dressings and carvings adorn the walls and the magnificent marble floors add to the grandeur of this sacred space.

Today, Sacred Heart Cathedral remains an architectural work of art and is the principal church of the Diocese of Sandhurst, serving the people of central and north western parts of the City of Greater Bendigo and many visitors to the church and the city. Monsignor Frank Marriott is the Administrator of the Cathedral.

The celestial sound of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir accompanied by the exceptional pipe organ is an unforgettable experience for those who worship at the Cathedral. The history of this magnificent building honours those who had the foresight to build Sacred Heart Cathedral. The golden light which beams onto the sanctuary reminds us of Christ, our truth and light.

rt of Sandhurst Heart Cathedral Bendigo



Catholic Education Sandhurst

There is no more wonderful place for the community of Catholic Education Sandhurst to gather than within the walls of Sacred Heart Cathedral. During 2010 this sacred space provided the perfect setting for some memorable events.

Leadership Gathering

Priests, Principals and School Board Chairs from across the Sandhurst Diocese participated in the annual Commissioning Mass for new Principals at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Thursday February 25th as part of the annual Leadership Gathering. School Board Chairpersons were also blessed in a commitment ceremony during the mass, acknowledging the enormous contribution they make to Catholic Education across the diocese.



Festival of the Sacred

The combined voices of over 800 grade five and six students from Catholic Primary Schools in the Western Deanery filled Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo with spirit and song on Wednesday, June 16 as part of the second annual Festival of the Sacred. The spectacular display of choral and instrumental performances preceded a Liturgy of the Word, led by Monsignor Frank Marriott. The festival is part of The Arts vision for the diocese which includes a partnership with a3-Australian Arts Alive, a branch of the Australian School of the Performing Arts.

MacKillop Art Exhibition

To celebrate the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Catholic Education Sandhurst has inaugurated the MacKillop Art Exhibition. The exhibition, an exciting joint venture with Monsignor Marriott and the Sacred Heart Cathedral community, is poised to become an annual event for the Sandhurst Diocese. Preceding the MacKillop Art Exhibition, an 'Artist in Residence' program commenced in schools to provide students with the skills and techniques to express themselves creatively under the guidance of renowned Australian watercolourist, Mr Terry Jarvis. The program began at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Numurkah, the first school opened by Mary MacKillop in Victoria.



Photographic exhibition honours Catholic Women

Two inspirational women from the Sandhurst Diocese were recognised for the contribution they make to their communities in a national travelling photographic exhibition at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in July 2010. Ms Phil Billington, Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst and Ms Kerry Stone of Numurkah, Diocesan Coordinator of Caritas were honoured alongside 43 other extraordinary Australian women. The Australian Catholic Church, through the Commission for Australian Catholic Women compiled the travelling photographic exhibition which celebrates the initiatives and achievements of inspirational Australian Catholic women from around Australia.

Flaring Start

Gymnastics program for schools

An exciting new partnership between Catholic Education Sandhurst and Jets Gym has been established in Bendigo resulting in a first class gym program for primary and secondary schools in the region.

With the first groups of schools from both the Catholic and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development sectors having just completed their term three gymnastics program, the feedback regarding the new facilities and program has been outstanding. The gym, which is located in the former Golden Square Secondary College stadium has been completely refurbished by Jets Gymnastics, including the addition of \$150,000 worth of new gymnastics equipment.

The program utilizes a dominant movement pattern approach to gymnastics skill teaching with an emphasis on gymnastics shapes, physical ability development, safe landings and teamwork. The program identifies benchmark skills that require the teaching of a range of foundation skills and gymnastic shapes. These skills can then be extended through the use of hand held and fixed apparatus, the linking of skills and the use of group work. This "building block" approach to gymnastics is extremely child centered and caters for a range of abilities to ensure all students experience a sense of achievement.

Lessons begin with a group warm-up & stretch focusing on gymnastics shapes and student participation in two circuits. During these circuits students are divided into four groups focusing on three to four activities at a time rather than one giant circuit, allowing a greater opportunity for instructor feedback, individual instruction and skill refinement through practice. The two circuits incorporate traditional gymnastics apparatus including bars, vault, floor, beam and trampoline, allowing all dominant movement patterns to be covered throughout each unit of work.

The Jets Centre is the only facility in Bendigo currently registered with Gymnastics Australia and employs only senior staff holding both a Physical Education teaching qualification and Level 1 or higher Gymnastics Accreditation. All support staff hold a current Level 1 Gymnastics qualification and trainees are engaged in Jets' nationally recognised Apprentice Coaches program.

The key to the programs success is the focus upon learning through fun activities and through seeking opportunities to praise and encourage students whenever possible. The high quality gymnastics program offered by Catholic Education Sandhurst and Jets Gym develops self esteem and confidence whilst promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for all children.



The Spirit of Sandhurst



2010 Educare recipient,
Helen Bandrowski with Mgr Peter Jeffrey



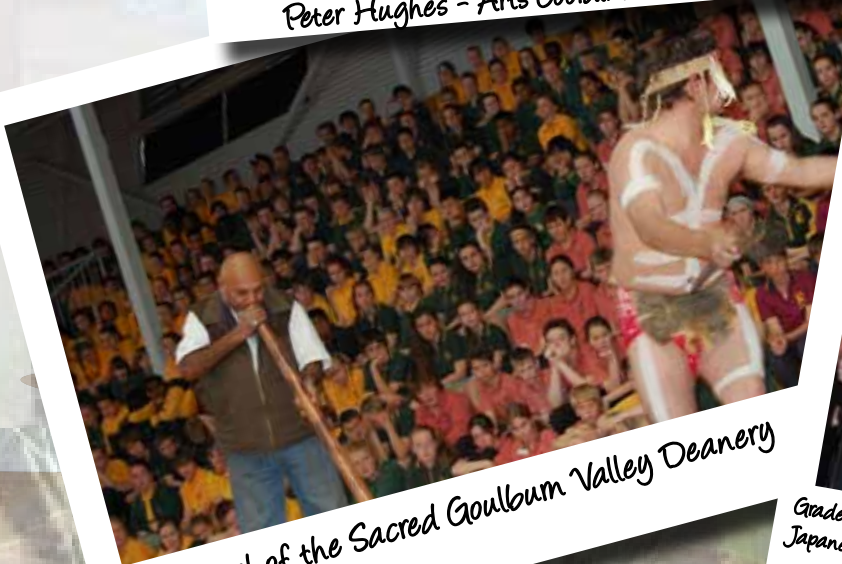
Students from St Mary's Primary, Myrtleford



Co-ordinator of the Mary MacKillop Art
Exhibition - Cath Watter pictured with
Peter Hughes - Arts Coordinator CCB



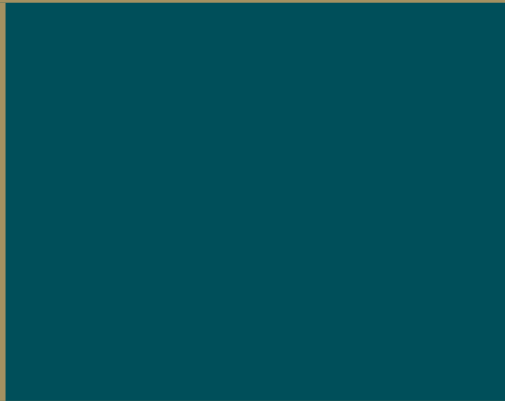
Bishop Noel Daly Award 2010
presented to the Sisters of St Joseph



Festival of the Sacred Goulburn Valley Deanery



Grade 3/4 Students from St Josephs PS Benalla performing a traditional
Japanese fishing dance at the Celebrating Languages Festival in October



This Spirit of Sandhurst Magazine captures the spirit of Catholic Education in the Sandhurst Diocese - its uniqueness, vibrancy, innovation and commitment to enhancing the lives of its students, families and teachers.