

Annual Report to the
Santa Maria College
Community from the Principal

2016

1. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RELATED TO OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Harvey Mackay, a renowned author and syndicated columnist in the United States once wrote, “A goal is just a dream with a deadline. And that goal will remain a dream unless you create and execute a plan of action to accomplish it.”

The Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017 for the College is displayed on our website, and reflects the priorities for the immediate future under the domains of Ethos, Teaching and Learning, Resources and Community. As expected the majority of goals are under the heading Teaching and Learning.

We continue to be acknowledged for our innovation, educational offerings, service learning and co-curricular activities. In 2015 Santa Maria College was a winner of the National 'Innovative Schools' Award. The Award was based on Santa Maria's development of innovative programs, environments and people. The programs recognised were those that go beyond the curriculum, in particular our Enhancing Learning suite of programs which include IGNITE, Seek7, Explore8 and Strive9. The outstanding achievements of our ACCESS Program were also noted.

While it is pleasing to win such awards, there is no time for complacency. We are well underway in achieving most of the Teaching and Learning goals from our Strategic Plan with the addition of some new innovations including:

- A program titled Spark6 was offered to Year 6 students in 2016. This focused on creative thinking using a STEM platform (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).
- Year 6 students in 2016 could choose 4 electives over the year. Two new electives that have proven very popular were:
 - o Active Adventures - that includes bush walking, orienteering, camp skills, team games and many more activities.
 - o Do It Yourself - that includes cooking and craft activities.
- Our support for Literacy and Numeracy has seen significant expansion of the Enrichment Centre. Specialist teachers, rather than teacher aides have been employed to assist students in each of Years 5 – 12.
- Giving more opportunities for creativity and problem solving through the introduction of new electives. In 2016 a new elective titled BrainSTEM was offered to Year 10 students. This elective covers current research in Neuroscience and Biotechnology.

To achieve goals from our Strategic Plan under the heading Community we have employed a Director of Community Relations who commenced in 2016. Creation of new promotional materials, changes to the way we undertake College Tours and the way we communicate with the College community, including a College App have received significant positive feedback. The College Senior Management structure has been reviewed and a new model will be operating from 2017. The appointment of a staff member in the second half of 2015 into the Community Relations Department to oversee our alumni (Old Girls' Association) has also been well received.

The goals from our Strategic Plan under the heading of Ethos have seen a new international Immersion Program to Ethiopia (St Yared's) that took place in December 2016 for Year 12 students and ex-students. This adds to our existing programs of Punmu (Year 10) and Cambodia (Years 11 & 12). In 2016, the College was presented with the prestigious LEAD Award at the annual Catholic Education Breakfast. Santa Maria College was recognised for the Faith in Action program that provides students with opportunities to live their Catholic and Mercy values in a way that serves the local and global community. While all students participate in the curriculum component of this program many serve in the co-curricular offerings such as Young Vinnies, Eco Sisters, Young Mercies, Seeds of Justice and the above-mentioned Immersion opportunities. The full extent of our Faith Program is shown in the infographic on the following page.

The major goal from the Strategic Plan under the heading Resources that is yet to be achieved is "to commence planning for Stage 4 Capital Development Plan."

Preliminary discussions on this will commence in the middle of 2017 after financial modelling has taken place.





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Faith

Prayer – Service

Our Faith Program at Santa Maria College provides students with opportunities to:

- Attend Mass weekly and as a college community, celebrate important dates in the Catholic calendar.
- Become aware and then actively make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate than themselves at the global and local level.
- Experience the feeling of connectedness that comes with sharing their time and skills with others.
- Earn a sense of self-worth.
- Recognise and appreciate the privileges they experience in their own lives.
- Develop their own spirituality.

Community Engagement

- Caritas
- The School of St Yared, Ethiopia
- St Vincent De Paul
- Red Cross Australia
- Seeds of Justice
- Thornlie School
- St Patrick's Fremantle
- The Sister's Place
- Shopfront
- Mercy Works
- Make Poverty History
- SAIL
- Punmu RAWA indigenous community
- Metta Karuna Center, Cambodia
- (Sr Denise Coglin, Sister of Mercy)
- Carinya Aged Care Facility
- Reconciliation WA
- Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness (ICEA Foundation)
- Wheelchairs for Kids Inc
- Zonta House
- Best Beginnings
- Explore8
- Strive9

Liturgical Celebrations

- Mass Friday 8.00 am
- Rosary Thursday 8.10 am
- Community Masses:
 - Opening Mass
 - Outreach
 - Mercy
 - Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter Liturgy
- House Liturgies

Co-Curricular Faith in Action Program

- Uthanda Doll Project (Years 5 & 6)
- Christian Service (Years 5 – 12)
- Young Vinnies (Years 5 – 12)
- Social Justice (Years 7 – 12)
- Young Mercies (Years 5 – 12)
- Eco Sisters (Years 5 – 12)
- Just Leadership (Year 9)
- Seeds of Justice (Year 10)

Service Through Leadership

- Student Leadership Council

Immersion Programs

- Punmu • Cambodia • Ethiopia

College Gifting Program

- Term 1**
- Project Compassion

- Term 2**
- Winter Appeal
 - St Patrick's Care
 - St Vincent de Paul
 - Shopfront
 - The Sister's Place

- Term 3**
- Mercy Works

- Term 4**
- Christmas Appeal
 - St Vincent de Paul
 - St Patrick's Care
 - Shopfront
 - The Sister's Place



Retreat/ Reflection Days

- Years 5 – 10 Reflection Days
- Year 11 Retreat (one day)
- Year 12 Retreat (three days)

Religious Education

- Years 5 & 6
- Year 7 – 'Making a Change'
- Year 8 – 'A Generous Heart'
- Year 9 – 'Reaching Out'
- Years 10 & 11 – 'Mercy in Action'

Social Justice Theme Days & Weeks

- Outreach Day
- Caritas Day
- Girls4Girls Day
- Sorry Day
- Purple Bra Day
- Homeless Week
- Health Week
- RUOK Day
- Santa4Santa Day
- Mercy Day

2. 2016 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Year 12 academic results in terms of the median ATAR were the highest ever at Santa Maria College and the highest ever in a Catholic school in Western Australia. While we do not support the publication of League Tables, they are in public domain and receive considerable comment. Santa Maria College was ranked 5th on the median ATAR table. This result is particularly pleasing as we are a school that is academically non-selective in terms of enrolment and we do not offer academic scholarships. The following infograph outlines the Year 12 academic achievements in both ATAR and ACCESS pathways.

The 2016 results were outstanding but were similar to previous years. Five years ago we set two academic goals:

- To achieve a median ATAR of 90.00

- To be ranked in the top 10 schools according to this measure

Since 2013 we have averaged 89.55 (ATAR) and averaged 8th place in WA for our median ATAR.



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2016 Academic Results Snapshot

Median ATAR 91.85



5th
in WA
out of 185 schools

Highest median ATAR score ever

for a Catholic School in WA
(Highest median ATAR ever at SMC)



ONE OF THE
highest
PERFORMING SCHOOLS
ACROSS 13 COURSES



- Accounting & Finance
- Applied Information Technology
- Business Management & Enterprise
- Drama
- Economics

- English
- Geography
- Human Biology
- Mathematics Applications
- Mathematics Methods
- Politics & Law
- Religion & Life
- Visual Arts

100
ATAR students
gained a SCSA
Award (66%)



ATAR SCORE

99+
4% Students

95+
35% Students



90+
58% Students



16

ACCESS students
gained a SCSA
Award (43%)

97%

of ACCESS students gained
a Certificate III or higher

TOP

PERFORMING
Catholic School
according to the
median ATAR Results



58%

of students ATAR
> 90



3. CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

A recent highlight was the opening of the new Consilii Centre in August 2015. After two years of planning and eighteen months of building, this state-of-the-art facility is now providing our students with flexible, modern learning spaces for both Science and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). During 2016 the Master Builders Association held their Excellence in Construction Awards. The Santa Maria College Consilii Centre was awarded the Best Education Building in the “under \$10 million category.”

The opening of the Consilii Centre with the provision of many more classrooms has produced additional benefits. The Library Team and the Digital Learning Team can more effectively use Levels 1 & 2 of the Sawle Centre for student research and study. The Consilii Building has also enabled the McCormack Building to become a fully dedicated Visual Arts and Fashion and Textiles resource area. The Music Department has expanded its practice facilities within the McAuley Building. Having the Uniform Shop back on campus has also greatly benefitted our community.



4. BUDGET

During 2016 The College Advisory Council (CAC) spent considerable time reviewing our current financial position and future growth patterns. The Advisory Council has endeavoured to keep tuition fee increases as low as possible and for 2017 the increase was 2.85% and in 2016 it was 3.9%. These fee increases over the past two years are some of the lowest in the Catholic and Independent sector. The CAC is very aware of the current economic situation but we are well-positioned for the future. Careful financial management, timely building and low interest rates have allowed for significant capital development over recent years.

The Year 2016 was the first time in nearly nine years that a major building program was not taking place. During this year many maintenance and upgrading projects were undertaken. Two major projects were:

- Resurfacing and tiling the swimming pool.
- Upgrading the bathroom facilities in the four Boarding Houses over 2016/2017.

The excellent facilities we currently enjoy are due to Building Levy contributions from mainly former families. I regularly point out to our students that the Class of 2009 never experienced the magnificent Mercy Building and the Class of 2014 missed out on the Consilii Centre. All money from the Building Levy allows for the continuation of the College Master Plan and ensuring our debt level is manageable.

It is now a time to enjoy our world-class facilities, reduce debt and update our Master Plan for the future Stage 4 Capital Development Plan.



5. ENROLMENT PATTERNS

The College is well regarded in the wider community and this is reflected in the number of applications we receive. We cannot find places for all applicants and we have set limits in the size of our Year groups.

- In each of Years 7 – 12 our preferred maximum is 182 students in each year. (7 or 8 classes of 23 - 26 students)
- For Years 5 & 6 we have been granted permission to become 3 stream which equates to 96 students. (4 classes of 24 students). In 2016, for the first time we commenced with 4 classes in Year 5 and 4 classes in Year 6.
- We are near capacity in Boarding for 2016 and 2017 (152 students). There are several rural areas struggling due to unseasonal factors that affect their finances. This has resulted in fluctuating numbers over 2016.



6. CONCLUSION

While we are blessed with a beautiful campus together with outstanding learning spaces, the true measure of success relates to what is happening in the classroom. Recently I was asked by a prospective parent who came on a Tour Day at Santa Maria College “What is the one thing you are proudest of that occurs at Santa Maria College? My reply went along these lines “If the girls graduate with a outstanding academic score but are not young women who want to improve the world condition, or lack compassion for the less fortunate or do not have a sense of community service – then we have failed in our educational offerings. Completing schooling up to Year 12 is more than a final ATAR or set of grades.”

As previously mentioned, we cannot become complacent so we need to work hard to maintain our position as a high performing school. We need to be seen as a school that excels in girls’ education, that is innovative, is community minded, is highly sought after and proudly proclaims a Catholic heritage.





SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

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