IN THIS ISSUE:

Cover: Swan Valley Anglican Community School students lay a wreath at Woodlake Amphitheatre on Remembrance Day

From the CEO

Chapels Old and New in ASC Schools

Feature School: St Mark’s Anglican Community School

Christmas Messages from the Bishops
Outside of schools, John pursued a variety of interests including natural history, the outdoors, music, art, travel, film and cricket. His love for cricket was reflected in his inaugural membership of the Western Australian Branch of the Lord's Taverners (Australia) and served as its President for many years. From 2002 to 2007, John was Chairman of the Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee which organised the opening cricket fixture for a team touring Australia. In 2000 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal, a commemorative award within the Australian Honours system, for service to cricket.

John was actively involved in the life of the Anglican Church outside of schools, most especially as a member of the Cathedral Parish, a Lay Canon of St George's Cathedral, and Chairman of the Cathedral Restoration Appeal.

John and his wife Janet were married in 1959. Janet was the great strength and support alongside John throughout his professional career. John and Janet had four children and nine grandchildren.

In this, our 30th year, the ASC looks back at those people who have been instrumental in shaping who we are today. Mr John Moody AM was one of those figures: great in stature yet humble of heart and generous of spirit. As one of Western Australia’s most respected educators of all time and very much of ‘the old school’, John moved with the times whilst remaining grounded in the traditions which have made Anglican schooling great over many centuries.

John is with his Lord now, yet his spirit lives on in the institutions and lives he touched over his 80 years… none more-so than the Anglican Schools Commission.
FAREWELLS

This month, we farewell a good friend of the ASC, Bishop Tom Wilmot, who retires from full-time ministry next month. Bishop Tom has served on the ASC Board since 2006, including serving as our Deputy Chair from 2008 to 2010. Bishop Tom will also be remembered as one of the founding fathers of Georgiana Molloy Anglican School (GMAS) in Busselton. As Rector of Busselton, he convened a group of interested people to work with the ASC towards the establishment of GMAS, culminating in the School's opening in January 2003. Bishop Tom served as the Chair of both the Steering Committee and the Foundation School Council, prior to relinquishing the role on being consecrated a Bishop to serve in the Diocese of Perth. Thank you Bishop Tom for your dedicated service to the Church, especially to the ASC and Georgiana Molloy Anglican School.

After ten years of service as Principal, Mr Peter Martin has moved from Peter Carnley Anglican Community School. As Foundation Principal, Mr Martin played a significant role in establishing and developing the School. The ASC thanks Mr Martin for his leadership.

OUT AND ABOUT

Over recent weeks I have visited all 14 of our schools, enjoying the opportunity to spend some time in classrooms, playgrounds and staffrooms. It was good to experience first-hand the level of collaboration across the schools... when visiting Cathedral College Wangaratta (CCW) I bumped into students and a teacher, Ms Diane Vrcic, from JSRACS! (above) The jazz quartet was visiting to run some workshops with the CCW students, coinciding with Wangaratta’s famous Jazz Festival. Here are some photos of life around our schools.

Thank you

Each year, People's Choice Credit Union, which has a long standing relationship with the ASC, donates $1,000 to an ASC school. In 2015, this money was presented by the Manager Corporate Services, Mr Eugene O’Sullivan, to St James’ Anglican School. The cheque was very gratefully received by the Principal and Business Manager and has been used to provide outdoor seating for students.
It was also good to be able to present the Principal and students of Cathedral College with a cheque for $50,000 as part of the ASC’s Special Mission Fund grants program. Launched this year, the program is open to all ASC schools. The ASC Strategic Plan (2012 – 2016) commits to providing “educational access and opportunities for low income families, students with special needs, students disadvantaged by distance and indigenous and refugee families”. In response to a strong imperative for social inclusion in our schools, the ASC has established this fund to assist in implementing this objective.

FINALLY, another school year draws to a close. I thank the School Councils, Principals, senior staff, Chaplains, teachers and support staff for your dedication throughout the year. Together with the team in the ASC office, your tireless efforts once again go towards ensuring that an education in an ASC school reflects the highest standard in every way. Our raison d’etre is to ensure that all our 13,500 students get the best possible educational opportunity, experience and care.

ASC schools are, first and foremost, Anglican communities. The ‘Anglican bit’ should and must underpin everything we do, say and ‘are’ at all 14 ASC schools. They should be places where our faith is expressed daily in Gospel values such as justice, respect, integrity and diversity. An ASC school is a Christian community which seeks to authentically live and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. The Gospels remind us that our faith is based on hope; hope in the baby Jesus of Christmas, hope in the crucified and resurrected Jesus of Easter, and hope in the living Christ Jesus today.

May your Advent and Christmas seasons be filled with hope, as together we look forward to the opportunities of 2016.

Every blessing

Peter Laurence (Revd)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PREVIOUS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT: Planting poppies made by the students at the Georgiana Molloy Anglican School Remembrance Day ceremony

TOP LEFT: The Reverend Peter Laurence with Junior School students at Frederick Irwin Anglican School

LEFT: Presenting a cheque to the Principal and students of Cathedral College

ABOVE: The three-metre-high coloured glass cross created by Ms Cindy Poole for the St James’ Anglican School Chapel
In bustling schools, where do you find somewhere quiet? The School Council of JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL dealt with that in 2013 by adding a Side Chapel. The extension reflects the shape of the main building with its apse; it seats about 30, and is dedicated to the mediaeval holy woman, Julian of Norwich. However, unlike Mother Julian’s cell it is comfortable and air-conditioned. Soundproof doors and windows to the main building mean that it can be used for prayer or counselling even when another activity is going on outside, and it can also function as a ‘crying room’ when the Chapel is used by the parish community. The School Chaplains and parish clergy join there in regular offices, prayers and Eucharist, and the parish also uses it for the early Sunday service.

And so, in the middle of the busy school community, there is a quiet room when the Chapel is used by the parish community. The School Chapel is increasingly used for prayer or counselling even when another community meeting is taking place. The Chapel offers easy access to the School community.

Off the main Chapel is a Side Chapel set up as a sanctuary. This special space provides a place where people can be quiet, reflect, escape and pray whenever they need to. It instils a sense of peace in an otherwise hectic world. There are candles to help prayer and reflection. The School Chaplain, the Reverend Dave Deeny, provides a visible presence to the School community.

The community of ST GEORGE’S ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL is very privileged to call the magnificent St George’s Cathedral our spiritual home. Each Monday, staff and students walk to the Cathedral to celebrate life, and participate in worship led by the School Chaplain, Father David Lord. The Cathedral provides calm and serenity, a space for reflection and a place for students to gather their thoughts and marvel at the wonderful surroundings. The Cathedral’s magnificent rose window is particularly relevant to our School, as it has been incorporated into our logo. This symbol serves as a reminder that our actions radiate outwards in an ever-widening circle and that our purpose is to reach out to the wider community through service. The altar, adorned with a beautiful carving of St George, provides a connection to the School’s patron saint and our link to the Cathedral.

On Tuesday 17 November, Archbishop Roger Herft consecrated the Chapel of St James for the Anglican Parish of St James and ST JAMES’ ANGLICAN SCHOOL (SJAS) in Alkimos. The congregation of 350 gathered outside the Chapel while the Archbishop knocked three times on the main doors. Once the doors opened, all processed inside where the Archbishop blessed the font and then the people with holy water. The blown glass font was made by Peter Reynolds, one of five artisans who created furnishings for the Chapel. The lectern, crafted by Peter Moyes Anglican Community School (PMACS) teacher, Matt Schlueter, was presented by PMACS Principal Julian Dowse to Adrian Pree the Principal of SJAS.

After the homily, the Archbishop poured the Oil of Chrism into each of the five crosses etched into the Donnybrook stone on the altar, setting it aside for this and every celebration of the Eucharist. After Communion, the Archbishop held the Blessed Sacrament aloft and led the sanctuary party into the Chapel of St Helen where he placed it into the hanging pyx. The copper and stainless steel pyx was forged by Craig Parson; the magnificent, three-metre-high coloured glass cross and the ambo glass were created by Cindy Poole; while the refurbished timber altar in this Chapel, along with the presiding chairs, credence tables and Paschal candle stand, were all built by Greg Sherwood. In the final actions of the liturgy, the Archbishop traced the Chi Rho and Alpha and Omega on the floor; the Deed of Consecration was read by the Chair of the ASC, Mrs Barbara Godwin OAM; and the Archbishop unveiled a commemorative plaque and gave the final blessing.

The disciples said to Jesus: “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away.” But Jesus invited them to sit on the grass and proceeded to feed the 5,000. With these thoughts in his head, TRINITY ANGLICAN COLLEGE Chaplain Lee Weissel wheels his portable altar into the middle of the cavernous sports stadium, sets the College cross to the left of the basketball ring and lights the House candles so they flicker on the stage where the Hairspray musical recently enthralled a full house. Students file in and take the seats they fill during assemblies, raucous basketball games, and Speech and Prizegiving Day. But, now, they are silent; respectful. Reverend Lee has succeeded in turning the sports stadium into a place of prayer and worship. Just as Jesus ministered to the people on the grass, Reverend Lee preaches in an unorthodox Chapel. The message he gives is the same as those delivered in more auspicious surroundings. He overcomes the paucity of religious atmosphere with visual cues such as the candles, cross and altar that are sometimes complemented by slideshows that highlight the theme of the moment. Student performances, playing out stories from the Bible, provide yet another powerful reinforcement. A Chapel has been on the masterplan since the College's foundation in 2002 and, one day, students will worship in a designated Chapel. But, for now, Reverend Lee spreads the word from “the grass” and students flock around afterwards in a fashion that Jesus perfected nearly 2,000 years ago.
Established in 1986, St Mark’s Anglican Community School was the first of the ASC schools, created to meet the demand for affordable, quality education with a strong Christian emphasis. St Mark’s has always been a busy and enriching place to grow as a young person and the School itself has grown significantly since those early days. Today, the School is home to 1,580 students.

St Mark’s has been blessed with strong leadership from the outset, with the School thriving under the guidance of the first two Principals, Mrs Barbara Godwin and Mr Tony Stopher, leaving a remarkable legacy which the current Principal, Mr Cameron Herbert, is determined to honour and build upon.

While celebrations of our 30th anniversary were modest, it was a great opportunity to reflect on our past as well as look to the future.

A BITE OF OUR HISTORY
One way the School marked the occasion was through a commemorative cookbook which incorporated the history of the School and, of course, recipes from the wider school community.

Over 60 recipes were trialled and taste tested before being professionally photographed for inclusion in the publication. The history of the School was carefully recorded, using the School Archives. The cookbook included more than 100 photos, representing all aspects of School life across the decades. In addition, stories and anecdotes were collected from staff, past students and current families.

The resulting cookbook, A Bite of Our History, was well-received, with the book flying off the shelves at the school fete and other community events held during the year. The cookbook was more than a one-off publication; it has become a wonderful memento for families to cherish as a record of their child's time at St Mark’s. As many purchasers noted, it also made a great present for family and friends.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION
The celebrations flowed throughout the school year and were incorporated into annual events such as St Mark’s Day, the school fete, the Art Exhibition, student activities and Speech Nights. The Old Scholars took particular delight in sharing their memories at the St Mark’s Day Sundowner.

The school magazine, The BookMark, and the year book, Endeavour, featured a number of articles with a 30 year focus. For example, the Year 2 students shared their vision of their life in 30 years’ time and the Language students identified 30 English words that had their origin in the French language.

For the annual House Performance Night, students created dance routines, drama performances and murals, all linking into the 30th anniversary theme.
The visit created a great deal of buzz around the School, as it marked the start of preparations for St Mark’s Middle School Tour to China in October 2016. St Mark’s has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jinan Number 11 High School, and our students will collaborate with this school during the tour next year.

The international flavour continued with a volleyball tour to Singapore in October this year, as well as a ski trip/exchange to Japan in December. The long-standing relationship with WA La Reunion Exchange saw students travel to, and host guests from, Reunion Island again this year.

The School also welcomed Bishop Joseph Mgomi from Tanzania, the Bishop of the Diocese of Ruaha as part of our St Mark’s Day celebrations. This Diocese is where our Year 11 Mikono trip visits each year. Mikono is Swahili for ‘hands’. The aim is to offer helpful hands to our sisters and brothers in the Iringa District and to provide students with a cross-cultural experience in a developing nation. As part of the trip, our students help teach English at St Michael’s Anglican School, as well as completing general maintenance at the Amani Christian Training Centre. The St Mark’s community is supporting our efforts, with the Parents and Friends’ Association and the Old Scholars’ Association both providing scholarships to allow students in the area to attend St Michael’s.

It is exciting to have reached the 30-year mark and to be maturing as a school. Our achievements have been significant and our future is very bright!
Eternity in our hands

It seems incomprehensible that God would entrust anything to us, human beings. We are often indifferent and even rebellious towards God’s presence in our world.

The truth in the Christmas story is that God entrusts eternity — the power and presence of love (Jesus) — into the hands of a couple, Mary and Joseph, and a few hangers-on - the shepherds, and some wandering sages.

Parents, family, friends, teachers and the school environment are entrusted with children — bearers of the promise and potential of God’s eternal love.

Every one of us has a part to play in the nourishing and flourishing of this Divine energy. May we never take this for granted.

May we hear the song of the angels as we continue to treasure the gift of young hearts and minds and glimpse in them eternity in our hands.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace amongst those with whom God is pleased."

May this holiday season be blessed with a renewed awareness of Christmas - ‘eternity in our hands’.

+ Roger
The Most Reverend Roger Herft AM
Archbishop of Perth

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The time was 734-732 BCE and King Ahaz of Judah faced the threat of attack from his northern neighbours Israel and Syria. The Prophet Isaiah who wrote these words no doubt had in mind a descendant of King David who would fulfil the hope for peace and security in the face of violence and oppression. The expression of joy and hope fulfilled in Isaiah 9:2-7 is to be seen in the very real and risky world of political alliances.

The Christian tradition has seen in these words a foreshadowing of the person of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem whose birth we are about to celebrate. Luke tells of the birth of a child born to a poor refugee family struggling for its very survival. The story of the birth of Jesus in Luke is set in the hard world of displaced persons and political oppression; into a world which is as risky as it is real. And it is into precisely such a world that both Isaiah and Luke call for and proclaim joy and celebration.

As I write this, I am ever conscious that our world is just as real and even more risky. The horror of conflict in the Middle East which has spread into Paris and beyond; the tragedy of bushfire in and around Esperance and the threat of a fire season rendered ever more dangerous by the effects of global warming; the increasing gap between the few mega wealthy and the increasing numbers of those living in poverty; all these point to a society which has lost touch with its connection in God.

The coming of Jesus into the world, as an innocent and vulnerable child, is God’s expression of love and hope. No less than flowers and candles, Jesus’ birth is the declaration of the triumph of light in a world of darkness, and of a promise that the world will end, not in utter destruction, but in a world made whole.

Like that child in Paris, hope can be a little hard to believe. Are flowers and candles really greater than guns? Yes! Does the birth of one child in Bethlehem mean that God will keep a promise of restoration and new life? Yes!

May you and your family know rich blessings this Christmas, and may we celebrate with flowers and candles the love of all with whom we share our lives. And may Jesus be the acknowledged guest in your home as you share the feasts and gifts of the season. With prayer for God’s richest blessings to you all.

+ Allan
The Right Reverend Allan Ewing
Bishop of Bunbury