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From the CEO

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DEAR COLLEAGUES

2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of The Anglican Schools Commission (Inc.). From humble beginnings at the Synod of the Diocese of Perth in October 1985, when we commenced with little more than a school under construction at the extremities of Perth (in the developing beachside suburb of Hillarys), today the ASC comprises 14 schools on 16 campuses in three states. Through the growth into a body which services the Anglican Province of Western Australia and the Diocese of Wangaratta, we remember and give thanks for our origins in the Diocese of Perth.

The year started with a number of new additions to the ASC family. We welcome:

- St James’ Anglican School, Alkimos,
- Trinity Anglican College, with campuses in Albury NSW and Wodonga Victoria,
- Cobram Anglican Grammar School, located in regional Victoria, and
- St George’s Anglican Grammar School, currently located on the Murdoch University campus, to be relocated to a purpose-fitted inner city building mid-2015.

Throughout the year we will feature our new schools in this Newsletter, commencing in this edition with our two new Eastern States schools.

2015 paints an interesting ‘statistical’ picture:

- The move from the 2014 to 2015 school year saw unprecedented growth across the system, as the ASC grew from 10 schools to 14 schools ‘overnight’.
- The combined enrolment of our schools is now over 13,400 students; at the turn of the century we comprised some 4,800 students.
- The system-wide enrolment this year is 2,400 students above the 2014 close.
- John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School has the largest enrolment at almost 2,100 students.
- St James’ Anglican School is our newest school, with some 170 students.
- We moved into ‘boarding’ for the first time this year, with Esperance Anglican Community School opening a 40-bed boarding house.
- St George’s Anglican Grammar School also has a comprehensive ‘homestay’ program for approximately 100 international students.
- We have just under 990 teachers employed in our schools.
- We employ a further 535 support staff.

FAREWELL TO BISHOP KAY GOLDSWORTHY

On Sunday, 16 February, hundreds of people from across the Diocese and beyond gathered in St George’s Cathedral for a Choral Evensong to recognise Bishop Kay Goldsworthy’s 23-year ministry in the Diocese and farewell her as she moves to Victoria to become Bishop of Gippsland. Among her many roles in the Diocese, as Chaplain to Perth College, Rector of the Parish of Applecross and Assistant Bishop, Bishop Kay also served for a number of years on the Anglican Schools Commission Board. She had a good understanding of, and love for, schools. We celebrated in 2008 when Bishop Kay was the first woman to be consecrated a Bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia. Philip Goldsworthy (Director, Mission and Planning) represented the ASC at Bishop Kay’s installation as Bishop of Gippsland on Saturday, 21 March. The ASC gives thanks for Bishop Kay’s ministry amongst us and wishes her God’s blessing in Victoria.

30TH ANNIVERSARY

As mentioned above, this year marks the 30th anniversary of our founding. The major celebrations are focused on one day – Friday, 8 May. On this day, we are pleased that the Archbishop will be joining us to open St James’ Anglican School in Alkimos. In the evening, a Eucharist will be held in St George’s Cathedral for all our schools, together with key figures from ‘ASC past’ and many of our current supporters. This will be followed by a dinner at the Duxton Hotel where, over a lovely meal, we will celebrate who we are as a family of schools in 2015. We are thirty years young, yet still have much to celebrate. I look forward to seeing many of you on the 8th.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

With schools now in three states and three dioceses, I am pleased that we have been able to extend our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to staff and their families in all 14 ASC schools from the beginning of this year. Anglicare WA has contracted counselling services in Albury, Wangaratta and Shepparton to support our Eastern States schools. Staff are reminded that you and other family members are entitled to up to six complimentary, confidential counselling services per year, for personal reasons or for a matter connected to the workplace. As an employer, the ASC is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all staff in our schools.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

In this edition of the Newsletter each year, we are blessed to have thoughtful reflections from the Diocesans of the three dioceses where our schools are located – the Archbishop of Perth, Bishop of Bunbury and Bishop of Wangaratta. They remind us that at the heart of our mission as Anglican Schools lies a fullness of life found in the grace and love of the risen Christ. As we come to the end of the first school term and the conclusion of Lent, I take this opportunity to wish you and all in your school communities a blessed Holy Week and Easter. It is for Christians, after all, the most important time in the Church’s calendar.

Peter Laurence (Revd)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
WHO WE ARE NOW
A snapshot of how we are faring in our 30th Anniversary year

JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE
ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1989 - 2015
Principal: Mr Matthew Hughes

In 2014, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School (JSRACS) marked its 25th Anniversary and is the largest school in the system. From modest beginnings, JSRACS is now a dual-campus school with a multi-cultural population in excess of 2,100 students from 1,450 families, and with a staff of 250.

Encouraging our students to see and take full advantage of the opportunities provided for them as members of this nurturing school community and, in turn, seeing themselves as capable of making a difference in the world beyond school, have been central to the work of JSRACS as it fulfils its remit as an Anglican Community School. JSRACS can point to up-to-date and well-maintained buildings and an extensive academic and co-curricular program. The School prides itself that it has maintained a firm grasp on the repeated changes in curriculum over the last 25 years. It truly makes a difference to the families it serves, with 75% of its students in any one year participating in courses leading to an ATAR and well over 90% applying for university and gaining admission to university courses at the conclusion of Year 12. All these achievements are important in their own right and, without them, JSRACS would miss the mark as a school - but, on their own, they are not what make JSRACS a good school. It is the quality of the relationships between students and their teachers that does and this is made manifest by the tone of the School.

ST MARK’S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1986 - 2015
Principal: Mr Cameron Herbert

Situated in the thriving northern beachside suburb of Hillarys, St Mark’s is the educational home for 1,580 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Life at St Mark’s is a wonderful mix of enthusiasm, cultural and outdoor pursuits, sporting activity and learning. The School’s well-regarded reputation for academic achievement is matched by its reputation as a highly caring community, qualities that we celebrate with the Anglican Schools Commission in our 30th year. St Mark’s aims to develop students who will be typified by their compassion, resilience, pursuit of excellence, and sense of community and global responsibility. The School continues to fulfil the foundational values upon which it was established, but has become more expansive and outward looking in its vision. With sister schools in Japan and China, and ongoing links and special-purpose trips to Singapore and Tanzania, St Mark’s is committed to providing opportunities for students to become increasingly connected with the Indian Ocean region.

The School has launched a new strategic plan for the next five years in which the priorities are directed at building on the academic ethos, increasing the emphasis on creativity and innovation, and increasing offerings in the Primary School years. To support the strategic direction, St Mark’s launched a new master plan for the campus which includes a new senior academic centre, arts precinct, Middle School, science centre, physical education department, technology building, Early Learning Centre and auditorium. This is a very exciting time to be at St Mark’s.

JOHN WOLLASTON ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1989 - 2015
Principal: Ms Anne Ford

As one of 14 schools of the Anglican Schools Commission and a World School of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, the success of John Wollaston Anglican Community School lies in a strong sense of community, the standards and values celebrated, and a progressive approach to learning. A broad curriculum is complemented by a co-curricular program which includes access to Champion Lakes Regatta Centre, the only international-standard rowing, dragon boating and kayaking facility in Western Australia. Coaching sessions for students in Years 7 to 12 increase the confidence and competence of new rowers enabling them to get the most out of their experience on the water. The Interhouse Rowing Regatta is a feature of the school calendar.

FREDERICK IRWIN ANGLICAN SCHOOL 1991 - 2015
Principal: Ms Kerry Robertson

Frederick Irwin Anglican School opened its doors for the first time in 1991 with just 175 Primary School students and 14 staff members. By 1996, we had matured to a Pre-Primary to Year 12 School and, in 2001, Kindergarten was introduced. Today, the School educates and nurtures 1,533 young people, and employs over 160 teaching and support staff members. We have grown from a small Primary School on the edge of a limestone quarry, which is now covered by extensive sporting facilities and playing fields, to a substantial campus with a large Primary School and a six-stream Secondary School. Far more important than the statistics, however, are the people they represent. Far more important than the buildings are the students and staff who populate them. Our students are the heartbeat of our school – they bring vitality and life – and are such lovely young people. Our dedicated and energetic staff continue to drive innovations in education and encourage each student to achieve individual success. Our core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, compassion and courage underpin all that we do as we strive to ensure our students have the best possible educational experiences in order to acquire skills, attributes and qualities that will enable them to master the challenges of life to be good citizens of the 21st century. As at the start, our Anglican ethos is woven into the fabric of the School, which continues to be a productive and happy place.
A coastal setting north of Perth gives Peter Moyes Anglican Community School students panoramic vistas of the Indian Ocean. On campus, the School’s facilities continually develop. At the end of 2009 the multi-purpose auditorium and music and drama centre, the Allan Shaw Centre, was opened. In 2010, a new library and art studio building was constructed and the new senior school, the Doug Swingler Senior School, was opened in 2012. At the start of this year, construction of a gymnastics centre commenced. An important part of the pastoral care system of the School is the development amongst students of the values of the Anglican tradition, especially respect and compassion for others. All students regularly participate in School Chapel and Holy Communion services. We take pride in seeking to develop a sense of grace and Christian purpose in the lives of students.

Who are we now? We are a community that has progressed from its infancy through to its young adulthood; a community that has worked through the challenges that ‘adolescence’ presented and is now ready to embark on a wiser, more mature fulfilment of its vision and purpose, all the while continuing to offer its students the very best opportunities in a pastorally orientated, Christian environment.

This year saw the opening of our new, state-of-the-art Early Learning Centre, accommodating Little Georgies, Kindergarten and Pre-primary. With this build, we were able to incorporate all the requirements of the National Quality Framework, and embed in our programs a high quality, play-based, educational program. Classrooms have been designed to create a natural, engaging environment where students are encouraged to challenge themselves and to take risks. Teachers have created beautiful learning spaces within each of their classrooms, incorporating many natural elements. Children are encouraged to make choices about their learning using investigations and inquiry. Learning centres based on the student’s interests, cultures and skill development are provided to invite creativity, problem solving and individual challenges.

Working and learning at Georgiana Molloy Anglican School is such a blessing and a joy.

Kathryn Campbell, Head of Early Childhood.

PETER MOYES ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2000 - 2015
Principal: Mr Julian Dowse
A coastal setting north of Perth gives Peter Moyes Anglican Community School students panoramic vistas of the Indian Ocean. On campus, the School’s facilities continually develop. At the end of 2009 the multi-purpose auditorium and music and drama centre, the Allan Shaw Centre, was opened. In 2010, a new library and art studio building was constructed and the new senior school, the Doug Swingler Senior School, was opened in 2012. At the start of this year, construction of a gymnastics centre commenced. An important part of the pastoral care system of the School is the development amongst students of the values of the Anglican tradition, especially respect and compassion for others. All students regularly participate in School Chapel and Holy Communion services. We take pride in seeking to develop a sense of grace and Christian purpose in the lives of students.

PETER CARNEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2007 - 2015
Principal: Mr Jason Bartell
To answer the question ‘who are we now?’ requires a reflective review of our past. Just as parents reflect on the growth of their children and celebrate areas of significant personal development, so we can reflect on our school community’s history to answer this question. Swan Valley ACS was opened in 2006 on a bare greensfield site with very limited physical resources. One hundred and twenty six students attended on that first day and, while the physical resources may have been limited, the strength of the School was always the shared vision of its School Council, Principal and staff, of ensuring that outstanding educational opportunities were afforded to its students in a caring Christian environment. Nine years later, the School has a student enrolment of over 1,100 and facilities that are far more advanced than those available to students in its founding year, but the nature and vision of our school remains unchanged. Who are we now? We are a community that has progressed from its infancy through to its young adulthood; a community that has worked through the challenges that ‘adolescence’ presented and is now ready to embark on a wiser, more mature fulfilment of its vision and purpose, all the while continuing to offer its students the very best educational opportunities in a pastorally orientated, Christian environment.

This year on from its foundation, Peter Carnley Anglican Community School is a thriving partnership of some 600 families, 93 staff, and 951 students, putting the Anglican Schools Commission ethos of faith and excellence into daily practice in Wellard and surrounding suburbs in the southern corridor. Although our first years focused on building, we also concentrated on developing citizens for the future. Nine years on, we are proud to say that we are still building in both senses. This year, we are excited to be opening our new administration building, as well as laying the foundations for a new, state-of-the-art gymnasium – both practical buildings which will serve our growing community for many years to come. We recently launched an exciting new scholarship programme which will recognise the hard work of some of our most deserving and promising students and, in the coming year, we look forward to launching our alumni association. We have learnt that building is only ever partially about bricks and mortar – the physical footprint of the School is important, but the pursuit of excellence in all that we do, and the mission to live our lives by Gospel values, combine to produce well-balanced, happy citizens, striving to better the world they live in. And that is a long-term building project in which we can all be proud to be involved.

Principal: Mr Ted Kosicki
Located in the City of Busselton in the South West of WA, Georgiana Molloy Anglican School (GMAS) is a Christian co-educational day school for students from Little Georgies (Early Learning) to Year 12. GMAS Early Childhood started in 2003 with 53 children in Kindergarten to Year 2. There were single streams of each class, with four teachers and two Education Assistants. Today, we have 288 children from Little Georgies to Year 2 and are triple streamed in all but one year level. We have 11 teachers and 10 education assistants.

This year saw the opening of our new, state-of-the-art Early Learning Centre, accommodating Little Georgies, Kindergarten and Pre-primary. With this build, we were able to incorporate all the requirements of the National Quality Framework, and embed in our programs a high quality, play-based, educational program. Classrooms have been designed to create a natural, engaging environment where students are encouraged to challenge themselves and to take risks. Teachers have created beautiful learning spaces within each of their classrooms, incorporating many natural elements. Children are encouraged to make choices about their learning using investigations and inquiry. Learning centres based on the student’s interests, cultures and skill development are provided to invite creativity, problem solving and individual challenges.

Working and learning at Georgiana Molloy Anglican School is such a blessing and a joy.

Kathryn Campbell, Head of Early Childhood.
ST JAMES’ ANGLICAN SCHOOL  2015
Principal: Mr Adrian Pree
Stage One of St James’ Anglican School (SJAS) in Alkimos is now complete, with 172 students and 22 staff members occupying the premises. 2015 will be a year of many firsts for us. The Year 5 and 6 students completed the first three-day camp adventure to Rottnest Island which was aimed at developing the School’s first leadership group. The first School Captains were presented with their badges in mid-March. Week 5 saw students from Years 2 to 6 head to the Arena Joondalup Aquatic Centre for our inaugural Interhouse Swimming Carnival, where the four Houses: Eglinton, Cervantes, Sydney and Twilight [named after shipwrecks along the WA coast, as is Alkimos itself] competed for the interhouse trophy. Well done to Sydney House who were the overall winners. In yet another first, Years 3 to 6 students undertook their first Surf Survival Swimming Program at Quinns Beach. Nearly 70 students were involved in a Lend Lease sponsored initiative to make SJAS a Surf Lifesaving WA partner school. We are also pleased to announce that SJAS will be the home of WA’s first school-based academy for sports cycling. Recreational and competitive cycling will be offered in both curricular and co-curricular activities. A cycle path has been planned within the school grounds and the cycling team, St James’ Race Team, commenced in Week 4, together with a myriad of other co-curricular activities.

Three months into our first year at St James’ Anglican School, we are building the foundations of a strong community and looking forward to our official opening and dedication by the Archbishop on 8 May.

ST GEORGE’S ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2015
Principal: Ms Rensché Diggeden
St George’s Anglican Grammar School started the year with 200 students, around one third of whom are international students. This global demographic creates a truly multicultural and diverse community. We are excited to be Perth’s first high-rise city school when we relocate to our new premises during the July holidays. Fit-out on the building has commenced with our architects focusing on creating flexible teaching spaces and break-out areas. The rooftop is in the process of being transformed into a student recreation deck with spectacular views to the Swan River and the city. The School community has embraced the Anglican ethos and is looking forward to celebrating weekly Chapel services in the magnificent St George’s Cathedral, the spiritual home of the School.

CATHEDRAL COLLEGE WANGARATTA 2011 -2015
Principal: Mr Adrian Farrer
2015 is a significant year for Cathedral College Wangaratta. For the first time since our inception in 2003, we are operating on a single campus as a Prep to Year 12 school. From fewer than 380 students in 2014, we now have over 530 students in 2015. This considerable increase in student population has enabled the School to provide a continuum of learning that meets the needs of all students at their different developmental stages. Already, in first term, there have been many occasions to blend Junior and Senior School cultures for learning in the classroom, in sport, in music, in leadership initiatives, and in the wider community. The recent annual Big School Breakfast for students and their families was not only a chance to raise money for The Kids’ Cancer Project, but a morning for students across all year levels to participate in House Games. School Captain, Christian Paynter, along with other Seniors, helped our new Prep students join in the House spirit and have fun on the day.
There is never a dull moment at Trinity Anglican College where life is an exciting, bustling mix of academic and co-curricular pursuits for students and an era of construction and expansion for the School. The opportunities afforded us, now that we have joined the Anglican Schools Commission, provide an exciting step in our evolution and we look forward to participating in the ASC network.

Student growth has continued to drive innovations on many fronts and demanded prioritising of construction plans. For the first time in College history, four classes of Year 7 students started the academic year and, at the Wodonga campus, numbers swelled to support stand alone classes from Prep to Year 4. The College has burgeoned from its humble beginnings of 17 students in 2002 to 870 students from Kindergarten to Year 12 in Albury, 120 from Prep to Year 6 at the Wodonga Campus and 42 in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs at the Early Learning Centre.

This continued growth means the business side of the College has been frantic. Architects and construction workers are regular visitors to the College as new facilities to house the students are planned and built. In the past 15 months, the College has opened a four-lab science centre and a design and technology facility, comprising two fully-equipped workshops and a technology lab. A month ago, work started on our $7.2million, 20-classroom, Senior School which is due to open for the start of school next year and, in fourth term this year, the builders will get to work on a new multi-million dollar Infants’ Centre.

New students also means new teachers – eight this term alone – who not only help retain a vibrancy among the staff, but each bring their own particular skills to the College’s diverse co-curricular offering. Some of the strongest clubs in the Junior School are the Stephanie Alexander garden program and the multi-sport training group while, in the Senior School, the Python Programming IT group, robotics club and the middle years environment group always have the largest participation levels.

Senior students are in the last month of preparation for the College musical, Hairspray, the production that has depleted op shops far and wide of their 1960s clothing as students seek out their own unique garb. The production also has musicians from various College ensembles hard at work to perfect the music, IT specialists working on the program and art students helping with the stage sets.

Trinity’s basketball club is now the biggest and fastest growing club in the local basketball competition, with players from Year 3 to Year 12 representing the School in one of its 21 teams. Netball is only marginally smaller, with 20 teams across the indoor and outdoor competition. This winter, the College will introduce its own Saturday morning infants sports program, comprising the sports body recognised programs Auskick, Aussie Hoops, Mini Roos and Net Set Go.

At the end of 2014, Trinity welcomed a stratospheric improvement in its internet access through a College-funded link to AARNET, the provider to Australia’s main universities. Now a 1 GB up and down uncontested link to the internet has opened the door for rapid advancements in technology and its integration into teaching and learning.

Combine this with the new Senior School building and the introduction of a greater diversity of subject offerings including the first time-offered VET construction, and it is evident that Trinity College is meeting the needs of students looking for a robust and holistic education.
Cobram Anglican Grammar School (CAGS) is an Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) school within the Diocese of Wangaratta. It is unique in the Cobram district, offering quality education opportunities for students in a well-structured Prep to Year 12 environment which allows students to progress seamlessly, and at their own pace, from year to year throughout their entire education journey. It is an academically-focused, independent school combining every advantage of a smaller school with the expectations of a much larger school. The school community enjoys a relaxed, semi-rural setting which includes a mixture of modern permanent buildings and demountable classrooms set amidst 10 acres of lawn and trees.

The School opened in 2000 with a total of 26 students spread throughout Years 5, 6 and 7. The founding Principal was Mr Andrew Williams who worked tirelessly to establish the School in the local community and the current Principal, Mr Stephen Gale, continues this tradition, warmly welcoming new families to the school community. At the time of its opening, the School consisted of one building incorporating the Principal’s office, library, staffroom and two classrooms. In its 15-year history, the School has grown steadily. In 2006 the first group of Prep students joined the School. Since then, the Junior Years program (Prep - Year 4) has grown to five composite classes. The School has become well known for addressing the academic and pastoral needs of its students through its developing Junior and Middle years programs, as well as engaging its Senior students in a wide variety of VCE subjects.

Christian philosophy and faith are at the core of the School’s values and are expressed in every facet of our curriculum and activities. Christianity is the principal focus for the primary years, and in later years an understanding of the spectrum of religious faiths is taught. Students in VCE classes approach the topic of Religious Education from the viewpoint of ethics and morality, and all students are actively encouraged to develop their understanding of spirituality.

Academic pursuits are complemented by an expansive and varied sports program. Students compete in local and interschool swimming and athletics carnivals. Interschool summer and winter sports days are also part of the program and competition extends to football (AFL), soccer, netball and basketball. Individual students are encouraged to compete in a wide range of sports. These have included lawn bowls, equestrian events, and other sporting events which fall outside the traditional sports program.

The Arts are well-catered for at CAGS. In 2009, the construction of the art wing provided students with a modern, well-equipped visual and ceramic arts classroom with its own kiln. An adjoining general purpose classroom was designed to serve as a drama facility with room for costume storage and a demountable stage. The entrance to the wing provides gallery space for the whole school and a perfect location for other Arts related activities including textiles, woodwork and metalwork. Also in 2009, the administration wing was renovated to provide a spacious reception area, a student foyer, administrative offices and a new staff room.

As CAGS is a developing school, building and renovation have been ongoing features of the school environment for many years. During 2010, a new library building and Junior Primary classroom block were built in the north-west corner of the campus. These new facilities were opened in 2011, together with a senior computer laboratory and a sports oval on the eastern side of the school. 2013 saw the opening of more new facilities, including two more Junior Primary classrooms which featured breakout areas, staff facilities, and a toilet block for all Primary students. Improvements continued in 2014 with classrooms rejuvenated by the installation of new blinds, air-conditioning units and integrated TV/DVD facilities.

In 2015, as a member of the ASC, CAGS continues to grow. New demountable classrooms now accommodate a Junior Years sub-school at the northern end of the site; a dedicated VCE Centre for Senior Years students is in the renovated original buildings; and a Middle Years sub-school is located at the northern end of the site. New home economics facilities have also been added to our arts/technology amenities, and extensive paving and a cover over the basketball court complete the picture for 2015.
A hundred years on . . . the whole nation is gathered up in the mystery of the ANZACs – the dawn services, the eternal flame, the tomb of the unknown soldier, the beaches of ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli, Lone Pine, Villers-Bretonneux – all add to the richness of what is described as the founding story of our nation. There is a spirit of sacredness that envelopes a culture deeply cynical of anything that is in the realm of mystery. The media covers every aspect of the various rituals. We, as a nation, believe that in the death of over 8,000 young men, a resurrection took place – a spirit of mateship, compassion, dignity, courage and sacrifice – love that lays down its life for another was entered into Australia’s soul. A place of bloody mayhem becomes holy ground.

An innocent blood-stained figure on a cross, bearing the marks of hatred, offering forgiveness – sacrificing all on an instrument of execution, ironically is not to be entertained as a serious part of our psyche. It is almost as if the crosses that dot the ANZAC graves, that adorn war memorials rose out from the beaches at ANZAC Cove from a vacuum. It is as though the historical connection to the cross that stood on that hill outside Jerusalem 2,000 years ago must not be allowed to interrupt our ANZAC commemoration.

In Anglican schools, we must have the courage to challenge this air-brushing of history and to recognise the power of the cross and Resurrection in the world today. ‘Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!’ echoes from the tombs we make for ourselves and dares us to live Resurrection.

A truth that makes the ANZAC legend a call to faith in the God revealed in Jesus.

+Roger
The Most Reverend Roger Herft AM
Archbishop of Perth

Guess how much I love you is the title of Sam McBratney’s wonderful children’s book, brilliantly illustrated by Anita Jeram. With millions of copies sold across the world it is likely that most of our present students cannot remember a time when they did not know the story of Big Nut Brown Hare and Little Nut Brown Hare. The beauty of the story is that no matter how much love the small hare can think of, the loving parent loves even more than that.

In one of the best-known Biblical texts (John 3.16) the passage begins, God so loved the world . . . it goes on to describe the gift of the Son, Jesus. Much is made each Easter of the cost of the cross, and the gift of new life that follows. To look at popular images, Easter is almost entirely eggs, chocolate and otherwise, with a few images of a cross, whether on a bun or on a hill. Love is not given enough attention.

This Easter, try a guessing game like that of Little Nut Brown Hare. A short Easter prayer perhaps. ‘God of love, how can you love me more than I love my own children? My love is so full that I cannot imagine more being possible but in your grace let me know your love and reflect it in my own life. Amen’

May your Easter be love filled.

+ Allan
The Right Reverend Allan Ewing
Bishop of Bunbury

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia.

This has been a tumultuous year for us in Wangaratta. The ongoing struggle we have had to support our three schools with few Diocesan resources has reached its conclusion. Each of the schools is now a member of the Anglican Schools Commission. In the first week of term we held liturgical celebrations of this new relationship at each school. Ours has been an Easter journey – from death, at least metaphorically, to life.

And the signs of new life abound. I know that there have been some reservations in the West about the wisdom of the connection in mission with Wangaratta Diocese. I can report that your faith in us is being repaid with interest. Cathedral College Wangaratta has this year enrolled 530 against last year’s total of 380. Trinity Anglican College Albury Wodonga enrolments have reach 1,000. Cobram Anglican Grammar is progressing in a very positive way. The Wangaratta schools will be making a solid contribution to both the life and the finances of the ASC in 2015 and beyond.

The Easter promise is that we may know life and life in all its fullness. Here is just one example of the ongoing story of resurrection working out in the affairs of the world. Our rejoicing should not blind us to the fact that in many parts of our world, the process of resurrection has still to be worked out. In the Middle East, in Africa, in our own region, war and natural disaster cause enormous suffering and misery. The threat of global terror touches all no matter where. The increasing divide between mega rich and those in poverty continues to grow. As we rejoice in our own blessings may we earnestly pray and work that resurrection life might flow into all places of suffering, poverty and injustice; that the light of Christ may shine brightly through God’s good creation; that ‘the grandeur of God (will) flame out, like shining from shook foil’.

A happy, peaceful and blessed Easter to you all.

+ John
The Right Reverend John Parkes AM
Bishop of Wangaratta