

Catholic Education

Today



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EDUCATION
MELBOURNE



Creating tomorrow's
future today

TERM 2, 2019

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SAYING

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Psalm 1: 1–3

Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the Lord and reflects on his teachings day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams – a tree that produces fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. He succeeds in everything he does.



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Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of *Catholic Education Today* for 2019.

The outcome of the 2019 Federal Election was very welcome, not least because it involved a democratic and peaceful process. We often forget that this is a far from common occurrence in many places throughout the world and something we underappreciate at times in Australia.

Going into the election, Catholic education secured bipartisan support from the Coalition and the Australian Labor Party around funding for our schools, which was a phenomenal achievement, particularly after the debate that dominated 2017–18. Credit, where credit's due, to our school communities, which were the deciding factor for both major parties, and whose efforts netted significant benefits for our sector in the years ahead and for all high-need students and schools.

It is important to note that those same efforts resulted in the close working relationship Catholic education had with Bill Shorten and Tanya Plibersek, who made substantial commitments to Catholic schools and kept the funding issue alive in the Australian Parliament in 2017. The success we've had in this debate is due in no small part to their contribution, and their pivotal role should therefore be recognised.

It is also worth acknowledging that the appointment in 2018 of Dan Tehan as Minister for Education led to an open dialogue and a change in the government's understanding of our position. This then led to significant changes to the funding model, which the Coalition took to the election. We now look forward to working with the Coalition to ensure that it meets its obligation to our schools to deliver fair and equitable, needs-based funding.

In this edition

Term 2's edition focuses on the spaces our school communities have developed and inhabit. These buildings and facilities serve the very practical needs of providing a shelter from the elements, as well as being places of gathering, learning and belonging, and spaces that might inspire students and teachers to greater heights.

As the openings of our new schools show, while these buildings and facilities are important, they don't operate in isolation. They are the combination of many elements, including people, curriculum, policies and – most significantly for our sector – faith.

Also in this issue, we unpack the Australian Catholic Youth Festival for parents who might still be thinking about sending their children to the Perth event in December. Damian McKew, principal of Iona College, Charlemont, which is to open in 2020, shares his insights in 'Educators in Profile', with Catholic School Parents Victoria and 'Around the Archdiocese' providing our other regular features. ✦

The Five Ws of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival

You might have seen the ads for it in a magazine. You might have read something in your child's school newsletter. Your son or daughter might even have mentioned it at the dinner table. These sorts of events encourage a bit of interrogation from parents, and asking about the five Ws of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a great way to find out more.

The what, the who, the where and the when

Started in 2013, the festival is Australia's largest gathering of Catholic young people who want to share and celebrate their faith.

The biennial event brings together up to 6,000 young Catholics from Year 9 to 30-year-olds and provides a series of workshops, discussions, musical performances, speeches and opportunities for worship, reconciliation and prayer.

The Melbourne archdiocesan pilgrimage to this year's festival will involve a large delegation of students. Catholic schools will make up the biggest part of the group, with Catholic Education Melbourne, secondary schools and families all contributing to the costs of attendance.

The festival will be held in Perth this year from Sunday 8 to Tuesday 10 December. For participants from Melbourne, the pilgrimage will include at least one retreat day following the main event, with different packages extending between six and eight days. The first group will depart on Friday 6 December 2019.

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“ACYF is a place where young people can gather to share faith and young people can be empowered to be disciples in today's world, and as an Archdiocese I want us to embrace this opportunity.”

ARCHBISHOP PETER A
COMENSOLI



The why

The first four Ws only provide the details of the event. The most important question for parents is the why: Why should I encourage my child to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival?

To be honest, it's actually pretty hard to explain to someone who has never been but, through conversations with participants and school leaders, we've been able to distil the reasons why parents should allow their children to attend the festival to three important elements.

First, there is the sense of **community**. Just under a quarter of Australians identify as Catholic, which means the Catholic community is significant. But often for students in our schools, the considerable presence of the faith community they are part of is lost within the bounds of school and parish life.

With young Catholics from across Australia, from all walks of life, coming to the festival, pilgrims will not only witness and experience their part in our great community of faith, but also understand that it's okay to pray and celebrate that faith.

Second is the sense that the festival is an exploration of the **mystery of faith**. That might sound a bit full-on, but school leaders have reported that in the lead-up to past events, a lot of students who have signed up to attend initially don't think it's going to be for them. But in taking the leap of faith and, once immersed

Pilgrimages are moments of healing and decision and they provide a space to engage with life and faith in a deep way.

ALEXANDRA WEDD,
ACYF PROJECT
COORDINATOR

in the life of the festival, participating in its sessions and meeting new people, many young pilgrims report a noticeable change – a feeling of wonder that they haven't understood before.

The third element is perhaps the most relevant to the school setting – and related to one of the reasons parents choose a Catholic education for their children. It is the sense that the festival can **strengthen the concept of the whole person**.

Catholic schools aim to provide a holistic education: one that encourages and develops the academic, physical, artistic and spiritual attributes of the young people in their care. With constant reminders and pressures about the first three of these attributes, the spiritual aspects of a young person's development can sometimes be overlooked.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival can light a flame for young people and help them ask questions about their spirituality in a place surrounded by a shared faith. The event can be the start of a life-defining journey that ensures their daily lives going forward are illuminated by faith.

What next?

Parents allowing their sons and daughters to join the Melbourne Pilgrimage in December this year will be offering their child a unique opportunity to develop their faith and live it out in the world.

Schools have appointed Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) coordinators, who can provide families with more information about registering for the festival.

Other details can be found at www.cam.org.au/acyf19.

What you need to know:

Participants:

Students currently in Years 9–12

Dates:

Departing either Friday 6 or Saturday 7 December, and returning either Thursday 12 or Friday 13 December 2019

Location:

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (and surrounding areas)

Further details:

Contact your school's ACYF coordinator (ask at the front office) or visit www.cam.org.au/acyf19



Australian Catholic Youth Festival

8-10 December • Perth



Melbourne ACYF Pilgrimage

www.cam.org.au/acyf19

FOMO IS REAL. Don't be a Thomas and miss the encounter of a lifetime.
Join the Melbourne ACYF Pilgrimage to Perth today! For students aged 16 +.
To participate, talk to your school's ACYF coordinator or visit www.cam.org.au/acyf19

New Improvement Surveys for schools

Principals of Catholic schools across Melbourne will use new survey tools in 2019 to discover how their school can continue to improve.

For many years, Catholic school principals in the Archdiocese of Melbourne have actively listened to what students, staff and families think and feel about their learning and their school. This strong evidence-based practice continues in 2019 with the launch of the new Catholic Education Melbourne School Improvement Surveys (CEMSIS). Guided by our education framework *Horizons of Hope*'s vision for all members of a Catholic school community to be learners who 'commit to achieving the highest standards possible', this school effectiveness tool is provided to all of our schools.

“
The surveys provided a wealth of new information about what students, staff and families want to see improve.”

JOHN VISENTIN, PRINCIPAL
JOHN PAUL COLLEGE,
FRANKSTON



Creating new school improvement surveys

We live in a digital age, where data are produced by everyone and used everywhere. Catholic Education Melbourne worked with leading Australian industry and research partners, Learning First and Orima Research, to develop digital surveys in a safe and secure online portal. The design team consulted widely with schools to tailor the tool for our communities. In anticipation of being accessed by over 160,000 users, these new surveys were trialled in two pilots across 12 schools in 2018.

2018 pilot schools

John Paul College in Frankston was one of the pilot schools that trialled CEMSIS last year. The school's principal, John Visentin, said the surveys provided a 'wealth of new information about what students, staff and families want to see improve, and the new reports were particularly good at visualising complex information that made finding patterns and understanding trends easy'.

Other significant improvements identified were the online accessibility, average length of time to take the surveys and completion rates. The average time taken was 21 minutes for students in Years 4–6 and 13.5 minutes for those in Years 7–12. The completion rate for students was 95%, for staff 97% and for families 87%, indicating that the opportunity to contribute to school improvement is one taken seriously by our communities.

CEMSIS reports

School communities will have access to the online CEMSIS portal for a three-week period in 2019, from Monday 2 September until Friday 20 September. Once the information collection phase is complete, schools will receive reports that visualise data to be analysed and unpacked.

The purpose of any school improvement process is to improve outcomes for students. The CEM School Effectiveness team is working with a group of regional principal consultants to develop support materials for schools to make meaning and share learning from their CEMSIS reports with students, staff and families.

Surveys cannot measure everything that is important in a school but, by actively listening to and learning from our school communities, leaders are seen as proactive, engaged and respectful of those they serve. Through participating in CEMSIS, principals are leading the work of school improvement using a tailor-made system tool that aligns with our School Improvement Framework and *Horizons of Hope* education framework. †

It's different

from when I was at school ...

For many of our parents and grandparents, the physical layout of schools in 2019 is quite different from their experience of school. Rows of wooden desks have been replaced with brightly coloured furniture and blackboards have made way for individual tablets. In the 200 years since the first Catholic school in Australia opened its doors, school spaces have changed so much they would now be unrecognisable to those early pioneers.

Changes in the way teaching and learning occur, additional services offered to students and families, and rapid developments in technology have changed the way new school buildings are being designed. Our existing schools have also responded to these changes with new buildings and refurbishments to support 21st century learning. Schools are making changes to enable whole-class, small group and individual work to flourish. Indoor and outdoor areas are being redesigned to cater for different types of learning, and to promote a healthy and safe environment for our students. Administration facilities handle increasingly complex situations, while providing services and welcome to families and visitors.

This change to the physical environment is part of a continual cycle of school improvement to promote the best outcomes for our students. These examples demonstrate the way existing Catholic schools are evolving.



Science labs



Administration centre



Cafeteria

Architect: Branch Studio Architects

Landscape architect:
Orchard Design

A vision for change

With original buildings dating back to the 1960s, **Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Braybrook**, has undergone a metamorphosis in the last five years with the biggest refurbishment and building program in the college's history. Projects across its three campuses include the Caroline Chisholm Quadrangle, an Arts Centre, administration spaces, science labs, an amphitheatre, oval and landscaping.

'While the physical changes have been obvious and welcomed, I am especially proud of the work our community has undertaken to create, instil and promote our College values of faith, acceptance, compassion and excellence', said Principal Marco DiCesare. A new multipurpose hall is scheduled for 2020 and will be large enough to accommodate the college's 1,800 students and staff.

“ Schools are making changes to enable whole-class, small group and individual work to flourish. ”



It's different from when I was at school ...
(CONTINUED)

Bringing outside inside

At **St Monica's Primary School, Moonee Ponds**, red-brick buildings were constructed during a growth period in 1917. Senior classes were housed in one of these buildings and the learning spaces lacked connection, with each class operating in isolation. While taking advantage of an underused courtyard, a roof was added to the outdoor space and internal walls were selectively removed. Using a mixture of skylights and acoustic treatments, the space united six classrooms into one modern learning centre. One classroom was converted into a purpose-built auditorium.

The learning centre is now a flexible learning environment that ensures each class has its own homeroom, but enables learners to mix in a collaborative space that allows for larger or smaller groups, as well as individual learning. The Senior Learning Centre inspires students to interact with co-learners in an engaging environment. The space has been well-received, having been awarded both state and national Learning Environments Awards.



Architect: Baldasso Cortese



A warm welcome

Salesian College, Chadstone, has drawn on the history of Salesian founder Don Bosco to inspire its new Fr Edward Cooper Building. Williams Ross Architects incorporated a simple material palette, lightly coloured brickwork and exposed timber beams within the building, which was inspired by early historical photographs of Don Bosco's oratory (chapel) in Turin, Italy.

Together with the recommissioned Fr Wallace Cornell Building, the two buildings accommodate the college's reception, student services, learning support and administration facilities. 'The opening of our new Fr Edward Cooper Building has created a great sense of pride within our community, and we are thankful to have a warm, welcoming entrance to the College befitting the prestige of our wonderful school', said Principal Robert Brennan.

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ROBERT BRENNAN, PRINCIPAL,
SALESIAN COLLEGE, CHADSTONE



Architect: Williams Ross Architects

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With a focus on visibility, the 'learning village' comprises roomy and uncluttered spaces designed for communities of teachers and students.

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School in the sky

St James' School, Brighton, is approaching the final stages of creating a 'school in the sky' with 14 learning spaces and an airbridge, transforming a traditional building into a state of the art education centre. Following consultation with parents, staff and students, architect Baldasso Cortese commenced work on the project in August 2017. With a focus on visibility, the 'learning village' comprises roomy and uncluttered spaces designed for communities of teachers and students.

The introduction of natural light, spaces for withdrawal and reflection, and a range of integrated furniture and technology bring all those on the education journey into a collaborative learning community. Teachers and learners can observe and support each other, and this connection reinforces the vision of engaging a shared pedagogy coupled with a stimulating educational environment.

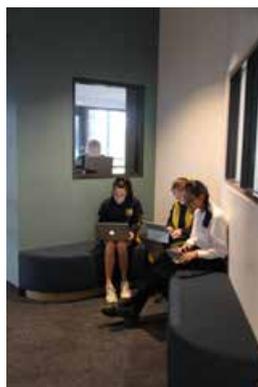


Architect: Baldasso Cortese

It takes a village ...

The new Year 7 and 8 Maesbury Centre at Santa Maria College, Northcote, promotes the college's 'village model' and its International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. The Centre has been designed to celebrate the role of beautiful, flowing spaces in enhancing student wellbeing and belonging, and to promote an inquiry model of learning through flexible, dynamic spaces, including operable classroom walls.

Staff love the opportunities the building offers for team teaching, for collaboration and for creativity. The students have given the new Maesbury Centre a definite thumbs up. For them the space is 'exciting and inclusive'. 'Stuff is always going on' and, while the 'vibe' for them is 'modern and comfortable', it also has a 'home feeling about it'. †



Architect: Law Architects

Opportunity to contribute to your school's improvement

In September this year, schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will be providing a **new online school improvement survey** to a selection of parents. The survey is different to those used in previous years and has been developed to ensure schools are learning from their leaders, students, teachers and families how they can improve in various aspects of school culture, learning and teaching, and family engagement.

Survey categories relevant to families include:

- **Family engagement** – how the school enables you to engage in the learning process alongside your child to support their learning. The school may provide, for example, learning information sessions, immersive learning opportunities to share with your child at school, activities to do together at home, or encouragement to talk about learning with your child followed by feedback about their learning.

By Catholic School Parents Victoria

- **Barriers to engagement** – what is preventing you from engaging in your child's learning, or in events or activities run by the school? There may be many and varied reasons why you're not able to be physically present at school and this is nothing to be ashamed of. Once schools are aware of what is preventing you from attending events or activities, they are then able to plan for other ways to include you in the learning journey of your child.
- **School climate** – the school's culture, how welcome you feel as a family, and the overall 'atmosphere' of the school.
- **Student safety** – how well the school manages bullying and other child safety issues.
- **Catholic Identity** – how your family views a Catholic education, and your engagement in the spiritual journey of your child.
- **School fit** – how well your child is able to learn in the school environment.
- **Communication** – how well the school communicates with you about learning, including what the children are learning, learning intentions and goals, and methods of communicating about your child's learning progress. Your responses will provide valuable feedback about the teacher-parent relationship to help schools understand the gaps and areas for improvement.



Are you a Catholic school parent or carer with a passion to make a difference in education?

Catholic School Parents Victoria are a team of passionate parents of children in primary and secondary Catholic schools. As volunteer members we contribute parent perspective in education at a system, state and national level under the pillars of Parent Engagement and Parent Leadership in:



CSPV are seeking current Catholic school parents or carers to join our team in 2019-2021.

As a CSPV volunteer council member you will have the opportunity to contribute and provide parent perspective on education issues and policy in Victoria through engagement with State and Catholic education authorities.

To apply as a volunteer council member you will have had experience on a school board or parent group at your school.

Please visit the CSPV website for further information on how to join and to download the CSPV prospectus at www.cspv.catholic.edu.au/join-us.



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Find us on

Survey completion will provide your school with key indicators as to where it needs to improve, and give you the opportunity to contribute as a valued member of the school community.

Following the survey results, schools will undertake a more rigorous process to develop a consistent and strategic Annual Action Plan.

Should you have any questions about the survey, your school principal will be able to assist. †

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Learning to change *the world*

When it opens next year, Iona College will become the Geelong region's fifth and newest Catholic secondary school. Foundation principal Damian McKew discusses the challenges and opportunities when building a secondary school community from the ground up.

What do you like about leading a new Catholic school?

There's something very exciting about shaping a new Catholic community and upholding the values we hold dear. I think our young people are looking for something to believe in and our schools are places where a belief in God can be nurtured. The education journey has never been more important than it is today.

Our motto is: 'Learning to change the world'. It's really aspirational, but why shouldn't it be? These young people are being gifted with a great education. We want them to learn that this gift comes with a great responsibility, in that they become fulfilled people who contribute to our future. We need that now more than ever.

What does the leader of a Catholic school require?

It all starts with authenticity. It's one of the ways we'll build community and trust, and shape our culture. I'm fortunate to have been principal of Clonard College, Herne Hill, so I'm aware of the hopes and dreams of families in the area. Education isn't a 'one size fits all' environment, so it's important I lead a school that is able to respond to the individual needs of our young people.

As the foundation principal of a secondary school under construction, it's been a great year for learning new skills. As well as meeting families and our first Year 7 students, I'm also the head of maintenance and fast becoming the best school registrar ever.



What are the greatest opportunities and challenges for families today?

Families naturally worry about the future of their children, but this is also a time of excitement. Never before have students had so many diverse options to study such a broad range of subjects. Families face issues in caring for young people in an increasingly connected world, but there are also great opportunities for global learners through technology. We have a responsibility to our families and students to help them negotiate this balance.

What are your hopes for the future?

In 2025, our first group of Year 7 students will be in Year 12. My hope for those young people is for them to graduate from our school as good people. Yes, I want them to get good marks, but it's also important that we've helped them to form good character. I want Iona to be known as a place where everyone feels a sense of belonging and actually has fun as they pursue their educational dreams. We're building a new school here and a new way of doing things. +

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New schools: *a blessing*

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and Bishop Terence Curtin have opened and blessed Melbourne's two newest Catholic primary schools. Glowrey Catholic School in Wollert has been named in honour of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ, founder of the Catholic Health Association of India whose members now care for 21 million people a year. Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School in Sunbury is the third Catholic primary school in the parish and forms part of the Sunbury Catholic Learning Community. †



De La Salle opens Year 9 campus

The new Holy Eucharist Campus of **De La Salle College, Malvern**, was officially opened in May by Old Collegian and Mayor of the City of Stonnington, Councillor Steven Stefanopoulos. With the opening of its third campus, De La Salle College became the first Lasallian school to have a self-sufficient standalone campus for Year 9 students. The new campus has teachers focusing purely on Year 9 and a cross-curricular approach to learning. Students have risen to the opportunities provided to them through a brand-new facility and learning style. ✦



Save our species

Students from **St Peter's School, Sunshine South West**, were selected by Zoos Victoria for a special event with legendary environmental advocate Dr Jane Goodall. The Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots organisation brought Dr Goodall to Australia for her *Rewind the Future* speaking tour. One of her Melbourne engagements was to share her story, her hopes for the future, and a call to action with a small audience of Roots & Shoots students and representatives from the Zoos Victoria *Fighting Extinction School Program*. ✦



A day for farmers

The community at **St Margaret Mary's School, Brunswick North**, brought a little bit of the country to the city for their first Farmers' Day. Organised by student leaders, the day aimed to provide some practical support in raising funds to assist the farming community through the drought. As well as the fun of sack races and egg and spoon races, the school also raised awareness of the role farmers have in maintaining food supply. ✦



Walking together

Melbourne's Catholic schools walked in solidarity with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to support National Reconciliation Week. The theme for 2019 was 'Grounded in truth, walk together with courage'. **Parade College, Bundoora**, hosted its third 'Road to Reconciliation', with students and teachers attending from St Bernard's College, Essendon, St Joseph's College, Newtown, St Patrick's College, Ballarat, Mercy College, Coburg, St Pius X School, Heidelberg West, and Santa Maria College, Northcote. In tribute to the legacy created by Michael Long's 'Long Walk' in 2004, students took part in a symbolic recreation of the walk around the college grounds. ✦





Father James Wall Bursary

Five students from secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne became the latest recipients of the prestigious Fr James Wall Bursary.

Year 10 students Heidi Bakker from **St Ignatius College Geelong, Drysdale**, Charlie Borracci from **Sacred Heart College, Newtown**, Michael Alexander Lapina from **Thomas Carr College, Tarneit**, Chelsea Tomada from **Catholic Ladies' College, Eltham**, and Patrick Gannon from **Christian Brothers' College, St Kilda East**, were each presented with the Fr James Wall Bursary by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli. ✦

A boost for Catholic schools

Deputy Premier James Merlino recently launched the Victorian Government's Non-Government Schools Capital Fund. The fund provides \$402 million over four years for building new schools, expanding existing schools or upgrading existing learning facilities. Schools are able to apply for amounts of between \$50,000 and \$5 million.

The announcement took place at **Ave Maria College, Aberfeldie**, where the Deputy Premier, along with local MP, Ben Carroll, opened the college's Helene Province. The new building provides a home for Year 9, 10 and 11 mentor groups, and specialist learning spaces for Food Technology and Materials Technology. ✦



History on the menu at Aquinas

Last term, an important piece of French culinary history was presented to **Aquinas College, Ringwood**. As a token of gratitude and camaraderie, the college's French sister school, Lycée Notre Dame Du Roc, presented it with a menu from an exclusive luncheon hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. The luncheon at the Elysée Palace was a gathering of over 70 heads of state to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. ✦



Raise a cup for the Biggest Morning Tea

The community at **Holy Eucharist School, St Albans South**, united for a cuppa and a chat to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Staff, parents and the community gathered together for the Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds to contribute directly to research, prevention programs, and support services for cancer patients and their families. This was their way of showing support to those affected by cancer and making sure Cancer Council can continue its vital work. ✦



A voyage towards ocean literacy

Twenty-three students from **St Joseph's School, Springvale**, participated in marine science program 'Six Schools and a Pelican'. The students set sail from the St Kilda Marina to Rickett's Point to achieve a greater understanding of how the world's oceans work, support sea life, and learn more about the health and ecosystem of Victoria's two bays. ✦



Insect Hotels

Students at **St Joseph's School, Sorrento**, worked on a sustainability project called 'Insect Hotels' in partnership with members of the Point Nepean Men's Shed. The shed's skilful band made insect hotels for the children at St Joseph's to pack full of natural materials to encourage biodiversity in their garden, and continue their mission of protecting the environment and practising sustainability. ✦



Curating leadership and talent



Lara Vulic of **St John's Regional College, Dandenong**, was one of three students to have been selected as co-curators for Emergent 2018, an exhibition held at Bunjil Place showcasing outstanding works by young artists from the City of Casey.

Lara was given the opportunity to work under the guidance of the Bunjil Place Curator, assist the judging panel in selecting the 32 works that made up the exhibition, and design the exhibition's space. ✦

Ride of your life

It was all fun and games for the student and parent community at **St Patrick's School, Mentone**, for their 2019 fete. Market stalls, food, live entertainment and a silent auction were among the highlights of the school's major fundraising event. ✦



A touch of Italy

Holy Name School, Reservoir, celebrated a love of Italy at its annual Carnevale Day. Students dressed creatively in 'a touch of Italy' themed attire, which they displayed at the Carnevale parade. Venetian masks created during Art lessons were worn during the day's celebrations. The parent community generously assisted with cooking Italian cuisine for the students. ✦



Mount St Joseph's commitment to cleaning up Australia

Earlier in the year, **Mount St Joseph Girls' College, Altona**, celebrated a decade of involvement in Clean Up Australia Day. Approximately 300 students gave up their Sunday sleep-in to volunteer and participate in this wonderful event that aims to bring communities together and raise awareness about environmental issues. ✦



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