



AVE MARIA COLLEGE
A Catholic College for Young Women

2008 Annual Report to the Community

AVE MARIA COLLEGE

Registered School Number: 1625

College Contact Information

Address:	14-22 Vida Street Aberfeldie, 3040
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Our College Mission

Ave Maria" - recalling Gabriel's greeting to Mary, we say "yes" to God and to life, in grace, joy and humility as she did. From Helene de Chappotin and her congregation (FMM), our motto 'striving for truth through love' inspires us to be faithful to our Catholic tradition; to persevere in the face of adversity; to respond creatively to those in need around us; and to be hopeful, resilient and courageous in moving forward in the presence of Jesus.

So based and so inspired, our College community seeks to see in each person the image of God and thus to develop excellence in our caring, teaching and learning; to value each of our students as an individual; and to promote her full development, spiritually, intellectually and socially. We desire to awaken each to her dream, her capacities, her freedom and her choices.

By being just and welcoming in our outreach and dealings with others, near and far, we believe that our community will flourish as we strive to develop strong, genuine relationships among all members based on honesty and forgiveness.

Vision

Faith

In our expression of faith, we are committed to:

- preparing our young women students, through the traditions and stories of our faith, to know Jesus
- celebrating His presence amongst us in daily life and especially in the Eucharist
- following Him in how we forgive and hope and celebrate the joys and sorrows of life together
- seeking justice and truth in our relationships with each other and with the wider community
- being open with the parents and staff in our discernment and decision making processes

Caring

In our expression of caring, we are committed to:

- implementing pastoral policies and practices which support both the individual and the community
- assisting each to gain a strong sense of self through a full, creative and life-giving membership of the college community
- ensuring our relationships reflect patience, understanding, compassion and respect
- developing just partnerships which encompass students, staff, families and the wider community

Learning

In our expression of learning, we are committed to:

- implementing innovative and effective teaching and learning strategies in all areas of the curriculum
- promoting personal, spiritual and professional development of staff
- assisting our students develop positive attitudes towards life and learning and helping them discover self knowledge, inner strength and confidence that will sustain them throughout their lives
- enabling them to achieve their true potential through the range of opportunities and activities we offer
- preparing them for active responsible participation in our global society

Thus, in our Vision, living out the example of Jesus' love, we aspire to building a community of love and welcome, where faith, caring and learning are intimately connected one with the other on a daily basis

College Overview

Ave Maria College is a Catholic secondary school for young women. It is a welcoming community where families and staff, working in partnership, seek to provide students with a well-balanced secondary education. The provision of an education in faith, in a caring environment that places high value on learning, is at the centre of our purpose. Bright, modern facilities and well-resourced programs create an outstanding learning environment.

With the approval and under the direction of the Archbishop of Melbourne, Ave Maria College was established to provide Catholic education, according to the precepts, teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. The College is administered by the Association of Delegated Canonical Administrators. The College is governed by the Ave Maria College Board, under delegation from the Association of Delegated Canonical Administrators, in accordance with the Constitution which is approved by the Archbishop.

The College was founded by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMMs) in 1963, and the Franciscan charism is the source of our spirituality. It is the particular way the College ignites the spirit of the Gospel. The charism is the gifts of God's spirit that comes to us in human form – originally through St Francis of Assisi and later, Helene de Chappotin, Blessed Mary of the Passion FMM, as she came to be known.

Quality relationships are essential to sustain and build a harmonious learning environment. We strive to assist each person to gain a strong sense of self through a full, creative and life-giving membership of our community. The Restorative Justice approach to discipline, Faith and Social Justice Group, Peer Support program, Student Leadership from Year 7 to Year 12 and a range of team sports and activities all contribute towards building a vibrant community.



Principal's Report



Dear Families,

I am pleased to present you with the *Annual Report 2008* of Ave Maria College.

This report presents key activities and achievements of the College in 2008, associated with the *Strategic Plan 2006-2009* for Ave Maria College.

The *Strategic Plan 2006-2009*, identifies the need for the College to respond appropriately to the rapidly changing environment in which our students live. The College provides students with the opportunity to develop spiritually, socially and intellectually in order to become active and positive participants in society. There are five Key Result Areas: Faith, Caring, Learning, Facilities and Resources, and Community.

The *Strategic Plan 2006-2009* and the *Annual Report 2008* reflect the aspirations and complexity of this Catholic school, and the fine achievements of our students.

The College is on a special journey, that being the renewing of its Franciscan charism. The Ministry Team, with the support of FMM sisters and Franciscan Schools Australia (FSA) is engaged in a process of bringing the charism alive to the present time. We welcomed our chaplains to the College. Guided prayer, retreats and reflection days for students and staff provided opportunities for exploring our relationships with God. We sent a group of pilgrims to World Youth Day 08 in Sydney. WYD08 enabled us to later welcome a group of staff and students from a sister school in Sri Lanka.

Our VCE students continue to perform at higher than State and sector levels across a number of measures. Curriculum initiatives continued to engage students in a variety of learning opportunities. These ranged from accelerating talented students into VCE units, introducing a cross-curricular project at Year 9, rolling out Stage Two of the compulsory Music Program, providing a rich tapestry of excursions, and encouraging broad participation in academic competitions facilitated by external authorities.

Work commenced on the Master Building Project. The \$4.5million project will create a spectacular public space in the form of a glass roofed piazza with a Winter Garden. It will provide new specialist classrooms for Media, Music and Physical Education and two general purpose learning areas. The new canteen, staffroom, offices and Administrative Services facilities will complete the transformation. The project was made possible through the building of cash reserves and a capital loan.

I trust this Report offers a clear overview of the purposeful endeavor of the College.

Ad Veritatem, Per Caritatem.

Ms Olwen MJ Horton
Principal



College Board Report

I am happy to report that 2008 has been a very productive year. The significant work of the Board has been to support Ave Maria College through another important building phase. With a strong financial basis, the College continues to provide a 21st century Catholic school experience that caters for the spiritual, educational and social needs of the young women entrusted to our care.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of our former Board Chair, Mr Andrew Weaver. Mr Weaver used his extensive business and financial acumen to help fashion a more professional and accountable Board of Governance. Due to his leadership we are more confident of our direction and of our individual roles within the Board.

The Board continues the important work of formulating and reviewing policies to ensure the College is well governed and, that our Principal, Mrs Olwen Bell, is empowered to plan for the future and manage the day to day running of the College. The College's Professional Expectation and Student Drugs and Drug Education Policies were reviewed and ratified.

During 2008, significant work was dedicated to beginning the process of formulating a set of Board Protocols and devising a blueprint for Board Succession Planning. A new Board Subcommittee was instituted to coordinate the formulation our next Strategic Plan (2010 – 1213). The ongoing development of the College Master Building Plan and our next Strategic Plan will provide the main focus of the Board's work in 2009.

2008 marked the retirement of Mr Joseph Mangelsdorf who served the College for 20 years as one of the Archbishop's Delegated Canonical Administrators. He held various roles on the Board, including Chairperson, and he chaired the Board's Finance Committee. The Board is indebted to Mr Mangelsdorf for his significant commitment and contribution to Ave Maria College and will be remembered as an exceptional friend who contributed significantly to the Ave Maria College community.

The Board welcomed Mr Adrian Klep (Manager, Finance & General Operations for the Archdiocese of Melbourne) as the Board's new Delegated Canonical Administrator. Mr Klep replaced Mr Mangelsdorf as Chair of the Board's Finance Committee. 2008 also marks the conclusion of term of office for Mrs Gai Butler and Mrs Kate Mallia. I thank both members for their work, support and their invaluable input to the business of the Board.

The Board is indebted to the inspired leadership shown by Mrs Bell. Her vision, energy and administrative expertise have been crucial to the overall development and achievements of Ave Maria College. To the teaching, administrative and ancillary staff I extend the Board's gratitude for their tireless work in contributing to the lives of the students of Ave Maria.

I would like to acknowledge the vital role of Fr Tony Kerin as the President of the Delegated Canonical Administrators. Fr Tony brings a unique set of skills to the Board, and I am grateful for his leadership and pastoral support. To my fellow Board members I thank them for their generous contribution and for the particular strengths they bring to your role of serving the Ave Maria College community. I also wish to acknowledge Mr Martin Bailey for his support as Deputy Chair and Mr Allan Thompson for his extensive financial reports to the Board. Due to the efforts of the whole school community, Ave Maia continues to excel as an outstanding Catholic College for young women.

Mr Peter Devery
Board Chairman

Education in Faith

Faith

To engage our young women in the Catholic tradition with experiences that can offer them faith, hope and love.

Goals

- To open students to the presence of Jesus in their lives.
- To provide a robust Religious Education and Faith Development program.
- To further enhance the knowledge, understanding and experience of staff in the Catholic faith tradition.
- To foster links between feeder parishes and the College.

At Ave Maria College, the Kingdom is well and truly alive! Our Religious Education curriculum and the faith life of the school point to a committed community living out the goals articulated above. The work of the Faith and Social Justice Committee as well as the St. Vincent de Paul group also testifies to this.

This year we continued to strengthen the links we have with our founding Charism through the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, as well as to deepen our awareness and appreciation for the Franciscan spirituality that is part of our heritage.

As a means of furthering this, each member of the school was given a tau cross – a very recognizable Franciscan symbol. It is hoped that this symbol will remind those who wear it or see it around the school that, being part of the Franciscan spiritual tradition, in which we are invited to immerse ourselves in.



The ceremony during which the tau crosses were distributed ended with the following words:

As students in the Franciscan tradition, we are invited to embrace the spirituality of St. Francis, that same spirituality that Helene de Chappotin embraced wholeheartedly, and commit ourselves to learning more about Franciscan spirituality so that it may be a part of our everyday interactions with teachers, students and other members of the Ave Maria College community.

Mr Heinz-Peter Wolf
Director of Religious Education

Achievements

Celebration of the Eucharist is central to our Faith life. Our Annual Opening of the School Year, Ave Maria Day and Graduation Masses brought us together as a faith community. Our Elders' and Special Persons Liturgies celebrated the gifts others bring to our students' lives. Families were welcome to attend our liturgical celebrations.

A number of our students participated in the week of Days in the Dioceses events which preceded World Youth Day 08. Held in Sydney, WYD08 created a wonderful opportunity for young pilgrims from around the world to gather in faith and prayer in the presence of Pope Benedict XIV. Our pilgrim group was deeply moved by the experience at WYD08.

The Faith and Social Justice Group considered local, national and international issues.

Compliance Advice

Religious Education is a compulsory study for students from Years 7-12. *To Know, Worship and Love* texts form the basis of the Religious Education program from Year 7-10. Year 11 students study VCE *Religion and Society* Units 3 and 4. Year 12 students participate in school based program, designed for young adults. All year levels engage in retreats or reflection days.

Staff participated in two adult faith development programs. Both programs were approved for the purpose of *Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School*.

Learning and Teaching

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Learning

To advance a learning community that enables our young women to achieve personal excellence.

Goals

- To develop a more individualized approach to student learning
- To achieve aggregate performance in the VCE consistently above State averages.

Achievements

Inquiry Learning provided the framework for the Year 9 pilot project, the topic of which was *Sustainability*. Students engaged in self-directed learning under the guidance of a teacher-mentor. This student centred approach required students to use information communications technology to visualize their thinking, investigate issues and develop communication and collaboration skills.

Awards for outstanding student achievement were issued in the following areas:

Student Awards

Father Wall Bursary

Stefanie D'Agostino received the annual Father Wall Bursary Award for outstanding leadership and achievement and community involvement in 2008.

Swinburne University Scholarship

Catherine Paterson received a three year scholarship to study Information Technology, a non-traditional area for women.

VCAA Plain English Speaking Competition

Renata Pajtak - 2008 Winner

VCE Student Excellence Class of 2008

Students from the Class of 2008 were shortlisted for VCAA Seasons of Excellence 2009 Exhibitions:

Top Arts: Studio Arts: Four students

Top Designs, Food Technology: Two students

Top Designs, Media: Four students

Top Designs, Design and Technology: One student

Three students were selected to exhibit their work:

Top Arts, Studio Arts: Cassandra Coshan, Lucinda Vrzovski

Top Designs, Media: Laura Piccolo

Two students achieved perfect Study Scores of 50

Biology: Melissa Hynes

Legal Studies: Alexandra O'Brien

Other Student Achievements

Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition

Julia Fimiani - 2008 Winner

Moonee Valley Foundation Motivational Award

Catherine Paterson - 2008 Winner

Caltex Award Best All Rounder

Catherine Coventry – 2008 Winner

Victorian Spirit of ANZAC

Two students were shortlisted as regional finalists.

Asia Wise Competition 2008

High Distinction: Nine Year 7 students.

A Night of Excellence was inaugurated to celebrate Academic Achievement from Years 7 to 11.

Compliance Advice

Proportion of students meeting national standards at Year 7 and 9.

	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	100%	100%
Writing	100%	100%
Spelling	100%	100%
Numeracy	100%	100%

Median NAPLAN results for Year 9

	College	State
Reading	8	8
Writing	9	8.2
Spelling	8.5	8
Numeracy	7.5	8

Year 7 students performed above statewide averages in reading, writing and spelling, grammar and punctuation and just below the statewide average in numeracy. This reflects an improvement in average reading performance and no change in the other areas for the period 2006-2008.

Year 9 students performed above statewide averages in writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and slightly below statewide averages in reading and numeracy. This reflects an improvement in average reading performance and no change in the other areas for the period 2006-2008.

These results are based on scaled scores.

VCE Performance

College Dux, Catherine Coventry, ENTER Score 98.35

- 13% of ENTER Scores 90 and above. State norm 10%
- 24% of ENTER Scores 80–89.95. State norm 10%
- 20% of ENTER Scores 70-79.95. State norm 10%
- Median ENTER Score 69.95. State median 50
- 9.2% of all Study Scores over 40. This represents exceptional performance in the top 8% of the State. State average for Study Scores over 40 is 8.8%.
- 87.3% retention of students in Year 9 (2004) cohort enrolled into Year 12 (2007). Sector target 85%.
- 98% of students satisfactory attained VCE certification.

Post Year 12 Destination Information

VCAA Data

Tertiary Applications and Offers

University Offers %	71
TAFE/VET Offers %	28
Any Tertiary Offer %	96

On Track Survey Data - April 2009

In Education and Training

University enrolled %	62
TAFE/VET enrolled %	22
Apprentice/Trainee %	3

Not in Education and Training

Employed %	4
Looking for Work %	0
Deferred %	8

The published Year 12 Destination Information 2009 is based on the graduands who participated in the On Track Survey Data collection.

The Individual Differences Unit provided Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for integration students.

Student Wellbeing

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Caring

To nurture the development of our young women into confident young adults with a sense of compassion.

Goals

- To develop the leadership potential of all students
- To expand students participation in social justice initiatives

Achievements

The focus for 2008 was very much on enhancing the knowledge and skills of the staff in the area of student wellbeing, and offering a range of programs and services to support the social/emotional wellbeing of our students.

The Student Psychologist ran workshops on *Body Image* and *Bullying*. The \$5000 grant from the Department of Planning and Community Development Grants Program – “Go For Your Life,” Positive Body Image Grants 2008 allowed us to enhance our existing wellbeing programs and resources at the College.

The College continued to embed Restorative Justice to create a harmonious, safe and secure environment which promotes positive behaviour management. A Values Education grant of \$500 supported a Restorative Practices Parent forum to further enhance College and family partnerships.

The College also applied for a Victorian Government grant for \$500 to review drug education in our school. A committee of parents, staff and students was formed. Achievements included the development of a *Student Drugs and Drug Education Policy*, a review and update of the College’s Health Curriculum in the areas of drug education, and planning for dissemination of information on drug education to parents.

The selection of the Senior Student Leaders was enhanced with the participation of the Australian Electoral Commission. The whole school

participated in the election process, including ballot papers, polling booths and independent tallying of votes.

The Year 7 Transition Camp, the Year 9 Wilderness Camp and the Year 11 Challenge to Action Retreat continue to provide differing challenges, taking into account the growing maturity of the students.

Secondary Catholic Girls Schools Association

Inter-school sports at state and national level have resulted in the Junior Teams winning their division in Swimming, Basketball, Cross Country, Hockey, Volleyball and Netball.



Compliance Advice

Attendance helps students to develop social skills, friendship, communications and self esteem. Absenteeism results in students missing out on key learning activities, which can result in long term difficulties.

Student attendance at the College averaged for the year at 93.54% or 12.01 days absent. This compares to the State average of 91% attendance rate during 2008. High attendance is a strong indicator of student satisfaction with the College.

The College continues to offer a range of exciting extra-curricular activities and students participate in these with great results. Participation and commitment to sports or debating teams, music ensembles, or special events empower students and teach them about working cooperatively, team building and contributing to their community.

Leadership and Management

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Learning

To advance a learning community that enables our young women to achieve personal excellence.

- To continue to enhance staff understanding of teaching and learning

Caring

To nurture the development of our young women into confident young adults with a sense of compassion.

- To develop the knowledge and skills of staff regarding student wellbeing, with emphasis on both prevention and intervention strategies

Achievements

The quality of the school is reflected in the quality of staff. At Ave Maria College, there is a strong culture of professional development and learning.

Graduate teachers participated in our 'Beginning Teachers Program' and professional development provided by the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT). Two provisionally registered teachers achieved full registration.

A three-year cycle of Staff Appraisal commenced. Teachers appointed to a Position of Leadership (POL) at the commencement of 2007 were the first participants in Stage One of the new model for Staff Appraisal, which included student feedback. Stage Two, to be implemented in 2009, will include student feedback for classroom teachers.

A number of teachers took on roles with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as VCE assessors and examination markers.

Compliance Advice

Staff demonstrate high commitment through their involvement in meetings, events, excursions and camps.

Professional learning is an integral part of practice and enables staff to interpret and respond to changing demands, and to exercise judgment in informed and creative ways. Professional learning was delivered in a variety of modes, including 'in-house' training and collegial activities, formal mentoring of new employees, formal programs, and membership of professional associations and organisations. Further training was provided for teachers in the implementation of Restorative Practices.

A total of \$225,056.35 was expended on professional development for staff, an average of \$3750.00 per teacher.

During 2008 the average attendance of teaching staff was 94.7%. The percentage of teaching staff engaged in 2008 who were still at the College in 2009 (including maternity leave) was 81.4%. Staff movement allows for the enrichment of College life through the input of new experiences and perspectives.

10 teacher employees were placed on fixed-term contracts to cover staff on long-term leave, to respond to student changing subject preferences, to cater for enrolment decline due to the departure of the large Class of 2008 cohort, and to replace staff who resigned during the year.

Name	Qualifications		
Olwen Horton	MBA, M Ed, B Arts, Dip Ed, Grad Dip RE, Grad Dip Ed Admin, Grad Cert RE, Grad Cert Ed Law, Teachers Certificate (Sec)	Timothy Nolan	B Arts (Creative), Grad Dip Ed
		Sue Ooi	B Sci, Dip Ed, Postgrad Cert: Math Ed
		Sue Parkes	B Ed (Physical Education)
Joe Bilotta	B App Sc, Grad Dip Ed,	Emily Raffaele	B Arts (Hons), Dip Ed
Mark Buckley	M Soc Sci, B Ed, Grad Dip Careers Ed, Dip Ed (Hons), B Arts	Angela Romano	B Arts, Dip Ed, Post Grad in Ed Leadership
Terry Callery	B Ed (Librarianship)	Clare Sale	B Ed
Judith Cole	B Fine Arts, Adv Dip Arts, Grad Dip Ed	Michelle Salera	B Ed
Charles Coleiro	B Sci, Dip Ed, B Ed, P.G.D.M.M.E	Cris Scarlata	M Ed, B Ed, B Sci, Dip Ed, Grad Cert Ed Law, Grad Dip RE
Natalie Conti	B Arts, B Arts (Hons), Grad Dip Ed (Sec)	Lisa Sinclair	B Ed (Drama and English)
Dino Conversano	B Eng, Dip Ed	Anthony Spanti	B Arts, Dip RE, Dip Ed
Belinda Corbo	B Arts (Hons), Grad Dip Ed (Sec)	Courtney Stammers	B Ed , B Arts
Janet Crowden	M Ed, Grad Dip Ed, B Arts	Joanne Thompsom	B Arts, Grad Dip Ed, Dip Humanities
Marisa D'Astoli	B Arts, Dip Ed	Margaret Tona	B Arts (Hons), Dip Ed (Sec), Grad Cert Cath Stud
Pam Dedman	B Sci (Hons), Dip Ed, Grad Dip Comp Sc, Cert IV Training and Assessment	Susy Vianello	B Arts, Grad Dip RE, Dip Ed
Jeanne Deutscher	B Sci (Hons), Grad Dip Ed	Filina Virgato	M Ed (Student Wellbeing), B Arts, Dip Ed
Gabrielle Douglas	B Ed (Library)	Sharon Walsh	B Ed, Grad Dip (Outdoor and Environmental Ed)
Alan Dunlop	B App Sci, B Sci, Dip Ed	Garry Whicker	Post Grad Dip Out Ed, Dip Ed
Helen Eischeid	D Ed, M Ed, B Theol, B Arts, Cert Teach	Heinz-Peter Wolf	MRE, M Ed Leadership, Grad Dip LD, Grad Cert RE, B Arts
Nina Ethell	B Arts, Dip Fashion, Grad Dip Ed	Mary Younes Hickland	B Ed (Arts and Crafts)
Joanne Fastuca	B Arts, Grad Dip Ed, Grad Cert RE		
Claudia Filippone	B Fine Arts, Dip Ed, TAFE Dip Art, Assoc Dip Art		
Maria Gianni	B Sci, B Ed,		
Carla Godoy	B Arts, Dip Ed, Adv Cert (Indonesian)		
Joanna Hammer	B App Sci, Grad Dip Ed (Sec), Grad Cert RE (Sec)		
Leo Hong	B Arts (Hons), B Music, Dip Ed		
Deb Horbec	B Arts, Dip Ed		
Michael Horne	B Arts (Hons), Dip Ed		
Sherryn Jones-Vadala	B Sci, Dip Ed, Cert IV Workplace Training & Ass, Cert III Fitness		
Cheryl Kerin	B Ed (Arts & Crafts)		
Katrina Khoo	B Arts, Grad Dip Ed (Sec)		
Bernadette Lane	M Spec Ed, Grad Dip Literacy, B Ed, Dip Teaching		
Chong Law	B Arts, Grad Dip Ed (Sec)		
Daniella Li Rosi	B App Sci		
Jennifer Lorrimar	B Ed, Dip Ed, Dip Ed Computing,		
Catherine Lukin	B Mus (Hons), Dip Ed, ATCL (Pianoforte), A Mus A (Voice)		
Ian MacDonnell	B Sci (Hons), Dip Ed		
Sandra Mamo	B Arts, Dip Ed		
Carl Marin	B App Sci, Dip Ed		
Robert Martini	B Bus, Dip Ed, Dip Comp Ed, Cert IV Workplace Training and Ass		
Jacqueline Maugueret	M Ed, Post Grad Sec Ed, B Sci		
Lyndal McLean	B Ed		
Suzanne Morgan	B Arts, Dip Ed		
Christopher Moss	B Leg St, B Arts, Grad Dip Ed, Grad Cert Leg Prac		

College Community

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Community

To cultivate a welcoming school that is positively engaged with the wider community.

- To support the accessibility of the College for Catholic families
- To proactively engage potential families in the College
- To engage parents and graduate students in the broader educational program offered by the College
- To build mutually beneficial partnerships with a range of organizations

Achievements

Families attended:

- Opening of the School Year Mass
- Year 7 Family Welcome function.
- Mothers' Day and Daughters Breakfast
- Fathers' Day and Daughters Breakfast
- Year 7 Elders Liturgy and Morning Tea
- Year 8 Special Persons Liturgy and Morning Tea
- Year 12 Graduation Mass and Valedictory Dinner

Over 150 parent volunteers ensured the smooth functioning of the Canteen and provided hospitality at school functions.

Parents contributed to the development of the *Student Drugs and Drug Education Policy*.

With the enthusiastic support of the Parent Debutante Ball Committee, we conducted two Debutante Balls.

The Parent Fashion Parade Committee organized another successful Annual Fashion Parade and Dinner.

We celebrated the services of volunteers throughout the year, and presented departing volunteers with awards for service.

Past students contributed to the Careers Education Program.

The Moonee Valley Police invited the College to participate in a Community Development Project. This will involve a team of girls from Ave Maria College, together with students from Debney Park Secondary College and St Bernard's College, walking the Kokoda Track in 2009. The students will be accompanied by Victoria Police personnel and staff from each school.

Compliance Advice

An *Opinion Survey* of Staff, Students and Parents was conducted in November 2008. The Survey covered the Key Results Areas of our Strategic Plan 2006-2009. The majority of stakeholders continue to hold the school in high regard. Parents value the Catholicity of the College. Students and staff enjoy learning and working at the school. It is perceived as a positive and supportive environment.

Financial Performance

Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2008

Reporting Framework	Modified Cash	\$
Recurrent income		
School fees		1,964,506
Other fee income		648,821
Private income		323,826
State government recurrent grants		1,265,577
Australian government recurrent grants		4,417,154
Total recurrent income		8,619,884
Recurrent expenditure		
Salaries, allowances and related expenses		5,522,661
Non salary expenses		3,168,055
Total recurrent expenditure		8,690,716
Capital income and expenditure		
Government capital grants		171,628
Capital fees and levies		93,507
Other capital income		31,084
Total capital income		296,219
Total capital expenditure		1,380,469
Loans (includes refundable enrolment deposits and recurrent, capital and bridging loans)		
Total opening balance		1,550,639
Total closing balance		1,365,952

Note that the information provided above does not include the following items:

System levies charged to individual schools, intra-systemic transfers and diocesan supplementary capital fund (SCF) supported borrowings for primary schools. The information provided is not comparable with other educational sectors. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is in the process of reviewing the Financial Questionnaire (FQ) during 2009 that may ultimately change the method of reporting these exclusions.

Future Directions

Facilities and Resources

To continue to provide the finest possible facilities and resources.

Goals

- To commence the implementation of the Strategic Building Plan
- To ensure continued compliance with legally required standards and reporting mechanisms
- To source additional resources to enhance the development of the College
- To develop and implement an Environmental Management Plan

Achievements

Construction work for the Master Building Project commenced late in Term 3. It is anticipated that the project will be completed within 12 months.

The College successfully applied for a Capital Grant of \$49,250.00 from the Australian Federal Government for water tanks. The tanks hold 50,000kl of water, with estimated total savings of 500,000kl per year.

Developed the *Strategic Plan – Information Communication Technology 2009 -2012* to address eLearning, professional development and resourcing of this area.

Commissioned an independent review of the school's Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources and infrastructure.

Established the Strategic Plan 2010-2013 Subcommittee.

Commenced publishing paper and energy consumption data to develop staff and student awareness of aiming for a 'light footprint' in the environment.

Compliance Advice

The Annual Financial Report 2007 was tabled to the Board. Cash holdings satisfied the minimum cash holdings required by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne.