

A WORD FROM OUR CEO/PRINCIPAL

As we go to press, the World Cup of Football in South Africa has captured the attention of much of the world. Outside of the summer Olympic Games, it is the biggest event of its kind in terms of scale, broadcast and television audience and investment in infrastructure. No doubt it will be a grand spectacle and for football lovers a magnificent month of competition. However, as with all such events, it is unlikely that the benefits of such a tournament will be shared equally and even less likely that those most in need will share in any way in the investment and prosperity that may accrue as a result of the tournament.

South Africa currently experiences alarmingly high rates of unemployment between 25 and 40 per cent, increasing incidences of poverty and more than 1,000 deaths a day from HIV/Aids. There is an ever increasing gap between the affluent and the poor and the society is grappling with increasing violence. Investment in stadiums alone is reported to be well in to the billions of dollars. The World Cup is manifestly a wonderful event and many positives will undoubtedly flow from it. However, until each of our communities attend more sensitively and diligently to the most fundamental needs of the poor how ever that poverty manifests itself, we are at risk of adding to the injustice of a further distortion of finite resources among people of the world and the frightening consequences that flow

from such an imbalance.

Term II has once again been full of activity at Mater Dei. Mother's Day Mass in May was celebrated with appropriate reverence by our students and many "mums" who were able to, joined us. We were also joined on the day by a group of girls from Mount St Benedict's College who were proud ambassadors for their school.

The second annual Lipstick Luncheon was a wonderful day and a great success. Our choir of course was the highlight of the afternoon with our many proud performers enjoying their moment on stage. The Lipstick Luncheon is quite an extraordinary event in that it gathers four hundred ladies in a warm and engaging environment all in the name of Mater Dei. Jean Kittson was a thoroughly gracious and entertaining host. Thank you to Debbie and Lee and their very hard working committee; Catherine Perich, Anne Adam, Julie Butta, Rebekah Gates and Pina Nasso for organising this event.

Years 7 to 10 enjoyed a three day camp at Teen Ranch, Cobbitty, which aimed at building community, challenging and encouraging initiative and further developing skills for living. The students responded very positively to the program and special thanks to the many staff who attended the camp, particularly those who stayed overnight.

Our building continues in spite of the recent rain and we remain hopeful of occupying our new Hall at the commencement of Term III.

Construction on stage two, the main school building, was progressing well until the recent rain however again, we remain hopeful that with reasonable weather, the building will be completed in time for us to commence 2011.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. In Term III, the Development Office will be busy staging the annual Mater Dei Race Day at Kembla Grange on July 31, the Great Pigeon Race on August 22 and, of course, our Foundation Dinner on September 11, at The Cube, Campbelltown. I hope you may be able to join us in support of these important events.

On Friday July 30, Mater Dei will celebrate the Feast of St Benedict for the first time. The feast day falls in the school holidays however it is important that we make a place on our school calendar to celebrate it. More detail is available on our website however we look forward to celebrating Mass with many of our colleagues in Catholic education and partners in the wider community followed by morning tea, lunch and some fun activities for the students in the afternoon.

Thank you for your continued warm and generous support of all that we do here at Mater Dei.

Prayers and best wishes

Tony Fitzgerald

For pictures of the Mothers Day Mass, Lipstick Luncheon and Teen Ranch Camp visit our galleries at www.materdei.org.au