

MATER DEI'S NEW HOME STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE



After nearly two years of planning, lobbying and negotiating, the dream of Mater Dei's ultimate home is emerging from the mud!

The Orphanage is now fully renovated, but has some modifications to accommodate classrooms, while the new classroom wing is being built. The Dance Studio in the centre of the Upper Floor has already become a popular venue for movement classes and the Music Room, with its rehearsal facilities, is in constant use. Once the new classrooms are ready at the beginning of next year, the temporary walls containing them will be removed to reveal the new Library, Cinema and Computer & Science Labs.

The other incentive funding project, the



Multi-Function Hall, is finally peeping its frame over the site fence as the block-work walls that contain its ground floor are nearing completion. The Hall is on track for completion by the start of Term III. This will give the School its first venue capable of accommodating all the students, staff and parents for an event. The funding has been sufficient to provide the fundamental capacity to host everything from theatre to concerts, assemblies and even indoor sports. Some additional equipment, such as theatre lighting and sporting equipment, will be required to realise all these potentials, but the capacities have been installed to connect all of these when funding permits. The design also allows for an Amphitheatre with an all weather



canopy to be added when future funding becomes available.

The new 2,400m², three storey classroom and administration wing began in April and was a month ahead of schedule for completion at the beginning of next year, before the recent heavy rains brought progress to a gluggy halt. The site is fully excavated, the footings are poured and some of the retaining walls have been erected, but the rain has turned the clay ground into a sticky morass, impassable to the heavy machinery necessary to progress to the next stage. None-the-less, the project is still ahead of program and the forecast is for drier conditions which should allow work to recommence in time to meet the original completion date, Term I, 2011.