

A WORD FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to our third edition of Mater Dei Matters for 2009. As I write we are reflecting on another very successful Foundation Dinner. The dinner was a great success on a number of levels, with our students shining with a wonderful performance of 'Bob the Builder' and 'We are the World', our community very generously supporting us and a great evening of entertainment and hospitality enjoyed by all. We again raised over \$200,000 on this evening and this is a great testament to our very hardworking committee led by Phil McCarroll, the excellent work of our Development team of Debbie and Lee and the wonderful support of the Mater Dei staff and students. I believe we can all be very proud of our efforts in raising such an amount in the current financial climate.

A highlight of the dinner for me was the number of Good Samaritan Sisters who were able to join us on the evening. As you are aware, the Good Sam's established Mater Dei and have been involved with our work at a variety of levels for a very long time. Next year is our one

hundredth anniversary on our current site and, the progress we have made in this time and the excellent work that we do, is largely due to the work of the Sisters who have toiled on our site for all of the one hundred years we will celebrate.

Mother Teresa, the founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta said that "We can not do great things in this world; we can only do small things with great love". The Good Samaritan Sisters continually do small things with great love. I would suggest that they also do great things in the service of people who are poor, marginalised, or disadvantaged in any way, and this has been a central focus for the Order throughout its history.

We have had another busy term at Mater Dei with many great things happening in the organisation. The school has hosted G Day – a day for Grandparents, God Parents and Good Friends and what a day it was. We have also celebrated our Feast Day, held a very successful Walkathon, made a movie, held the Year 11/12 Retreat and our students have attended a variety of excursions to places of great interest.

I am sure you will agree we have had a very busy term indeed.

As you may be aware, I will be leaving Mater Dei at the end of the 2009 school year. I will take up the appointment of Principal at St Mary's Star of the Sea College, Wollongong from the commencement of 2010. This has been a very difficult decision for me as Mater Dei holds such a special place in the heart of all those who work here.

On September 30, Mr Rob Burns, Chair of the Mater Dei Board announced that Mr Tony Fitzgerald had been appointed CEO/Principal of Mater Dei commencing 2010. An experienced educator with a career spanning 26 years, Tony has held significant leadership roles and is currently the Deputy Principal of St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. We congratulate Tony and look forward to introducing him to our readers in our next edition of Matters.

Yours sincerely
Frank Pitt

