

A WORD FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,

Mater Dei has been a very busy place over recent months. We have hosted our first Ladies Lipstick Luncheon, we are in the process of planning and designing a very exciting building program and we are continuing to provide an education that aims to meet the individual needs of each student. The Board and the staff of Mater Dei are greatly excited by the possibilities that our new projects hold for the students and families of Mater Dei and I look forward to reporting on the progress of these projects in coming editions of Mater Dei Matters.

As you may be aware, Mater Dei has a strong focus on hospitality in all that we do. This is not only because we believe that being hospitable is a pleasant way of greeting and treating people, it is also a core value of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The Sisters make hospitality their “special care” and this can take the form of a “listening ear, a quiet place for prayer, a healing space, or an environment of simple beauty.” In some cases it is as simple as acknowledging people or reaching out the hand of friendship in the

most basic ways. When we make hospitality our special care, we can sometimes ‘entertain angels without knowing it’.

We had a beautiful example of this special care recently as Meg, one of our Year 11 girls, assisted in delivering meals as part of our regular Meals on Wheels roster. Meg was delivering lunch to one of our ‘regulars’, Mrs Cameron (see picture), who informed



Meg that she was 101 ¼ years old. Despite her age, this woman demonstrated a keen sense of humour and a deep appreciation of the hospitality shown by the students of Mater Dei. Meg too was touched by the

experience as she showed great patience and compassion to this special guest and, who knows; she may have been ‘entertaining an angel without knowing it’.

It was announced that I will be leaving Mater Dei at the end of the 2009 school year to take up the position of Principal at St Mary’s Star of the Sea College in Wollongong. Mater Dei has been such a large part of my life over the past nine years that I am sure I will be very sad to leave. It is a wonderful organisation, with an excellent staff, a very supportive community and, without doubt, the best students in the world. I will take up the new appointment in January 2010 and in the meantime I look forward to the many exciting new developments that this year will bring for the Mater Dei community.

I hope that you continue to enjoy good health and happiness as we approach the colder months and I look forward to sharing the many successes of our students in future Matters magazines throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

Frank Pitt