

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mater Dei School has been operating within the former Orphanage Building since 1957. In 1975 a new wing was built to house extra classrooms and later the undercroft was filled in to provide accommodation for the growing administration staff. This year has seen a coming together of fortuitous circumstances which have provided the funds for the complete redevelopment of the school's facilities.



Under the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution initiative we have been very fortunate in receiving \$1.75 million to renovate the former Orphanage Building, build a School Hall and redevelop the Secondary Playground. In addition it has just been announced that we are to be the recipients of a Federal Government Capital Grant to redevelop Mater Dei School in 2010.

The former Orphanage is being refurbished to house ancillary facilities such as the Library, Science Laboratory, Movement Studio, Music Room, Computer Lab & even a Cinema! This will be complimented by a 3 storey wing extending from the Orphanage, with Administration on the ground floor & two floors of Classrooms above. The middle floor will be the Primary School and the top floor the Secondary one. The Multi-purpose Hall will then form the third side of a quadrangle of buildings.

So far, approvals have been sought and obtained through the NSW National Building & Jobs Plan Taskforce, which complimented the design for its sensitive response to the heritage context, while being unashamedly modern in style.

In term 4 this year, students were moved into demountable classrooms to allow renovation of the Orphanage, which will be completed by the time school recommences next year. Further demountables are currently being added to relocate the administration staff, so that the 1975 building can be demolished to make way for the new classroom wing. The new building is planned to be ready for occupation in term 1 of 2011. The Multi-purpose Hall is currently under construction and will be ready for use by term 2 of 2010.

We are excited and thankful for the opportunities given to us to provide a first-class facility which will take us well into the future.