

Farewell and Welcome to Principals

By Dianne Marshall, Director of Catholic Schools

It is that time of the year again when we say farewell to Principals who are retiring or leaving to pursue other career options and welcome new Principals and their families into our Diocesan community.

The role of Principal in our parish schools is critical to the faith and educational development of the children in their care. Through their unstinting dedication to the parish and its school they form communities of teachers and parents focused on ensuring that the children in their care receive a quality education. I would like to thank all the Principals in the Diocese of Lismore for their dedication and enthusiasm for Catholic education.

Leaving Principals 2006

Don Farrell,
St Peter's Primary School,
Port Macquarie

Don Farrell has had an illustrious career both within the State and Catholic education sectors that has spanned 37 years – 23 as principal. Don started teaching in 1969 in Horsley Park, he taught in a one teacher school at Thurgoona for three years and later at Lavington East for five years. Don then moved to the Catholic education system as principal in 1983-1986 as the first principal of the amalgamated Saints Peter and Paul, Goulburn. Don is retiring and his contribution cannot be undervalued as he has touched the lives of thousands of students and their parents.

In 1987, Don came to the Lismore Diocese as Principal of St Brigid's, Kyogle and moved in 1993 to become the Foundation Principal of St Peter's, Port Macquarie. As principal of St Peter's, Don is acknowledged as a committed and true faith leader. Don's love of the classroom is still current which is the mark of an educational leader.

Gary Burdett,
St Carthage's Primary School,
Lismore

Gary Burdett has been principal at St Carthage's Primary School, Lismore (2004-2006) and previously principal at St Brigid's Primary, Kyogle (2000-2004) and St Joseph's Primary, Coraki (1997-2000). Gary has accepted a position as Education Consultant in the Townsville Catholic Education Office commencing in January 2007.

St Carthage's is very proud of Gary's work in their community. He is seen as innovative and hard

working and able to vision new futures. Gary's legacy to the Diocese is perhaps the credo that he worked by. See a need, from the vision involve all the players, be passionate, respectful and always act with integrity.

Russell Munro,
St Mary's Primary School,
Grafton

Russell Munro has held many positions as educational leader over the past 29 years in which he has been involved in Catholic education. He has been a teacher, Religious Education Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal.

In 1984, Russell came to St Mary's, Grafton and in 2003 became the inaugural Principal of a newly amalgamated K-6 St Mary's Primary, Grafton. Russell has spent considerable time reflecting on the future and has decided to take time out to experience other aspects of his life.

Russell will be remembered by his community as a reflective leader of high integrity and sound practice. He leaves a legacy of faith, commitment and very happy memories.

New Principals 2007

St Peter's Primary School,
Port Macquarie

Mr Bede Hart has been appointed from his current position as Principal at St Patrick's Parish School, Albury. Bede has 27 years teaching experience with over 10 years as a Principal. Bede believes that the aim of a Catholic school community is the transmission of values for living, where the school is seen as an active example of Gospel values and where each child is guided and encouraged to reach his/her potential.

Holy Family Primary School,
Skennars Head

Mr Murray Deeps has been appointed from his current position as Principal at Trinity Catholic Primary School, Murrumburrah in the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn. Murray has been a teacher for over 20 years and been a Principal or Acting Principal for a total of 6 years. Murray believes in a holistic approach to education, achieved through the integration of religious faith and human knowledge and experience.



St Mary's Primary School, Grafton

Mrs Lynne Pull has been appointed after serving as a past Principal of King Solomon College in Queensland and Ward's River Primary School, New South Wales. Lynne has been teaching for 25 years and has been a Principal for over 10 years. Lynne believes that a Catholic school must be a Christ-centred nurturing environment with a strong sense of community and belonging where each person is supported in a warm, welcoming and inclusive way.



St Carthage's Primary School, Lismore

Mrs Suzanne Nichols has been appointed from her current position as Principal at St John the Baptist Catholic School, Woy Woy. Suzanne has 33 years teaching experience with 13 years as an Executive in Catholic schools. Suzanne sees the school as an integral part of the parish, local community and diocese. She believes in promoting a climate which allows each member of the school community to reach their full potential – spiritually, academically and professionally.



Jubilee Celebrations At Yamba

460 years of lived religious consecration were celebrated on September 13 at Star of the Sea, Yamba.

Forty-six Sisters of Mercy of the Grafton Congregation, the Bishop of Lismore and 15 priests of the diocese marked the Platinum, Diamond and Golden Jubilees of Sisters M. Eymard Kennedy and Anne Moroney (70 years); Juliana Dwyer and Dorothy Hogan (60 years); Maureen Clarke, Ann Grennan, Judith Weiley and Shirley Dallas (50 years). The Eucharist was the focus for the celebrations as the Sisters gathered with His Lordship, Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett and the priests who had come to honour the occasion. There was general appreciation of the thoughtful and encouraging homily given by Fr Bill Mills from "Mamre" Retreat House at Mullumbimby. Sr Anne Gallagher enlivened a joyful liturgical occasion with her organ accompaniment to the singing.

Before the assembled congregation, Sr Barbara Bolster, the Grafton Congregation Leader, welcomed the Jubilarians and all present. After the Homily, she invited all the Sisters present to join with the eight Jubilarians in renewing their vows of Chastity, Poverty, Obedience and Service. At the conclusion of the liturgy, all present enjoyed the meal provided in Star of the Sea dining room. Once again, joy was the keynote. Sister Barbara spoke of the lives and ministry of the Jubilarians; she



The Jubilarians: Sisters Maureen Clarke, Anne Grennan, Dorothy Hogan, Juliana Dwyer, Judith Weiley, Shirley Dallas Seated Eymard Kennedy, Anne Moroney

entertained all with anecdotes that highlighted the passion for Mercy and commitment to God and God's people that so motivated the eight sisters whose lives were being honoured. Each Jubilarian responded with gratitude to God and the community; the stories they told confirmed that they had lived Catherine McAuley's spirit and her love of fun. Catherine would surely be delighted that her charism is so alive and well in the Grafton Mercy Congregation.

Diocesan Pastoral Council 2006/2008



Executive of Council:

Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett DD
Chair: Mrs Caroline Thompson
Vice Chair: Mr. Graeme Davis
Four Deanery Representatives:
Macleay – Matthew Bushe, Clarence
– Kevin Clarke, Richmond – Margaret
Condon, Tweed – Marcel Mangelsdorf
Two Congregational Leaders Namely:
RMS: Sr Barbara Bolster,

Members elected by Parish Pastoral Councils or of a Parish representative body. Congregational Leaders of the Sisters of Mercy and Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Up to four priests from the Diocese appointed by the Bishop. No more than six members who may be appointed by the Bishop.

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