



AQUINAS

Aquinas College

College Board Chairman's Report 2016

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College Board - Chairman's Report

The theme chosen for 2016 at Aquinas College was the Year of Endeavour.

Much endeavour has been shown by many students, staff and many others connected with Aquinas – across a broad range of areas. So far as can be ascertained at this stage, those endeavours have borne much good fruit in 2016. I was privileged to attend a number of College assemblies during the year, as well as the College Presentation Night, and the Class of 2016 Graduation Ceremony, and was proud and uplifted by what I saw from students.

Aquinas, having been founded by the Christian Brothers, is proudly a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, and aims to produce men the world needs. Academic performance and training to assist our graduates towards satisfying and rewarding careers is a big part of what Aquinas is about, but it is about much more than that: the Aquinas College values are Faith in action, Justice with compassion, Service with generosity, and Excellence every day.

Boys are provided with a wide range of opportunities – both in academic and training courses, and related enrichment programmes and opportunities, but retreats and spiritual development, service learning, music, drama, sport and a whole range of other areas. Those opportunities do not just happen – they are offered because of the commitment of staff, coaches, ground staff and many others who happily and consistently make extra efforts for students.

Many important things done on behalf of Aquinas and its students are not seen by most people: the work involved in the successful re-registration of Aquinas for the next five years; to further develop College policies and processes; to train and educate teachers consistently in line with the AITSL standards; to keep the College on a sound financial footing during what are very difficult times in the Western Australian economy; to continue the building programme, and the development of our wonderful grounds; and to plan for the future of Aquinas in changing and challenging times.

There are many people who should be thanked for their contribution to all of those things, and many others.

I would like to thank all of the staff at Aquinas, and the College Leadership Team; the College Board, the members of the Aquinas College Foundation, and the Chairs and members of the various committees, all of whom happily and generously share their diverse skills, and time, for the benefit of the College. : in particular, I would like to thank and acknowledge Mr Robert Radley, and Mr John Taylor. Rob's 9 years of service as a member of the Board concludes at the end of 2016: Rob has been a valuable contributor, particularly in assisting with strategic planning. John served on the Board until 2012, and has remained as Chair of the Building Grounds and Maintenance Committee since his term on the Board concluded. John, as much as anyone, deserves the credit for the College's building Master Plan, and for the improvements in building and planning of the campus over more recent years.

During 2016 Mr Mark Sawle resigned to become Headmaster of Great Southern Grammar School in Albany. He moved to Albany to take up that position for Term 4, and during that Term Mr Duncan Warlters has done an outstanding job as Acting Headmaster.

Mark has been a loyal servant of Aquinas for 20 years – starting as a relief teacher, progressing through several roles, and ending as Headmaster of Aquinas for nine years - the longest serving Headmaster since Aquinas moved to the Mount Henry site in 1938. Mark has been a much loved and respected Headmaster. Under his stewardship, the school has advanced and developed enormously. Substantial building work has been carried out, and the planning for the Boarding refurbishment and other works put in place. The Early Years Learning

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Centre was completed, and Aquinas' first kindergarten, pre-primary and Year 1 classes have arrived. The culture of the school has changed in many ways, with increased emphasis on pedagogy, as well as music, drama and other cultural pursuits. In my experience Mark has always been measured, thoughtful, and disposed to do what is best for the students at Aquinas: he is a wonderful exemplar of the Aquinas College values in action. I was privileged to attend his farewell assembly, and moved by the obvious affection felt for him by staff and students at all levels of Aquinas.

While we were sad to see Mark go, he leaves with our best wishes and gratitude, and we look forward to the beginning of a new chapter at Aquinas in 2017 under Mr David McFadden.

Mr Michael Hughes ('75)
Chairman

