

# Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation



## Report to Synod 2014

The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation continues to serve and support the four member schools of the Corporation under the direction of the Board. The Board meets six times a year with an additional special meeting convened to receive and approve school budgets.

### **Membership of the board is as follows**

The Right Reverend Greg Thompson (Appointed 2/2/14)

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Stuart (ex-officio)

Ms Bev Birch

Mr John Cleary (CEO, ex-officio)

Mr John Deasey

Mr Matthew Guyder

Mr Michael Hannah

Mr Colin Johnston

Mrs Lorin Livingstone (Business Manager, ex-officio)

Dr Terry Lovat

Mr Malcolm McDonald

### **Schools Management Division**

Under the supervision of Mrs Lorin Livingstone, the Schools Management Division (SMD) continues to assist three member schools with centralised financial processing. The schools assisted are Manning Valley Anglican College, Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School and Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation also continues to maintain financial oversight of Scone Grammar School.

The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation is also in discussions with Scone Grammar School regarding scheduling their formal participation in the Schools Management Division.

### **Audited financial Statements**

The 2013 audited result was a small deficit of \$1,789. The Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation has a Net Asset position as at 31 December 2013 of \$155,179.

### **Central Banking**

Establishment of the central banking initiative was a core task of the NASC under its ordinance. In 2014, the first 12 months passed under the new arrangements with the ANZ Bank and I am pleased to report that the initiative has been very successful for the Diocesan schools and the Diocese as a whole.

Plans are currently in place to centralise schools transactional banking into the Anglican Savings and Development Fund. This will lead to further cost savings for schools and further operational efficiencies for the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation and its member schools. Importantly, it shows our Diocesan schools supporting the missional activities of the Diocese in the same way the Diocese supports Diocesan schools and their mission.

## **Governance**

School Board Governance remains an important focus of the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation.

In March 2014, school board members were invited to a governance day for all diocesan bodies.

All school board members were also invited to the Combined School Boards governance day in July 2014. The Association of Independent Schools (AIS) presented on the day.

## **Diocesan Schools Liaison Officer**

In September 2013, The Reverend Canon Hugh Bright was appointed to the role of Diocesan Schools Liaison Officer for the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation.

Father Hugh's support to the corporation has been invaluable in furthering the common curriculum in Christian Religious Studies across the four Diocesan Schools.

## **Towards Best Practice - A review of School Administration in the Diocese of Newcastle**

In February 2014, the Reverend Peter Laurence (CEO, Western Australian Anglican Schools Commission), was retained by the Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation to conduct a review of Administration costs in Diocesan Schools. Each Diocesan school was visited, their structures assessed and benchmarked against independent schools with similar SES ratings elsewhere in Australia.

The consultancy was invaluable and has provided the Schools and the Diocese with practical recommendations to further enhance operational efficiencies in our administration.

The recommendations were presented to a joint meeting of school Principals and Chairs in May 2014 and have since been disseminated to individual school boards.

## **Key NASC initiatives**

During the year, the following have been facilitated by the NASC:

- The Combined Schools Boards Conference in July 2014
- Schools Celebration Day at the Cathedral in November 2013
- Induction of New Staff in NASC Schools in January 2014
- Quarterly meetings with school Principals
- Quarterly meetings with school Chaplains
- Visitation program to school boards
- Our Diocesan Schools Liaison Officer assisting our four member schools towards a common curriculum in Christian Religious Studies. The end goal being to deliver a syllabus encompassing years K to 12.
- Investigating professional support for school staff delivering the Christian Religious Studies syllabus
- Opportunities for better reflecting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our schools' structures and extending the missional impetus of the schools.

- Research and monitoring of government funding trends and challenges in the educational sector

Throughout the year, Newcastle Anglican Schools Corporation officers have represented the Corporation at:-

- The *Anglican Schools Australia* Annual Conference
- Association of School Business Administrators and the Bursars' Association of NSW Conference and professional development days

#### **Staff Movements**

Mrs Sandra Langford was appointed as the New Principal of Manning Valley Anglican College and commenced in January 2014.

Mr Bruce Rixon resigned as the Principal of Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College in March 2014.

Mrs Leanne Lynch (current Deputy Principal) was appointed as the Acting Principal of Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College.

It has been my pleasure to serve the corporation over the past twelve months

**John Cleary**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**31 July 2014**