

THE HISTORY OF LOYOLA COLLEGE

1976

A Committee for the north-eastern area recommended the setting up of a planning committee in the Greensborough area to study the local needs for Catholic secondary education.

1977

A report contained the following formal recommendations:

- 'That a Form 1-6 co-educational Catholic secondary school be established on the property formerly known as "Loyola" in Grimshaw Street, Greensborough'.
- 'That the proposed school cater for six streams of students representing a steady flow of 170 pupils'.

1978

Joshua and Mary Pila were appointed architects and finance was obtained through the Schools Commission and the Schools Provident fund.

1979

Mr John Kennedy was appointed Principal in late September and commenced advertising for staff. The new school was to be called "Loyola College". The reason for this decision can be found in the wish to recognise our Jesuit associations and the generosity of the Society of Jesus in making 11 acres (changed to 12.7 acres in October 1979) available for Catholic education.

1980

Our first day, Tuesday, 5th February, began with a Concelebrated Mass, with 134 enrolments. His Lordship Bishop Perkins was Principal Celebrant. In April the first College Board was elected by the various constituents, staff, priests and parishioners of St Damian's Bundoora; Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek; St Mary's Greensborough; Our Lady of the Way, Kingsbury; and St Martin of Tours, Macleod. Mr James Corkill became the first President. After commencing in portables, A Block was officially opened on 23 October.

1981

The arrival of 160 Year 7 students took our enrolment to 300. On Friday 19 June, the first of our regular weekly masses was celebrated.

1982

Enrolments increased to 475 and Mr Maurice Dunne (formerly Head of Senior School at St Monica's Epping) was appointed as the first Deputy Principal. Mr Reg. Elder (formerly Lieutenant Colonel in A.R.A and a member of the Interim Board) was appointed Business Manager.

1983

A total enrolment of 650 students. The Library, Home Economics Room and four Science Laboratories were built. Fr. Tom Doyle blessed and opened B Block on Sunday 6 November.

1984

The College consisted of 800 students and nearly 80 staff. Mr Michael Proctor became the second Deputy Principal. Mrs Rhonda Webb formed the Loyola College Parents' Support Group.

1985

The DOWAL and DOCAL committees were established. L Block was completed and occupied in June containing classrooms for Years 11 and 12 as well as specialist rooms for computers and drama. Miriam Holmes was appointed

the first College Captain and was also awarded Dux of the College. In November, the Board farewelled Mr James Corkill, the first Board Chairman, after six years of much appreciated and valued service. Mr Santo Consolino was elected the new Chairman. The end of the year saw the departure of our first students.

1988

Loyola Ex-Student's Association was formed, our first Community Liaison Officer, Ms Rhonda Tallnash was appointed and our first direct appointment from overseas, Mr Peter Keegan from the United Kingdom took place.

1989

Loyola's Tenth Year Opening Mass was concelebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop Little was the Principal Celebrant and he was joined by 20 priests from our parishes and other secondary schools. In 1989 for the first time we had a Debutante Ball.

1990

The creation of the Association of Canonical Administrators (Parish Priests) as a legal entity meant a reduced role for the College Board. A significant event for this year was the arrival of a Chapel (Church of the Irish Martyrs) transported from Arthurs Creek on Sunday morning, 5 August.

1991

The biggest event of the year was the commencement of building the Performing Arts Centre (now Loyola Companion Hall).

1992

The Blessing and Official Opening of the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre on Sunday 15 March was a proud moment in Loyola history.

1993

A purchase of 2.008 ha (4.5 acres) of land adjoining the Loyola property along Grimshaw Street was made from the State Government.

1994

A year of more changes: restructured pastoral care arrangements with the establishment of smaller mentor groups. The House system expanded to six Houses. The creator and energetic driving force behind the new House system, Mr Jace Duffy, died suddenly on Wednesday 12 October.

1995

On Wednesday 20 September all staff and students gathered for the taking of the first full school photograph since our opening year.

1996

The Principal, Mr John Kennedy developed the theme of 'Catholic, Care, Curriculum and Co-curriculum' as the basic dynamics underpinning the College.

1997

On site and in time for the arrival of exactly 1,000 students was additional accommodation: new portables and offices known as N Block for the use of Year 12 students. An additional room was also created in D Block. Work commenced on a \$2.5 million project that included the creation of a Technology and Visual Arts Building together with extensive grounds and sporting improvements. Loyola became a foundation member of the Association of Co-Educational Schools (ACS) - a group of schools of similar size to Loyola and similar philosophy in regard to sport and co-curricular activities. The founding members were: Eltham College, St Leonard's College, St Michael's Grammar and Westbourne & Williamstown Grammar.

1998

The Visual Art and Technology Centre was opened in September. We farewelled Mr Paul Clements after 18 years at Loyola, including 10 years as Deputy Principal.

1999

A considerable development was the enhanced structures for student leadership. New positions were created: Captain of Christian Service, Captain of Drama, Captain of Sport (male and female), Captain of Public Speaking and Captain of Music. Further, a College Committee was established as the peak group for student involvement in the affairs of the College. Mr John Kennedy celebrated his 20th Anniversary as Principal.

2000

Loyola's 20th Anniversary was marked by two major events: Firstly, Mass at the Cathedral on 3 March celebrated by Archbishops George Pell and Frank Little together with clergy from our parishes and other schools as well as priests from the Loyola staff and secondly, the Twentieth Anniversary Ball. Loyola welcomed Mrs Alison Leutchford as the Deputy Principal – Students. Mr Paul Ryan became Deputy Principal – Staff.

2001

Finding God in All Things

For the Loyola Community, a highlight was the blessing of our St Ignatius statue on Friday, 3 August by Cardinal Jean- Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris. This year for the first time we welcomed a Jesuit to our staff: Father Justin King, SJ (L: 55-59; 01-11).

2002

Living a Faith that Does Justice

One of the most exciting and significant years in the College began with the news that the College signed a contract for the purchase of the former Jesuit building (temporarily called Old Loyola) for \$3.4 million. Formal possession took place on 8 February. Also, Mrs Val Strantzen became the first woman Chairperson in our 25 year history going back to 1977 (Interim Board).

2003

Men and Women for Others

The commencement of regular visitation to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre on Saturdays was a small but very important step in seeking to be men and women for others. Old Loyola became the administrative centre of the College as well as housing Mannix House and Flynn House.

2004

Companions of the Lord

Mr John Kennedy's 25th Anniversary of appointment was celebrated on the actual day (12 September). The Principals' Association of Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools acknowledged with honorary life membership Mr Kennedy's 16 years on its Executive including 6 as thrice elected President.

2005

Work to God's Greater Glory

A truly remarkable Silver Jubilee year with many celebrations of our achievements over the past 25 years beginning with a Silver Jubilee Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral (25 February) followed by fun at Luna Park. At our St Ignatius Day Assembly we honoured two past teachers for their commitment and achievement. We named the Jamieson Centre for Music in honour of Joan Margaret Jamieson (L: 80 - 86), First Head of Music and, in 1986, Deputy Principal. The Ryan Centre for Drama was named in honour of Paul Anthony Ryan (L: 87 -), Director of Studies (1987 – 1991) first Director of Students (1992 – 2003) Deputy Principal (1998 – 2004). We welcomed two new Deputy Principals: Miss Anne Marie Cairns (Staff and Operations) and Mr Rick Van Duppen (Students and Co-Curriculum).

2006

Show Your Love in Truth and Action

On 28 February Mr Kennedy announced his retirement as Principal of Loyola College from 29 January 2008. In April Mr Kennedy was presented the Jubilee Medal for his services to Ignatian Education and the Society of Jesus by the Provincial, Fr Mark Raper SJ.

2007

Choosing to Make a Difference

In opening and blessing the Hospitality Centre and new library the Archbishop Emeritus, Sir Frank Little, conveyed the College's decision to name the Library the "John Ormond Kennedy Library", in recognition of the Foundation Principal's achievements from 12 September, 1979. Mr Joseph Favrin, at a specially called College Assembly on the steps of Old Loyola on Monday 14 May, was announced as the next Principal of Loyola by Fr Steven Rigo, President of the Canonical Administrators. The original Loyola Chapel tabernacle given by the Jesuits to St Damian's in 1973, was donated back to Loyola College at the Mannix House Mass on Sunday, 18 February.

However, the major event was the College Cocktail Party (Friday, 23 November) open to all past and present members of the Loyola Community: parents, priests, staff, students, neighbours, contractors and others with a Loyola College and/ or John Kennedy association.

2008

Commitment Through Deeds

Mr Joseph Favrin commenced duties as the new Principal of Loyola College and was officially inducted during the Opening of the School Year Mass on 22 February. A revised College Vision and Mission Statement was developed together with a new College Strategic Plan that will give direction to the College for the next five years.

The College hosted the World Youth Day Cross and Icon on 29 April. During this time a large number of German pilgrims were also hosted as part of the WYD Days in the Dioceses Program. The 'Magis' International WYD Pilgrim group, in conjunction with the College, constructed the Prayer Labyrinth. In March Loyola students visited our sister school in Italy in IPSSAR Maffioli for the first time and the Maffioli students visited the College for the first time in September. In April, Mr Favrin attended the Ignatian Pilgrimage to Spain and Italy. The College was represented on the St Francis Xavier Pilgrimage to China and Malaysia, which was held in September.

The Old Loyola Chapel was named in honour of St Ignatius and renovations of this Chapel commenced. The Jesuits returned, on loan, the original painting of 'Queen of the Society' to be reinstalled in the sanctuary of the Chapel. A Memorial Garden was established adjacent the Chapel of the Irish Martyrs. The Old Loyola Courtyard Fountain was fully restored to working order.

2009

Teach Us to Give and Not to Count the Cost

The Loyola Student Training Restaurant Iggy's was officially opened on 5 March, by the Loyola College Founding Principal Mr John Kennedy. Refurbishment of the St Ignatius Chapel was completed and the Chapel was officially dedicated by his Grace Archbishop Hart on Sunday 16 August. The refurbishment of the Science laboratories commenced including provision of an additional laboratory. A new outdoor eating area for students funded by the LSC was opened in October.

The first wedding in the St Ignatius Chapel took place on Saturday 7 March when former student Claire Landy (L:96-01) married Steve Hatty.

Mr Chirico returned to Loyola and was appointed to the new position of Deputy Principal – Administration and Personal Development. Sr Rita Ruzzene SJGS joined the staff in October in the new position of Home-College-Parish Liaison. Mrs Stylli and Ms Donnelly participated in the Ignatian Pilgrimage to Spain and Italy and a group of Loyola Indonesian language students visited Malaysia for the first time.

2010

In the Footsteps of Ignatius

The College celebrated its 30th Anniversary. The largest number of Year 7 enrolments ever was admitted to the College. In May the College staff participated in a three day pilgrimage to Sevenhill, South Australia, where the first Jesuits commenced their mission in Australia. A celtic cross was carved from the cypress tree formally located in front of the Old Loyola building to mark the 30th anniversary of the College. It is located near the main entrance to the College. LEXSA hosted the 30th anniversary past students' reunion. The first House Eisteddfod was held in April and was a resounding success.

Facilities development included the completion of refurbishments to the Science area with six modern laboratories now available, the redevelopment of the Old Loyola courtyard and a new Boardroom. Works commenced on the extensions to the PAC. The new statue of the Madonna and Child located in the Memorial Garden was blessed prior to the annual Memorial Mass held in November.

Mrs Anna Salmic was appointed to the position of Deputy Principal – Students. Overseas study tours included Italy and France with two visits to Loyola from the Italian sister school and the establishment of a vocational Hospitality exchange between both schools. The College hosted a visit of students from Kununurra where there is a large indigenous community. Mr Favrin and Year 11 student Victoria Eley attended the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, in Rome on 17 October.

2011

In all Things to Love and Serve

In the September holidays Mr Favrin visited Loyola's Indonesian sister school Santa Laurensia in Jakarta together with six other staff members. The purpose of the visit was to develop a cross faculty and inter-school curriculum project to be delivered to Year 10 classes in both schools in 2012. Building works on the Loyola Companions Hall (formerly the PAC) were completed with the addition of a stage area together with a foyer, mezzanine theatre and sports change rooms. N Block was removed and works commenced on the construction of two additional basketball courts alongside the Loyola Companions Hall.

Two long serving Loyola staff members retired. They were Mrs Kath McKenna (L: 81-11) and Mrs Marjorie Kopke (L: 82-11). Both have given considerable service to the College over many years in teaching and in the co-curricular program and completed 30 years of service to the College.

2012

Unity of Hearts and Minds

The Loyola Companions Hall was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Costelloe on Friday 17 February. The new basketball courts alongside the Loyola Companions Hall were completed. A new internal road running alongside Grimshaw Street was also completed to assist with morning and afternoon traffic management. Mrs Anna Salmic, Mr Mark Arnavas, Ms Suzanne Pola and Mr Chris Lynch participated in the Ignatian Pilgrimage to France, Spain and Italy.

The first Loyola European History tour to the Czech Republic, Turkey and Germany took place in September. The first group of French students visited Loyola College from our sister school in Avignon, France and the first group of Loyola students visited the indigenous communities in Kununurra. On Tuesday 9 October the College hosted the relic of St Francis Xavier with a special mass for Xavier House to welcome the relic to Loyola.

2013

Companions for a Faith that Does Justice

Ms Donnelly (Teaching and Learning) and Mr Lynch (Ignatian Mission and Identity) were appointed to Deputy Principal positions within the College.

In Term 1 the College organised its first Loyola student visit to its Indonesian sister school in Jakarta Santa Laurensia. Renovations to upstairs B block were completed creating in total 10 classrooms to accommodate growing enrolments. The first College Space Camp study tour to the USA took place in September as did the first Loyola student and staff visit to indigenous communities in Darwin and Daly River. This was the final year of implementation of the College Strategic Plan 2009-2013.

2014

Experience, Reflect, Act in the Service of Our Lord

Aboriginal elder and renowned artist Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann visited Loyola College for a week in March to address classes and share her story. The College participated in its quadrennial review using the School Improvement Framework and a new College Strategic Plan was developed for implementation in 2015. The LEXSA Reunion Sunday was introduced to accommodate ex-student reunions for significant years. This will take place at the same time annually which will be the first Sunday following the College's St Ignatius Day celebrations. Extensions to International House were completed and the facility was blessed by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle on Thursday 7 August. Mr Denton, Ms Keating and Mr Lynch participated in the Ignatian Pilgrimage to France, Italy and Spain.

2015

Magis... Many Gifts, One Spirit

The College celebrated its 35th Anniversary and work began on the new Performing Arts Building. The staff all attended a Retreat in March focused on Positive Psychology through an Ignatian Lens. The first student teacher exchange with Bethlehem University took place in July, with three Palestinian students participating in our program. The College community also mourned the loss of Mr Chirico, Deputy Principal, Administration and Personal Development. Mr Favrin, Ms Barbon and Mr Lee visited the Phillipines to begin building a stronger relationship with the Pastorelle sisters and investigating the introduction of another immersion program. A group of students and staff visited the Northern Territory to continue to build our understanding of Indigenous culture. The Indigenous garden was opened and blessed by Father Rigo and an Aboriginal traditional dancer performed. Ms Devlin and Ms Ray participated in the Ignatian Pilgrimage to China. Mrs Lonsdale (L: 95~15), a long serving staff member retired. The first Art/History tour to Europe took place in November.

2016

Accompany, Serve, Praise

The 2016 College year commenced with a celebration of our 2015 VCE results at our opening College assembly. As we welcomed our new Year 7 students, our Dux Elena Fragapane who received perfect score of 99.95, inspired our students with her speech about her passion for Loyola College and her dedication to study. Excitement built as our new amazing Magis Performing Arts Centre was constructed with the doors opening in November as we continued to improve our facilities, grounds and programs. Mrs Lawrence and Mr Dalla-Vecchia participated in the Ignatian pilgrimage to France, Italy and Spain and we continued to grow our global connections with many overseas trips and visits to our College from international schools. A new College Masterplan was developed for the next five years. Ms Cairns our long serving Deputy Principal Staff & Operations, left Loyola College after many years of dedicated and wonderful service.

2017

Setting Hearts on Fire

The official opening and blessing of the Magis Performing Arts Centre took place on Friday 17 February, by Bishop Terence Curtin, Mrs Stephen Elder and Fr Robin Koning SJ. The new facility will greatly enhance teaching and learning for our Performing Arts students. Fr Justin King (L55-59, 01-09), first Chaplan at Loyola College passed away in February at the age of 79 years. Fr Justice also completed his studies at Loyola Watsonia during the 1950s. A restructure of the position of Deputy Principal – Administration and Professional Development resulted in the creation of the positions of Director of Communications and Events and Professional Development Co-ordinator. Mrs Fiona Devlin and Mr Heath McClair were appointed to these respective positions. After twenty years of service Mr Chris Laws (L:97-17) resigned from the College to pursue other interests and Mr Mark Angel (L20:-17) retired after fifteen years of significant contribution and loyalty to the College. Loyola College hosted the first JACSA school Girls' Sports Carnival during the July school holidays. Students participated in netball, volleyball, soccer and football.

2018

Walking with Others

The College underwent its quadrennial review and from this review the College developed and finalised its Strategic Plan and Master Plan to guide development over the next 4 years. Renovations to the former Performing Arts areas of Old Loyola commenced and included a new staff facility on the ground floor and classrooms and meeting areas on the first floor. A new veranda to facilitate student movement was also added to the first floor to match the existing ones.

In June Loyola hosted the first group of students from Bellarmine Preparatory school in Tacoma USA who came on a history tour. A New Zealand trip was organised for December by the Director of Sport for a netball and cricket team to tour and play in competition sport.

The year was tinged with sadness with the passing of long serving staff member Mrs Adelaide McLaughlin (L: 00-18). A plaque in her memory located in the Memorial Garden was blessed in November.

At the end of the year we farewelled two long serving staff members Mrs Teresa Forytarz (L: 88-18) and Mr Randy Schrader (L: 05-18) both of whom had made valued contributions to College life over many years.

2019

Companions in the Spirit of Ignatius

The year commenced with the largest intake of Year 7 students in the history of the College admitting 251 students in total. The refurbishments to the Old Loyola building were blessed and opened in March by the Jesuit Provincial for Australia, Fr Brian McCoy SJ and Fr Steven Rigo, Chair of the Canonical Administrators of the College. The new staff area was named the Tony Chirico Staff Centre to honour the memory of Mr Tony Chirico, long serving staff member of the College. In the Term 1 holidays two new overseas tours took place. The Performing Arts tour of the USA and the Singapore STEM tour were both being very popular with students. In Term 2 for the first time girls were permitted to wear pants as a winter uniform option to the winter skirt. The redevelopment of the centre of the College grounds commenced during Term 4 to construct new toilets additional changerooms, a kitchen facility and roof over the basketball courts. Two long serving staff members left the College, Mrs Mascia (L: 05-19) retired and Mrs Devlin (L: 02-16, 10-19) was appointed to a Deputy Principal position in another school. Mr. Michael O'Keeffe (L: 92-97; 09-12; 17-) joined Consult in the role of Director of College and Community Engagement.

2020

Head, Heart & Hands

This was the 40th Anniversary year of the College celebrated with the Opening Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral presided by Archbishop Peter Comensoli and the priests of our region. A spectacular giant cupcake tower marked our 40 years at the Opening Assembly. The College History was written and published in book form and an Artwork was commissioned to mark this significant milestone in our history.

COVID -19 struck in March and all other events were cancelled or postponed. Extended periods of Remote learning took place as students and staff spent much of the academic year learning and teaching from home.

Stage 2 of the Masterplan was completed in October with the official Blessing and Opening of the Two Wolves Hub in November. Building works commenced in October on Stage 3, the upgrade and extensions to the Cardoner Building.

At the end of the year we farewelled long serving staff member Mrs Sharon Stafford (L: 90-20) and congratulated her on her many years of service to the College.

2021

To See All Things New in Christ

The year started well with the delayed launch of the College history book and the unveiling of the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Artwork. In first semester we were able to hold most events but in Term 3 we were soon impacted on by COVID once again with lockdowns providing a significant challenge for all. Extended periods of remote learning resumed with staff and students spending significant periods of time working from home.

We acknowledged on May 20, the beginning of the Ignatian year recalling the 500th anniversary of the battle of Pamplona and the cannonball event that changed St Ignatius's life forever.

Stage 3 of the College Masterplan, the extensions to the Cardoner building progressed throughout the year but completion was delayed due to the COVID impact on workers.

At the end of the year we farewelled long serving staff members Alex Fragapane (L 03 - 21) and Geoff Wambeek (L: 06, 08 -21) and congratulated them on their many years of service to the College.