



2008

# Annual Report

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Xavier High School, Albury

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## Introduction

There has been a long history of Catholic education in Albury. The provision of Catholic secondary education for many years was through St Joseph's Ladies College for girls and Aquinas College for boys. It was decided in the early 1980s that the two schools would amalgamate to become a co-educational school for secondary students and in 1983 Xavier High School was formed.

## 1. The School

### The School

Xavier High School is a living expression of the dynamic and evolving tradition of the Catholic Church. As such the school has a responsibility to provide places for those who are seeking Catholic secondary education and who wish to experience our Christian approach to that education. Specifically Xavier caters for young people from the parishes of Albury, North Albury, Lavington, Thurgoona, Jindera, Howlong, Holbrook, Corowa and Culcairn.

Xavier is a Diocesan school administered by the Principal under the auspices of the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

### Catholic Identity

The life of the school is based on Gospel values where the worth of the individual is recognised regardless of ethnic background, academic ability or social opportunity. This diversity of characteristics is viewed as an opportunity for richness.

The formation of students in Catholic discipleship is pursued in light of the heritage of both the Christian Brothers and Sisters of Mercy. Central is our motto "The truth will set you free."

The school year at Xavier commenced with all students and staff attending Mass celebrated by our Chaplain Fr Kevin Flanagan. During Term One, House Masses and meals were held in the evenings as an opportunity for families and staff to develop stronger

ties. Liturgies are held to recognise Ash Wednesday and Easter. Mass is celebrated in Term Three to celebrate Xavier Day and recognise our founders. Mass is also conducted for our Year 12 graduating class and their families in November and the general school population at the end of the year. Class Masses are held throughout the year. RE Teachers organised the theme with their classes and Mass held within scheduled classes in the Mercy Chapel.

The particular seasons of the Church and its Holy Days are recognised in each of the Religious Education classes. The Mercy Chapel is used regularly by classes as part of the routine Religious Education curriculum.

Xavier has continued to offer the Religious Education Program adopted by the Wagga Wagga Diocese – "Sharing Our Story". Additionally students undertaking the Preliminary HSC Course and HSC Course were able to choose either the Studies of Religion Course or the Sharing Our Story Course.

Students in Year 11 and 12 attend a three day Retreat as part of their experience at Xavier.

As a Catholic school, Xavier has the particular task of presenting quality education as an expression of the Catholic world view. We therefore seek to offer opportunities to apply that world view to all aspects of school life and life outside of school. Through the House System students raise funds for overseas missions. Significant donations were made to each of Mercy Works, Christian Brothers and Caritas Australia.

### A Message from key School Bodies

#### School Council

The year ending 2008 was again a very busy one for the school with a number of further significant milestones being achieved.

Firstly, the physical environment of the school continues to be developed and defined. The

all weather courts adjacent to the stadium have been completed and are being fully utilised. With the assistance of Commonwealth Government Funding, this facility has proven to be a further addition to what is continuing to be an impressive physical environment for our students to grow and learn in.

The Skills Centre Grant enabled the Technology Building to be enlarged and expanded providing much needed space to an area of the school which provides students with creative and manual outlets. Our senior students are recognized for their skills and major projects.

Our students continue to excel in all areas of the curriculum and it is testament to the skills and dedication of the staff at Xavier High School that our Year 10 and Year 12 results for 2008 were so pleasing. Xavier continues to shine in other curriculum areas such as sport and the arts.

As chairman of the School Council, along with other Council members, I take every opportunity to promote to the wider community the wonderful things that are occurring at Xavier High School. Too often, our attention is taken away from the achievements of the school community by the multitude of factors that we deal with daily and which impact on our lives. It is, I feel, important that we reflect on the positives that a fine institution such as Xavier High School brings to our lives and be proud of its achievements in providing our students with a complete educational experience.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Council members for their input over the last twelve months. In particular, I would like to thank Jim Maher for his contributions over the past two years. I welcome the new members to the School Council and look forward to working with them.

A final thank you to our Principal Mr Neville Powles and the school executive for the support we received this year. We have an excellent working relationship and are busy undertaking strategic planning for the future projects at Xavier. Our commitment is to continue to plan for, and improve the total environment that Xavier High School provides to its school community.

Gerard O'Brien  
Chairman, Xavier High School Council  
March 25 2009

## **2. Information on Key School Programs**

### **School Determined Improvement Targets**

- Celebrate WYD both at school and through representatives in Sydney
- Implement the national NAPLAN testing
- Implement outcomes from the Uniform Review
- Extend TAS facility with Skill Centre Grant
- Installation of all-weather multi-purpose surface

### **Programmes to Support Students**

#### Current Curriculum Initiatives

- Implement the Total Assessment Partnership with UNSW
- Commence the literacy initiative – Stepping Out
- Implement a study skills program for students
- Cyclical review of PDHPE Curriculum

#### Other Learning Support Initiatives

- Explore the sponsorship of an Aspect class for students with autism on campus

### **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

- Leaders in each of the eight Houses were involved in leadership training early in the year.
- Students were involved in the Red Cross Blood donors – Vampire Shield competition and made more donations than any other school in the Albury region.
- Large numbers of students were involved in the Anzac Day March
- Each House group is involved in particular community service and fund raising.

### **Student Performance**

#### National and State-wide Tests and Examinations

### **National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy [NAPLAN]**

Xavier High School has participated in ELLA and SNAP since its inception 2002-2006.

In the past we have compared our student performance to state-wide performance and the trends associated with this. The nature of this reporting has shifted from reporting on percentage of students achieving benchmarks to the proportion of students at or above the *national* minimum standards. Thus, schools/colleges this year are not expected to report on **trends** in NAPLAN results for the 2008 school year.

The school has monitored the NAPLAN data in 2008 and has used this information to inform its learning and teaching practices for 2008 and 2009.

School NAPLAN results:

Xavier students performed in NAPLAN with the following results;

Comparison of student performance to National performance:

YEAR 7 – 126 students completed the tests

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>State</i>
Reading	558.4	543.2
Writing	537.4	535.5
Spelling	551.5	549.5
Grammar & Punctuation	547.8	537.3
Overall Literacy	548.5	541.2

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>State</i>
Number & algebra	561.2	554.3
Measurement	560.6	551.9
Space & Geometry	546.8	549.7
Numeracy	556.3	552.9

YEAR 9 – 151 students completed the tests

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>State</i>
Reading	596.1	584.0
Writing	576.3	569.8
Spelling	589.2	586.4
Grammar & Punctuation	579.1	578.8
Overall Literacy	585.5	579.5

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>State</i>
Number & Data	596.6	591.5
Patterns &	607.6	599.0

algebra		
Measurement & Geometry	594.0	590.0
Numeracy	598.8	593.7

Achievement Standards:

Proportion of students in Years 7 and 9 achieving at or above the national standard in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy are;

**School Certificate**

One hundred and forty-nine students completed external tests in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Computing Skills.

Results are provided in both percentages and Performance Bands from 1 to 6 with Band 6 being the highest. The most impressive results were obtained in English where 82% of students obtained a result of Band 4 or higher compared with 76% across the State. Results of 90% or better were obtained in each of the subject areas.

**Higher School Certificate**

2008 RESULTS

Xavier High School students have exceeded high expectations with very satisfying results last December.

Band Six (marks over 90%) results were recorded in Biology, Hospitality, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Studies of Religion, Visual Arts, General Mathematics, Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1, History Extension, Music 1 and Design and Technology. A total of 31 Band 6 results were achieved.

The state wide examination mean was exceeded in two thirds of subjects with exceptional results in Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, History Extension, Hospitality, Mathematics, Music, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Studies of Religion and Visual Arts. In each of these subjects the average HSC mark exceeded 80% for all candidates.

Three candidates achieved a UAI above 95 and more than eleven percent of candidates achieved better than 90.

We are aware that students have been offered entry to courses including: Pharmacy, Civil Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy,

Chiropractic Science, Architecture, Osteopathy, Podiatry, Economics & Finance and Journalism. Approximately 60% of our Year 12 students received offers in line with their tertiary preferences.

### **3. School Overview**

#### **School Policies**

##### Discipline Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established Pastoral Care and Discipline Policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at: <http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au> [CSO Documents, Forms & Policies](#)

The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

##### **School Pastoral Care Policy**

##### Context

Pastoral Care is the way in which the school as an institution and as a community of people expresses its concern that each member of the community has the fullest opportunity for personal, academic, social and spiritual growth.

As a Catholic school, we recognise that the Gospel values of love, compassion, reconciliation and justice foster an environment which caters to the needs of all members; those of the students being of primary concern. We recognise and respect the worth of every individual, helping all to achieve their full potential.

As stated in the school's Student Management Policy:

"Members of the Xavier High School community share the following beliefs and goals: ....

Each individual takes responsibility for the development of themselves and for their role in the development of other members of the school community... Performance and participation are recognised and acknowledged. Individuals and groups are affirmed for their positive contributions... Characteristics such as one's pride and school spirit are nurtured

through active involvement in school events, performing to the best of one's ability, and by showing support of and loyalty to the school... Open and honest communication between staff, students and parents is essential in the management of ongoing educational and pastoral problems...".

These beliefs demand that all persons involved be treated with dignity and respect. Every person's contribution is accepted, valued and deemed as vital, enhancing the community.

At Xavier High School, pastoral care is not problem-centred but is seen as a discerned response to students' life needs, which will include some help with solving difficulties encountered in adolescence.

Pastoral care is an integrating concept. It does not happen only in a formal pastoral program, but it underlies much of what the school does and the way it does it. It embraces the relationships between families, students, staff, administrators, community agencies and church. We are all invited to belong and to contribute to the school community.

The focus of the Pastoral Care Policy, in this format, is directed at the students.

##### **Pastoral Care of Families**

Both formal and informal support structures exist for families within the Xavier community. A School Counsellor is available to consult with students and parents in relation to any pastoral issue. House Coordinators, Assistant Principal and Principal all work closely with parents during the year to provide whatever support is required in relation to issues concerning their sons and daughters. External agencies from the community are engaged as needed.

##### Student Welfare Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at <http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au> [CSO Documents, Forms & Policies](#)

##### Complaints and Grievances

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Complaints Handling Policy

which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at <http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au> [CSO Documents, Forms & Policies](#)

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

#### Enrolment Policy

Xavier High School is committed to:

- Providing for all baptised Catholics who seek a place where their baptismally-seeded faith may be nurtured.
- Accepting all who seek a place subject to their confirming their support and respect for the Catholic nature of the schools.

To be considered for enrolment:

- All students will need to have completed Year 6 or its equivalent.
- All students will be assessed as to their educational needs prior to the finalisation of enrolment.
- Students with identified special needs will have their particular educational requirements identified by an integration support team. This process will specify all support measures which are to be provided by the school. The school reserves its legal right to determine whether any particular enrolment might constitute an "unjustifiable hardship" under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- All families must give a written commitment to respect and support the Catholic nature and practices of the school. This includes participation in the formal Religious Education programme and prayer life of each student.
- All families must give a written commitment to support the school financially in some way. Normally this support would be through the full payment of school fees and levies. Where circumstances dictate that full payment will not be possible, the obligation remains on each family to support the school according to its means with individual arrangements set in place.

#### Student Enrolment Profile:

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Indig'</b>	<b>LOTE*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
369	387	3	7	756

\**Language background Other Than English*

#### Structure of Classes

There are five classes in Year 7 and six classes in each Year from 8 to 10.

#### Student Attendance

Attendance rate for the year was 94.9%

#### Student Retention

Started Yr 7 in 2005	Completed Yr 10 in 2006	Started Yr 7 in 2003
Completed Yr 10 in 2007	Completed Yr 12 in 2008	Completed Yr 12 in 2008
153/ 149 97%	138/80 58%	153/80 52%

#### Student Destination

Year 12 students were offered entry to courses including: Pharmacy, Civil Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Chiropractic Science, Architecture, Osteopathy, Podiatry, Economics & Finance and Journalism. Approximately 60% of our Year 12 students received offers in line with their tertiary preferences.

#### **Staff**

##### Teacher Standards

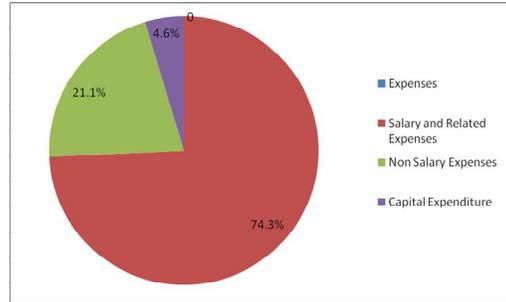
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

- have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution
- have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution but no formal teacher education qualifications
- have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
58	-	-	58

**Professional Learning**

- Staff have been involved in the whole school Curriculum Alignment Initiative
- Staff have a been involved in HSC marking
- Staff have been skilled in the use of electronic white board technology
- The literacy program Stepping Out has been implemented



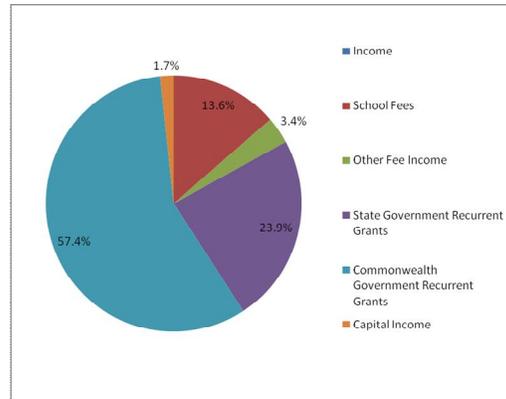
**Community Satisfaction**

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with Xavier High School.

In term four a sample of families were surveyed and from the twenty respondees the following results were obtained.

**Parents**

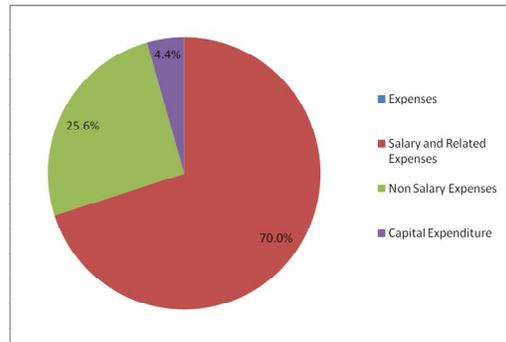
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at Xavier High School



<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
50%	50%	%	%

**Teacher Attendance and Retention**

The Federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school/college report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 96.93% was achieved in 2008 by staff at Xavier High School.



**Financial Statement Summary**

