

OUR CONTEXT

St Paul's High School commenced in February, 1984. The impetus for the establishment of a Catholic high school to serve the Westlakes region came originally from parents, and as far back as 1972, a committee was set up in the parish of Toronto to work towards the setting up of such a high school.

The Catholic Church already owned land at Booragul on the current parish church site, and negotiations commenced with the Housing Commission for the acquisition of more land adjacent to this.

In 1975-1976 a diocesan committee was appointed to investigate the organisation of secondary education, and in its final report this committee recommended that a co-educational regional high school be built in the Westlakes area, and noted the very strong support for such a school. It is a very pleasing feature of St Paul's that this support has continued and has shown itself very clearly during our years of operation.

Originally it was hoped that the school would accept its first students in 1982, but for various reasons this did not eventuate until 1984. The school opened with an enrolment of approximately 240 in both Years 7 and 8.

Fortunately, substantial government and diocesan assistance has enabled the staged development of the school. Stage II was completed at the beginning of Term 2 1985, and marked the completion of the specialist facilities. Stage III was completed mid 1987 and consisted of an administration complex including staff facilities and the first of the permanent classrooms. The Year 1994 saw the completion of the permanent library and its official opening.

With the implementation of the Senior Years there were major capital works developments. In 2000 an additional classroom wing (with general classrooms, seminar rooms, information technology room, and science laboratory) was built and Holland Court (Senior Courtyard) developed. It was named after Mr Wayne Holland, the Maths Coordinator, who died while on the Staff of St Paul's.

Over 2001/2002 extensions to the staff room, major extensions and refurbishment of the administration complex and a doubling of the library were implemented, as well as two major additions with a classroom wing and the building of a multi-purpose hall. The classroom wing consisted of four general classrooms, two seminar rooms and a music complex, as well as a new canteen. With substantial parent support, we were able to utilise a grant for Performing Arts to build our multi-purpose hall. These final facilities were implemented over Term 4 2002 and the commencement of 2003.

With increasing student numbers, two more demountable classrooms were added in 2006 and 2007. One, a general purpose learning room and the other a Science Laboratory/Art wet area. In 2006 the art storage/kiln was converted into a computer area to support Visual Arts Design and Photography. In 2007 the Chapel was refurbished. In 2008, the all-weather shed/shelter was constructed. It is named Moncrieff Shelter. It was named after Mr Greg Moncrieff, a Student Coordinator, who died while on the Staff at St Paul's. Once again, increased student numbers resulted in an extra demountable being placed on site. This is currently being used as a Visual Arts Room.

In 2012 the new Trade Training Facilities were opened. These consisted of a Hospitality and Function Centre along with a Construction facility.

In 2015 we opened the Damascus Centre. This new facility consists of our Library and seven state-of-the-art classrooms with attached break-out spaces.

In 2018 we will open a new Administration centre along with a new and refurbished staff study and associated facilities. As well, we have built a new chapel which will have the capacity to hold liturgical celebrations for a year group. New classrooms have also been built as part of this major building project.



A New Chapter



STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Welcome to St Paul's Catholic College Strategic Plan.

2018 brings a new era to this exceptional school. Early in 2016, the College executive approached Bishop Bill Wright with a vision for change. We felt that our name did not adequately and clearly convey that we are a quality Catholic School that has served the needs of the community on the shores of western Lake Macquarie since 1984. Bishop Bill, after consultation with our community gave permission for St Paul's to be renamed St Paul's Catholic College on 23 May 2017.

At the same time, it was shown there was a clear need for the College to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan. The plan began its formation late in 2016 and during the past 12 months, the writing teams and Executive have sort guidance and feedback from all members of our community. It is hoped that by developing and implementing such a plan, we will continue to build the reputation of this school as one of the best educational establishments within the Greater Newcastle region.

*Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal*

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

A school is a privileged place in which, through a living encounter with a cultural inheritance, integral formation occurs.

The task of a Catholic School is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of life and faith.

St Paul's Catholic College Booragul is a place where:

- ⇒ The growth of the whole person is nurtured through the provision of opportunities for prayer and reflection, through creative freedom and empowerment of the individual and through a wide variety of curriculum options.
- ⇒ The curriculum, both formal and informal, focuses on spiritual growth and reflects a respect for the diversity of its members, their differing levels of abilities, strengths, weaknesses and gifts.
- ⇒ A sense of security engenders a welcoming community, characterised by effective leadership, open communication, quality teaching and a sense of pride in our College.
- ⇒ Our Catholic faith is witnessed both in the College and in the wider community through interpersonal relationships and community service. It also reflects our belief in Jesus Christ as the centre of our Christian outlook and the foundation stone of our Catholic College.
- ⇒ Teachers, students and parents walk the journey together, encouraging and supporting each other.

(The Catholic School, p25, no.26) (The Catholic School, p35, no.37)



FAITH



**EXCELLENCE IN
LEARNING**



TRUTH

Catholic Formation and Mission

INTENT 1

- ◇ The school offers Catholic students, over and above a sound knowledge or religion, the possibility to grow in personal closeness to Christ in the Church.
- ◇ Prayer and worship nourish the spiritual growth of all members of the school community.
- ◇ The physical environment of the school celebrates and promotes its Catholic identity.

INTENT 2

- ◇ The school Mission and Vision statement is clearly linked to Catholic values and reflective of the Catholic culture of the school.
- ◇ A process for regular review, evaluation and updating of the Mission and Vision statement ensures that it remains a living document that reflects the spirit of the community and is known and owned by all its members.
- ◇ The 'charism' of the school is evident, articulated and reflected in the practices of the school.
- ◇ Authentic opportunities for enhancing parish / school partnerships are provided.

INTENT 3

- ◇ Catholic social justice agencies such as Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Mission are well supported and promoted, and are the main focus of charitable fundraising within the school community each year.
- ◇ An annual program of retreats and reflection days for students has a Catholic spiritual focus and is designed to promote, complement and deepen adolescent faith formation.
- ◇ Annual staff spirituality days have an explicitly Catholic focus and are inclusive of all school staff.

INTENT 4

- ◇ Religious Education in the classroom exists to compliment the total school commitment to the message of the Gospel and to more directly focus student religious learning.
- ◇ Priority is given to RE with regard to the school curriculum, time and space allocation and the choice and recognition of staff.
- ◇ High levels of Catholic religious literacy are demonstrated through appropriate assessment and religious activities.

Leadership - Wellbeing, Student Leadership and School Leadership

INTENT 1

- ◇ Enhance the evaluation and professional development processes for staff to reflect the ever changing environment of Catholic education.
- ◇ Develop a training and professional development plan to support St Paul's in the future as well as meet the requirements of NESA and Teacher Registration.
- ◇ The school's administrative structure and composition will ensure accountability for the coordinated implementation of the strategic plan.

INTENT 2

- ◇ Encourage and support more student-to-student and student-to-adult interaction.
- ◇ Create opportunities for older students to support younger students through programs that will promote one-one mentoring.
- ◇ Provide an opportunity at St Paul's for students to pursue extracurricular and social activities which enhance student interaction and holistic development.

INTENT 3

- ◇ Develop a comprehensive and varied activity program that encourages more participation from the student body.

INTENT 4

- ◇ Build school community through involvement in both internal and external opportunities.
- ◇ Formalise a program for bringing invited speakers and special assemblies to St Paul's to inform, challenge, and inspire our students.
- ◇ Design and develop appropriate leadership and service opportunities and activities for all students, emphasising the importance of helping others.

INTENT 5

- ◇ Provide a wholesome, well-balanced, and safe environment for the students.
- ◇ Foster an environment where structure is embraced and discipline is understood and respected.
- ◇ Educate, prepare, and empower students to deal with or address bullying, peer pressure, and other adolescent issues.
- ◇ Foster an environment where the community of students, parents and staff have an understanding and acceptance of cultural, gender and religious identity and difference.

Teaching and Learning - Including Curriculum Design and Assessment

INTENT 1:

- ◇ Provide a quality educational experience that challenges students to achieve their fullest potential.
- ◇ Evaluate assessment practices to ensure that all Key Learning Areas are focusing on the application of creative and critical thinking skills.
- ◇ Explore the use of meaningful online learning opportunities.
- ◇ Ensure the curriculum is relevant and contemporary.
- ◇ Utilise international best practice in the areas of curriculum design, assessment and instruction.

INTENT 2:

- ◇ Recruit, hire, and retain qualified and effective teachers and staff.
- ◇ Assist new teachers with special orientations and ongoing mentoring.
- ◇ Develop a school wide Professional Learning and Training program based on the needs of the St Paul's community and the 5 year strategic direction.
- ◇ Create a Professional Learning Community based around the areas of focus in the Strategic Improvement Plan.
- ◇ Ensure that compliance for COSI and NESA Registration is up to date and consistent across all KLA's.

INTENT 3:

- ◇ Create a rigorous academic culture that engages the full community and encourages all students to embrace life-long learning.
 - ◇ Identify ways to engage students in their learning.
 - ◇ Provide our students with a broader exposure to global cultures.

Vision for Catholic Schools

Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle



Service and Governance

INTENT 1

- ◇ Annually review and update the school strategic plan.
- ◇ Ensure the school buildings have reliable network infrastructure.
- ◇ Upgrade existing infrastructure and resources to support all working and learning environments, as well as the learning needs of students.

INTENT 2

- ◇ Provide teachers with the current technological tools and the training necessary to fully utilise them to allow for classroom instruction to enhance the learning environment.
- ◇ Ensure all staff are trained to use new academic technology resources.
- ◇ Provide instructional technology hardware for use in curricular integration, record-keeping, and stakeholder communications. (Compass)
- ◇ Secure educational software to enhance and improve the curriculum.
- ◇ Integrate sophisticated technology in support of teaching and learning opportunities.

INTENT 3

- ◇ Prioritise the construction of new facilities in the wake of major building projects.
- ◇ Improve and beautify the appearance of St Paul's Catholic College.
- ◇ Identify and prioritise short and long term physical plant and technology infrastructure needs.

INTENT 4

- ◇ Seek innovative ways to make the best use of the existing buildings and grounds.
- ◇ Explore and identify the creation of additional usable space within the current campus buildings and grounds.
- ◇ Plan, prioritise, and project costs for continued maintenance of plant and equipment.

INTENT 5

- ◇ Continually strive to improve the safety, functionality, energy efficiency, and security of the College.
- ◇ Identify and take actions to correct areas of security vulnerability.
- ◇ Increase indoor and outdoor signage.