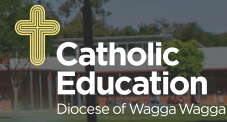


CATHOLIC EDUCATION COUNCIL (CEC) NEWSLETTER



Edition 02 | June 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Andrew Watson to the position of Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Andrew has taught and led within Catholic Education for the past 26 years. His current role is as Secondary Education Consultant with Catholic Education Ballarat. His role works across the diocese in secondary schools engaging them in school improvement, governance and providing advice and support to both principals and governing authorities. Prior to joining the Ballarat Leadership Team, Andrew was a Principal in two secondary schools spanning a period of 14 years.

In addition to his current role, Andrew's experience as a director of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia and his membership of numerous school advisory councils has developed Andrew's appreciation of the demands of leading different school communities; ranging from smaller Catholic schools in rural townships to the larger schools located in regional centres.

After gaining his business degree and a Graduate Diploma in Education from ACU, Andrew obtained a Master of Education. His subsequent Doctor of Education through ACU focused on theological aspects of school leadership and their charisms. The more recent completion of an Executive Master of Business Administration extended the knowledge and skills of his initial business degree.

Andrew is committed to his Catholic Faith and is a very active member of his Parish community. His doctorate provided him with the depth of knowledge and expertise to be a faith leader, although he also credits a number of Study Tours, including "In the Footsteps of St Paul" as key to his formation.

Our position attracted a very large number of experienced applicants from across Australia. The Selection Committee which advised me was comprised of senior people who understand Catholic Education and the Wagga Wagga context. We were assisted in this process by an external consultant.

I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Dr Andrew Watson as our new Director of Catholic Education. He will take up this appointment early in January 2022.

In Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Edwards OMI".

**Most Reverend
Mark Edwards
OMI**

Bishop of Wagga
Wagga and
President of the
CEC



MEETING 2 - JUNE 8, 2021

The second meeting of the Catholic Education Council for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga was held in Leeton and hosted by St. Francis De Sales Regional College on the 8th of June 2021.

FROM BISHOP MARK

Bishop Mark Edwards as CEC President addressed the council and outlined the mission of the Council.

Bishop Mark discussed the significant points around Governance and its requirements, explaining that in Canon Law the Bishop is responsible and in Civil Law the Trustees (the College of Consultors which has the Bishop as one member) are responsible for the systems of schools. Neither the Bishop nor the trustees can absolve themselves from this responsibility.

Bishop summed up Governance in this way -

Governance is: oversight, insight and foresight.

Oversight – look over what is going on and affirm, encourage and when necessary, challenge.

Insight – provide understanding of what is going on particularly in vexing issues.

Foresight – assist the Trustees and CEDWW Director and team to look over the horizon at what is coming and to prepare for it.

The Catholic Education Council assists the Bishop and the College of Consultors to govern. The Trustees share the mission of the Church with the Council.

One of the distinctive features is that this governance is for a SYSTEM of schools.

Subsidiarity: ensuring the right decision will be made at the right level.

The Council is an important body and it has to work and to work well. Much of the work of the Council will be done in the permanent committees, of which there are four.

Bishop Mark reiterated the Council members are full of experience and talent, and that

each will bring their integrity. He spoke about membership of the Council as being a vocation. God has called each to this through the need of the Church, the school system and through our passion and interests. Prayer will be important to the way the Catholic Education Council works.

Brief summary of Meeting 2 agenda and outcomes:

- The Director of Integroe Mr Paul Davis attended the Catholic Education Council meeting (via Zoom) to present the draft CEDWW Governance Guidelines Framework to the Council members for discussion and consideration.
- The Permanent Committee reports for the four committees (Finance, Risk, Audit and Compliance - Education and Pastoral Wellbeing - People and Culture - Catholic Identity & Mission) were presented and endorsed by the Council.
- The following Policies were presented, reviewed and ratified by the Catholic Education Council
 - Financial Stewardship Policy*
 - Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy*
 - Discrimination, Harassment and Victimisation Policy*
- The Assistant Director of Corporate Services presented the 2020 Finance Report for review and endorsement.
- The Director of Catholic Education presented a briefing paper on the future of St Francis Xavier Primary School Urana. Council members recommended to the Trustees the closure of the school at the end of 2020
- The Director of Catholic Education presented CEDWW Annual Improvement Plan summary of achievements to date.

MEETING 2 (CONT.)

The Chair sort nominations for the vacant position of Deputy Chair of the Catholic Education Council. The Chair declared Patricia Burgess as the appointed Deputy Chair for the Catholic Education Council.

- Seb Spina - Principal of St Francis de Sales Regional College led the Catholic Education Council members on a tour of the college. He showed the group through a wing of the boarding facilities, classroom and open learning environments, the college Library area and hospitality teaching facilities. The Council had the opportunity to meet some of the students and have conversations and interactions as the Council members moved around the college.



Jenny Allen - Chair of the Catholic Education Council, presented St Francis De Sales' Principal - Mr Seb Spina with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the CEC members for the warm welcome and hospitality whilst hosting Meeting 2.



Senior Students from St Francis De Sales Regional College opened the Meeting Prayer with a reflective song (Viewable online version only)

FROM THE CHAIR



As the CEC gathered at St Francis De Sales Leeton for our second meeting on June 8, their senior students' choice of song for inclusion in our Opening Prayer, set a beautiful reflective tone echoing Pope Francis' call for a more synodal Church. I was struck by the line, *this is the sound of all of us singing with love and the will to trust.*

Pope Francis' vision is for a genuinely participative church, one in which members are not mere collaborators but are co-responsible for the life and mission of the Church.

As the Catholic Education Council continues to develop in its advisory role to Bishop Mark, we will strive to reflect and embrace the defining characteristics of a synodal church: an attitude of conversion; a culture of inclusion, dialogue and mutual listening; an openness to discern the Spirit; processes of joint decision-making which seek consensus; and always a spirit of service to pastoral challenges and the mission begun by Jesus Christ.

When the CEC next convenes in August at St Joseph's Finley, it will be a two day gathering providing opportunity for planning and formation in addition to our quarterly Council meeting.

Jenny Allen
CEC Chair

ST FRANCIS DE SALES REGIONAL COLLEGE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Above (Left to Right) - Bella Fairman, Jock Lander, Janiana Ravu, Matilda Forwood & Maria Tynan senior students from St Francis de Sales Regional College singing at the opening prayer in the school Chapel.



St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton offers Secondary Co-Education to Day and Weekly Boarding Students. It is situated in the Parish of Leeton. Regional isolated students and students from surrounding Parishes are catered for through the college Boarding House. Mr Seb Spina has been principal at St Francis since 2017.



Clockwise from top left: St Francis de Sales Principal Mr Seb Spina, CEC meeting with Director of Integroe, Director of Catholic Education Elizabeth O'Carrigan, CEC Chair Jenny Allen, CEDWW Professional Officer Melissa Van Lierop, Double Rainbow above St Francis de Sales, School Captains Aaron Sandral & Isabella Smith, Bishop Edwards, Fr Cruikshank.