The President’s Report

Welcome to 2007.

What a year 2006 was: the Celebration of 100 years of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia and the largest turn up in years to our function celebrating 90 years of De La Salle College: 350 people from all Years! A big thanks must go to some hard working committee members for the success of this occasion:

- Gerard Evans for his skill in getting everyone motivated
- John Bova for his tireless work in getting all the names of ex students and staff
- Tony Collins for getting the right place and price
- Chris and Richard Gray for their great presentation on the night
- Michael Megna for looking after the finances
- And the rest of the committee for their hard work in the background

A special thank you must go to Mrs Anne O’Connell and Mrs Jackson for their assistance and also to Michael Barrington, Principal of the College for his unfailing support.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Gerard Evans, Richard Gray and Tony Collins due to work commitments. Unfortunately, they will not be on the Committee but will be Year contacts.

This year will once again be very full and John Bova will be getting in touch with Year contacts for you to try and get a table together for the Annual Dinner to be held on the Friday 2nd November at the Castel D’oro Function Centre Five Dock (Mine Host is an ex student).

With the money generated from the dinners, raffles and auctions we have been able to donate to the College $3000.00 to assist 6 students whose families are struggling to meet their sons’ fees. This is a very positive way that we can give something back to the College and if there is any other ‘Old boy’ out there who would like to assist in this way, it would be greatly appreciated.

Don’t forget to visit the College web site and to get a group together for the Annual Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,
Graham Lucas
President
The Principal’s Report

2006 was an eventful year for the College, and 2007 has begun in the same fashion.

World Youth Day 2008 (launched last year) which will be the biggest event of the Catholic Church in Australia in our time, continues to occupy our attention, and the College is honoured that Assistant Principal Mr Nick Brien was seconded to assist in the preparation for this wonderful occasion. Another staff member, Ms Louisa Cataldo, has been appointed as a World Youth Day Facilitator. Mr Robert Muscat stepped from R.E.C. to Acting Assistant Principal and Mr John Dunn became acting R.E.C.

The College building programme has made steady progress and it is exciting to see the new facilities taking shape. Hopefully the new Science Laboratories will be ready for student and staff use next month. The next stage is demolition for the building of the Multipurpose Hall.

Br OWEN MASON is a welcome addition to the College this year, as spiritual director. He has spent a number of years overseas and we are delighted that he has returned to Ashfield. No doubt many of you will remember him when he was with us at De La Salle some years back.

We were delighted to be invited to Ashfield Council’s Australia Day Awards Ceremony this year to witness ANDRE TAN (Year 12, 2007) receive the prestigious Australia Day Award from Ashfield Mayor Alderman Ted Caddick.

Late last year it was announced that Year 10 student and very talented golfer DANNY AN, was the winner of the prestigious NSW CCC Bar Award. This followed Ashfield Council’s presentation to Danny as ‘Young Sportsman of 2006’. Danny was the youngest recipient ever of a NSW CCC Blue Award in 2004 (while he was in Year 7), but last year was his biggest: NSW CCC Match-play Champion, runner-up All-Schools Match-play, NSW CCC Stroke-play Champion, and selection in both the NSW All Schools team and the Australian Honour Team. You may have noted Danny was the youngest player ever to compete in the Australian Golf Championship in 2006 at Age 15. Danny acquitted himself well, making the cut and playing in the same group as the legendary Greg Norman.

I was very pleased to attend the 90th Anniversary Reunion Dinner of the Ex-Students & Staff Association at the Bankstown Raceway Function Centre in November last. This was a most enjoyable evening, with a great attendance from over 350 ex-students and staff representing various Years. Although some aspects of the venue were disappointing, our venue for this year is ‘first class’.

We are indebted to the Ex-Students & Staff Association for their generous donation of $3000 to assist 6 students whose families are struggling to meet their sons’ fees. This gesture was certainly appreciated by the recipients and has enabled these boys to continue with their Lasallian education.

The standard of teaching and learning at the College continues to rise as we endeavour to provide students with the best facilities and advances in learning as possible. The College has some 10 interactive whiteboards, with more to come. (These are whiteboards integrated to a computer).

Our De La Salle community is one in which we encourage others to do their best: in their studies, in their sport and in their activities.

It is a family where we respect each other’s right to learn and accomplish, where we look out for each other, respect each other’s differences, and celebrate each other’s achievements. In short, we strive to live up to what is inherent in our motto: ‘Esto Vir’.

The role of the key contact person is indeed very important to the continuance of that Ashy spirit. Already we’ve seen attendances at the annual dinners increase dramatically over the past few years mainly due to the hard work performed by key contact persons. The 2006 annual dinner had a huge representation from the 40’s 50’s 60’s and 70’s. There was also an ex student from the 30’s present. It was great to see a representation present from the 1976 year, even though they were soon to have their own 30 year reunion. 1980 was also heavily represented, again mainly due to the hard work of that Year’s key contact person. Unfortunately, the 80’s, 90’s and the 21st century, even though well represented, were a little light on numbers.

Representatives of the class of 1994 are now trying to locate some of their school mates for a reunion, after nearly 13 years out of school. The Ashy spirit lives!! Key contact persons for the 1981, 84, 85, 90, 91, 93, 97 and 98 graduation years are still needed, as well as those of the 21st century years.

After considering six prospective venues for the 2007 annual dinner, Castel D’oro Function Centre at Five Dock has been chosen as the venue for the 2007 dinner to be held on Friday 2 November 2007. It can comfortably cater for over 300 guests, all seated at round tables that can each accommodate up to 14 people. It also has a huge open area in front of a fully manned bar, so that old school day stories and a laugh can be shared over a light drink. More information re the evening will follow in the next bulletin.

Also, a new email address, dls-old-boys@hotmail.com which is checked on a daily basis, is now available for any questions or enquiries you may have re ex students or if you need assistance re any ex student functions, etc, that you may want to organise or made known.

Again, a warm thanks, from all Ashy ex students, to the key contact persons and hard-working committee, who really make it all happen.