

# PRINCIPAL REPORT 2018



**LORETO**  
N E D L A N D S

*“Be seekers of truth and doers of justice.” Mary Ward*

In this Loreto Year of Justice, the staff and students of Loreto Nedlands have been diligent in looking more deeply at how we, as a Church community, can be the difference we would like to see in the world. Justice is not merely about raising money for others. Justice applies to our words, actions and thoughts towards humanity and towards the environment. Justice is displayed when we show witness to Jesus, by the example of Mary Ward. To be truly people of justice we need to be educated and informed about the world situation and have an awareness of our contributions towards improving justice, and towards diminishing justice for others and the environment. The Loreto Nedlands students have developed an understanding of justice as they have been exposed to several initiatives throughout the year. The Mini-Vinnies Association has been re-energised this year. The students have developed a sense of justice as they have become aware of and responded to social issues including homelessness and poverty, both in their local and global communities. The senior students have developed awareness of justice in the world as they have worked together to learn about the situation for developing countries and the work of Caritas. The establishment of the Environment Club has begun to make a real difference at Loreto Nedlands with changing attitudes towards caring for and protecting our environment for the good of others, both now and into the future. 2018 has been a year where significant changes have been made, directed by the students, in relation to lessening our footprint and improving justice towards our planet.

It was with a sense of sadness that we said farewell Sr Margie O'Sullivan ibvm and Sr Marg Finlay ibvm as they moved from Western Australia to their home in Victoria. Both Sr Marg and Sr Margie have been champions of Loreto Nedlands for a number of years, both as Principals and, in later years, supporting the reading program and supporting the Past Pupils Association. The Sisters were farewelled with great Loreto style and continue to keep in touch and up to date with all the happenings at Loreto Nedlands.

During the year we welcomed Sr Francine Roberts to Western Australia to take on the role of Provincial Leader. Francine hails from country Western Australia and it has been wonderful to have her here with us in Perth.

Sr Anne Carter ibvm, Archivist at Loreto Nedlands, retired from her position during the year after many years of service to the Loreto community as Western Australian archivist. Sr Anne began the archives at Loreto, starting with boxes of documents from the WA Loreto schools, in a small room to work in and an enormous amount of devotion to ensuring the Loreto history in WA could be preserved. The archives at Loreto Nedlands are outstanding. In addition to collating and preserving our archives Sr Anne has established the Loreto Heritage Room, a museum of history of Loreto in Western Australia. We are so grateful to Sr Anne for all that she has brought to retaining the history and traditions of our school community and wish her well in retirement.

We were delighted this year to launch our *Blossoming Policy* to the Loreto community.

The *Blossoming Policy* outlines our philosophy and strategies towards ensuring a strong sense of pastoral care and wellbeing towards our students, staff and wider community. Essentially, our desire is that every person associated with our school should have the opportunity to *Blossom*. Based upon the vision of Mother Gonzaga Barry ibvm, the *Blossoming Policy* combines the development of growth mindsets, character strengths and the building of resilience to assist us to blossom in all areas of our lives. Mr Andrew Boxsell, Wellbeing coordinator at Loreto Nedlands, is to be congratulated for his work in establishing and developing the *Blossoming Policy* throughout the year.

We have been most fortunate during 2018 to have experienced success in a number of curriculum areas that have provided our students with opportunities to develop their gifts and to flourish. A number of students have participated, with success, in the Mathematics Olympiad Program, Robo Cup, Game Changer Awards and the Science Awards. In addition to this our music program has continued to excel and once again raise the standard of performance. The annual Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival saw a significant number of Loreto soloists and ensembles achieve awards and recognition for outstanding performances.

The confidence of our senior students as public speakers has continued to be evident. The development of public speaking skills, begun in the junior years, continues to be a strength for the students of Loreto Nedlands. Our Loreto speaker of the Year Awards and subsequent participation in the IPSHA Speaker Awards for students in Year Three and Six achieved excellent results. The Debating Program, facilitated by the Year Five and Six teachers continued to provide outstanding opportunities for Loreto students to develop valuable skills as confident and convincing public speakers.

My sincerest thanks to all who have supported the success of Loreto Nedlands during the year. Our parent community have continued to be supportive of each other, the teaching staff and the wider community. Our after-school play days, Welcome Picnic, Bush Dance, Mothers', Fathers' and Grandparents' Days, to name a few, have been warmly embraced by the parent community. We look forward to the Autumn Fair in March 2019 and are most grateful to the parent committee for their organisation of this event.

The Loreto Nedlands School Board, under the leadership and guidance of Board Chair Mr. Craig Slater have been dedicated during this year to the ongoing good governance of the school. In addition, the Board have worked with architects to develop the Loreto Nedlands Master Plan to develop a vision for the school over the next twenty years. We are looking forward to launching the Master Plan to our community early in 2019. Craig Slater concludes his term as School Board Chair at the conclusion of this year. Craig will be missed as Chair and on behalf of the school I express my sincerest thanks to Craig for his commitment, dedication and ongoing support of the school community.

The Loreto staff are committed, caring and professional people who always make decisions in the best interests of the Loreto students. The dedication of the staff has ensured Loreto continues to thrive as a successful, welcoming and engaging school community.

The Loreto students are our greatest assets. They never cease to surprise the staff with their enthusiasm, drive and positivity towards all aspects of school life. We are proud of all our students, and in particular, we farewell our Year Six graduating students, confident in the knowledge that they leave us with strong values, a sense of personal confidence and a faith in God that will sustain them as they move into their secondary education.

Therese Hussey

Principal