

At the 2015 Presentation Night, it was a joy to announce to the College community that we had purchased the land adjoining the Keilor Campus, returning the property to the original size it was before being subdivided into Overnewton College and the Lowther Hall sports fields back in the mid 1980s.

The announcement was made by Andy Matiszak, Deputy Chair of the College Board; a man who is matched by very few others for the amount of time, wisdom, advice, expertise, love and passion he has given to the College since before the first student walked onto the Keilor property in 1987. Along with Manny Stamatopoulos, Andy had looked across the fence between the two properties for many years, longing for the day when that land might be ours.

With respect to the 2015 theme of *Thinking First*, it is important to talk about the thinking that has gone into the purchase of this property. Discussions between the two schools have been ongoing for much of the past eight years. However, for the last two years, the negotiations became more intense.

Before the Board would seriously consider the purchase of the property there were several levels of investigation that needed to take place.

We took possession of the land at the end of January 2016 and are not planning to do much to the property in 2016 other than some minor paving, cleaning, signage and safety rectifications.

On our list of priorities is a new Middle School at Keilor Campus, and it would be nice to have a new Junior School at Taylors Lakes Campus; a Music school at Taylors Lakes Campus; a Chapel either of our campuses; and of course Food Technology centres just to start the list. Oh, and that swimming pool... but that is a long, long, long way down the list! All of these

possibilities require a lot of money to build, therefore the Board has very carefully thought through its priorities.

As a community, we are indebted to our current and past College Boards that have been careful governors, who think seriously about our mission, have set prudent financial plans in place, and who constantly focus on ensuring the longevity of the College for many generations to come.

Following the acquisition of the land, there will be some new thinking about where we might site the new Middle School at Keilor Campus, as well as better ways of reducing traffic from Overnewton Road.

Whilst I have been focused on thinking with respect to the College's facilities, the really important thinking that we undertake is about the learning that goes on in our classrooms.

Every year, College staff research best educational practice. They look at what is happening really well in other schools and, most importantly, they seek to ensure that we are providing programs that are best supporting the learning and developmental needs of the Overnewton children.

It is such thinking that has led to:

- Introducing THRASS through the Junior School, as well as Year 5 and into Year 6 in 2016.
- Targeted approaches in numeracy.
- Appointing a College Head of Gifted Education.
- CLIL Mandarin.
- Middle School teachers undertaking the Harvard University Visible Thinking program.
- A Middle School review, following very successful Year 9 and Year 10 reviews.
- Continuing to roll out thinking curriculum across the College, from Prep to Year 12.



Front Cover: Past Chair of the Board, Manny Stamatopoulos, current Chair of the Board, Mark Ruff and Chair of the Capital Projects Committee Andy Matiszak unveil the signage at the entrance to the new property.