

BOARD TALK Friday, 12 August 2011

Chanel Hall at St Bede's College was almost full on Wednesday night with parents, caregivers, prospective parents and their daughters who will be in Year 9 next year, staff and many Marian College girls.

We were led in prayer by our head girl, deputies and student trustee, who referred to the hermit crab that can be vulnerable as it crosses the sand to change its habitat from one shell a new, larger one.

We read a letter from our proprietor Bishop Barry Jones about the move to Barbadoes Street, and saw slides of some of the classrooms which will be part of our new home.

Staff and trustees responded to questions and answers sent by email and also from the floor. There was much information and sharing of feelings, hopes and concerns. Then we had a welcome cuppa.

Mike Nolan, the Manager of the Catholic Education Office, shared information, especially about the geotechnical reports on our North Parade site, and reassured us about safety concerns about the Cathedral site.

Coral Ann Child from the Ministry of Education answered other questions, especially about providing transport and pastoral care.

For those who couldn't attend, we will endeavour to respond to your questions via the Marian College web site, the newsletter, the pastoral support family cluster groups the board has set up, and of course staff. As always, it's best to get the information first hand, rather than by rumour.

The point was made clear that the Marian College board of trustees is deeply committed to maintaining the culture of our college, independent from Catholic Cathedral College. This echoes Bishop Barry's desire for both his schools.

There have been many meetings with stakeholders, and more to come, including some Year 12 students from each college. Shortly we meet socially with their board of trustees to establish a working partnership as we become neighbours.

The board has established a special project committee to support management in the relocation.

The superb efforts of Marian College staff in maintaining high quality educational outcomes for our girls must be acknowledged. We need to support our excellent staff as they continue to support our daughters' learning, and also prepare to move to the new location.

We continue on this uncertain road with Mary in faith, hopeful that her son will give us courage and continue to guide our hearts and minds.

Gerard Duignan

Chair

Marian College Board of Trustees