As we fast approach the end of 2014, this year can be seen and reviewed as one of consolidation for the Xavier College Foundation Ltd. We have moved forward operationally within our new Constitution, we have welcomed new members to the Foundation Board, introduced a number of new procedures and policies, established an Advancement Committee and implemented the recommendations of a Deloitte Private report which the Foundation had commissioned.

In addition we have made the receipt of donations easier by offering an on-line service which has been adopted by many and we have refreshed our “creative look” reflected in this edition of the Foundation Newsletter. Next year we will be developing new information pieces designed to engage new donors and to increase support for the work of the Foundation. The beginning of 2015 will see a new Fundraising plan for the next five years developed.

By the time our members receive this Newsletter, we would have conducted our Annual General Meeting where we reported that the Foundation Endowment Fund returned a surplus for the year of $1,362,911 and net earnings on investments for the year were $2,135,502. Accumulated Funds for the Ignatius Education Fund were $5,217,897, compared with $4,352,806 in the previous year. Net earnings on investments amounted to $615,548.

In light of these results we are delighted to announce the Foundation’s distribution to Xavier College will be in the vicinity of $1,500,000, which includes a contribution to the School of $700,000.

These results would be impossible to achieve without the support of our members and donors and I record my thanks to the Eldon Hogan Trust and most particularly to the Trustee, Mr Peter Walsh, for the close and fruitful working relationship which exists between the Trust and the Foundation.

I acknowledge our Investment Committee led by Mr Paul Ferla; their hard work allows the Foundation to continue to be able to support Xavier College. Also I acknowledge and thank the members of the Foundation Board who have been called upon to help in so many ways.

I would especially like to thank the Executive Director of the Foundation, Libby Crosthwaite for her untiring work, her assistant, Heather Murphy, Dick Moore and Peter Rhoden.

In concluding this report on the 2014 school year, I once again thank all our donors and members who enable the Foundation to fulfil its role of supporting the College and its students now and into the future.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, its staff and committees, I wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Tony Nunan
Chairman
Xavier College Foundation Ltd

The Foundation has a very significant role to play in funding the activities of the College and its role will become even more important in the years ahead.

Since the restructure of the Xavier College Foundation 12 months ago, it has more flexibility in raising and distributing funds to the College for approved activities.

This has been exemplified by the distribution of approximately $1,500,000 to the College for bursaries and scholarships and the provision of IT hardware and associated software packages. In addition, it has contributed to infrastructure projects at the Senior Campus and the Kostka Hall Campus. These funds have been derived from donations from the Eldon J. Hogan Trust and the Tutton Trust through the assistance of Mr Peter Walsh who is a Trustee to both Trusts. Other sources of funds have been from bequests, capital contribution from parents and the distribution of earnings from the very successful investment strategy implemented by the Foundation. The Foundation Chair, Mr Tony Nunan, his fellow Directors and Foundation staff, led by the Executive Director, Ms Libby Crosthwaite, are to be commended on this excellent result in their first full year of operation.

This distribution of funds is in accordance with the agreement between the Council and the Foundation that funds will be provided for Scholarships and Bursaries from the Ignatian Education Fund and the Endowment Fund of the Foundation. Funds will also be provided to assist with infrastructure projects. The costs associated with College operations and programs will be met from Government funds and College fees.

The College Council urges all members of the Xavier Community to support generously the work of the Foundation, in its vital role of fundraising for the College, to guarantee that the excellent education that Xavier College provides will continue for students into the future.

Frank Peck
Chair of the College Council
**Charles Rigg (OX 1883)** donated funds to build the Senior Campus Rigg Wing

“Yes, I’ve always been good to Xavier and when I die I’ll be better still” joked Charlie Rigg at an Old Xaverians’ Football Club dinner and so he proved to be, leaving the school £50,000 after his death in 1950.

We have little information on Charles Rigg, due to his attendance at school before the publication of the *Xaverian*. His life-long friend Mr. A.E. Tobin (OX 1883) noted on the occasion of Charles Rigg’s death, that Charlie Rigg was very good at drawing and had topped his Matriculation Class in that subject. Charles Rigg showed ongoing interest in every department and was a keen supporter and generous benefactor to the school, as well as being a frequent visitor for many years until his health failed.

According to the memory of Mr Jack Stutt (OX 1935) Charles would follow the Old Xaverians Football games, cheering on the players, even as his eyesight was failing. He would be in attendance at the Annual Meetings and would often write a cheque for the club’s losses on the night. During the difficult years of the Great Depression, Charles was a major benefactor and kept the club financially in the black. In 1934 Charles Rigg wrote a cheque to cover that year’s subscriptions. The figure was large and equalled almost half the total annual income for the Club. The 1934 *Xaverian* notes ‘Mr Chas Rigg too has our thanks for the several substantial sums given the Club,… and… by whose generosity we were enabled to keep our expenses well under control’. Charles Rigg also supported the Old Xaverians’ Cricket Club in the same manner.

Charles and his sister Mary also donated the original chapel pulpit, which was in use from 1927 until it was removed in the 1970s, as a memorial to their brother William Rigg (OX 1881). In 1948, the school was planning additional classrooms and the very generous will of Charles Rigg enabled the school to construct the Rigg Wing.

The Editorial from the 1950 *Xaverian* notes:

> The building of the new classroom block has made good progress considering the times and we move into the first four of these new rooms in the first term. The building of the second four is now nearing completion, and will be ready for occupation at the beginning of the coming year.”

It is with sincere gratitude that Xavier College remembers Charles Rigg, his kindness and immense generosity.

**‘The Visitor’ tapestry was made possible by generous donor contributions**

*The Visitor*, made in 2008, is a tapestry located inside the west entry of the Eldon Hogan Performing Arts Centre.

The work designed by artist and current parent Jon Cattapan, is an impressive one and a half metres high and eight metres in length and depicts a group of youths in a vast panoramic urban landscape. This work was woven in the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, South Melbourne by Chris Cochius, John Dicks, Millie Formby and Emma Sulzer and was made possible by the generous gifts of Frank Sweeney (OX 1932) and his wife Molly and the Eldon Hogan Trust.

**Burke Hall Junior campus was donated by TM Burke**

In 1920, TM Burke purchased Studley Hall for £5,600 (a princely sum at the time) and donated it to the College.

Two years later he presented a new block of classrooms. Some years later his wife donated the Burke Hall Chapel in memory of her brother. These magnificent gifts, more than any others, changed the make up of Xavier forever. The junior school in Kew continues to carry proudly the “Burke” name.
Old Xaverians continue to give back

Left to Right: Bernadette Batten, Vice President of the Xavier College Foundation Ltd gratefully receives a cheque from Jack Bowen, President of the Old Xaverians’ Association and Peter McDonnell, Executive Officer of the Old Xaverians’ Association.
In 1971 the Old Xaverians’ Association presented to Xavier College the Buxton Outdoor Education Centre. The College Rector at the time, Fr Jim Hawkins SJ, was particularly pleased with this gift as it brought to fulfilment his great wish to expand the Xavier students’ city-bound horizons. For the next forty years the camp served its purpose well.

The early years at Buxton were interesting experiences for the students and staff, as conditions were quite primitive with just two Nissen huts and a toilet and ablutions block. However the beautiful outdoor setting of the camp provided compensation for the lack of homely comforts. What better than being educated in a natural environment?

John Malcolm was appointed Camp Director in 1981 and quickly built a residence on site for his family. John’s professional approach improved the camp facilities and the activities dramatically. Three sleeping huts and a staff hut were also built under the supervision of Jack Dunne from the Xavier Maintenance Department. Students of all age groups were never bored and most importantly, they were always well fed thanks to the industrial kitchen and dining/recreational hall that had been completed in 1979.

Students enjoyed the climbing wall, the obstacle course, the nature walk, archery, morning runs, star gazing, pioneering activities and orienteering at the camp. Outside the camp there was rock climbing, white water rafting, horse riding, canoeing, cross country skiing and overnight camping. These activities were intermixed with Liturgies and Masses, personal development programs as well as recreational games, concerts and, if possible, relaxation. Naturally the Camp Director needed assistance to make these programs possible and this was provided by the many dedicated Xavier staff who accompanied the students to Buxton, some hard-working young men who lived at the camp for varying lengths of time and some excellent cooks from the local area who provided nourishing meals for the hungry students.

Jay Henderson took over as Director of Outdoor Education at Xavier in 2002 and Warren Nelson and his wife, Leonie, were employed as live-in site managers. The College invested more resources into the camp, now referred to officially as the Buxton Outdoor Education Centre and steadily the facilities were improved. The Centre was fully utilised by the College and many outside groups and schools, enabling the site to pay its own way.

On Saturday 7 February 2009, the Black Saturday bush fires destroyed all the buildings except the hall and kitchen and the managers’ residence. This residence and the five people in attendance were saved by the heroic efforts of Warren Nelson. Thankfully no students were present on site that horrific day.

Unfortunately, rebuilding the many facilities at the camp was deemed to be unsafe in our fire-prone climate. Therefore the decision was made to sell the property and the remaining facilities. This was done in 2014 and the income from that sale was returned to the Old Xaverians’ Association.
A message from Fr Chris Middleton SJ

When Xavier College was founded in 1878 it is unlikely that anyone then would have envisaged the school that Xavier has become. For many of the early years Xavier struggled just to survive and like all Australian Catholic schools, for the good part of a century the College received no State aid. It relied on fees and on the great generosity of friends and donors so as to continue to operate and grow. Even today, the College relies primarily on the generosity and commitment of its community for capital works, major refurbishments and the funding of bursaries and scholarships.

Today, more than 60 million students are educated in Catholic schools and universities worldwide, with over 2 million of them in Jesuit institutions, ranging from some of the world’s great universities through to the humblest of schools in refugee camps. This commitment reflects a part of the Church’s commitment to the service of the world in the belief that the “education of youth is for the transformation of the world”.

Xavier has been built through a culture of giving, both of time and of money. Cultivating a generosity of heart ties together the awareness of the opportunities accorded by an education such as that at Xavier, with the call to service by using generously those very same gifts. St Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth about adopting a disposition towards life that continues to exercise its hold on us: “the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully”. These words were part of our first reading at the Valedictorian this year.

The work of the Foundation continues the long tradition of giving and support that has underpinned the service that Xavier has provided to our Catholic community and to the people of Victoria.

Looking forward to Christmas, may I wish you and all those you love a blessed Christmas. The miracle of the Incarnation, of God nourishing all our hungers through the gift of the Son, lies at the very heart of the Gospel message, as it was first given by the angels on a cold night in Bethlehem. Emmanuel.

Fr Chris Middleton SJ
Rector
Xavier College

Libby Crosthwaite
Executive Director
Xavier College Foundation

Your Donations at Work

As a result of the support received by our community from the 2014 Direct Mail campaign, The Ignatius Education Fund will almost double its contribution towards the School’s Scholarship and Bursary Program for 2015.

Next year the Foundation will be offering a number of scholarships for entry into years 7, 9 and 11 in 2016.

Closing date for applications: Friday 6 February 2015.
Date for Scholarship Testing: Thursday 12 February 2015.

Why Give?

Gifts from our alumni, parents and friends are vital for the College’s continued success and your gift makes an impact in the lives of our students both in the present and in the future.

Each succeeding generation of Xaverians gains benefit from the use of the facilities and services provided by the generosity of those who have proceeded them. Through the Ignatius Education Fund we make available Scholarships and Bursaries to students who might under normal circumstances not be able to access a Xavier Education. Through the generosity of our donors, your support enables the Foundation to ensure the long term security of the College.

How to Give:
Supporting the Xavier College Foundation can be done either by mail or by calling Heather Murphy on 03 9815 4542 or visit our website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/how-donate.

Making a bequest:
A bequest to the Foundation will help secure the financial future of Xavier. With this in mind we ask all friends of Xavier to look to the future and consider bequeathing a gift, be it large or small, to the Xavier College Foundation. For a confidential discussion about making a bequest or speaking to us about how you would like your bequest to be used please contact Libby Crosthwaite on (03) 9815 4542