

DISTRICT CHAPTER 2018



8 -11 July 2018
The Hermitage, Mittagong

CHAPTER REPORT



District Chapter Prayer 2018

God of providence and love,

We come before in you in faith, hope and charity.

Send down your Holy Spirit upon our District Chapter to inspire and guide all present to be instruments of Your grace, goodness and hope.

Following the inspiration of St John Baptist de La Salle, we ask you to bless the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea in touching the hearts of the young people entrusted to us.

Like the disciples on the Emmaus journey, help us to discover new insights and call us to action this love through partnership and association for our District.

We consecrate ourselves to the work and ministry of the Lasallian mission to better the lives of others. Help us discern our future together to bring education and new opportunities to all young people, including those who are marginalised and forgotten in our society.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our guiding star – and through St Joseph, the patron Saint of the Institute.

We make this prayer in Christ's name

Amen!



Istituto dei
FRATELLI DELLE SCUOLE CRISTIANE
Superiore Generale

27 September 2018

Brother David Hawke, FSC
Visitor District of ANZPPNG

Dear Brother David,

I have read with great interest the report of the District's Mission Assembly / Chapter, celebrated from 15 April to 17 April 2018. I have also read Brother Ricky's letter to you of 15 April 2018. I second Brother Ricky's 5 points regarding the strategic focus areas and intents.

Brother Ricky has informed me that the Assembly Report was approved by the District Chapter in July and that Acts of the Chapter are contained in the document *Mission Assembly Report 2018*. I hereby approve the Acts.

Please convey me thanks to all the Brothers and Partners who contributed to the success of the Mission Assembly / District Chapter.

As always, David, I assure you of my fraternal support and my appreciation for your pastoral leadership of the District of ANZPPNG.

Fraternally,

Brother Robert Schieler, FSC
Brother Superior

Fratel Robert Schieler, FSC, Superiore Generale - rschieler@lasalle.org

Casa Generalizia La Salle
Via Aurelia, 476
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SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

The 2018 District Chapter was held at The Hermitage, 843 Old South Road, Mittagong, commencing Sunday 8 July 2018 at 3.30 pm and concluding on Wednesday 11 July at 11.30 am. The Hermitage is a Retreat and Conference Centre conducted by the Marist Brothers, one and a half hours south of Sydney by car.

The Chapter was attended by twenty-seven Brother-Delegates and three lay partners. Brothers attended from all Sectors of the District. Brother Ricky Laguda, General Councillor (PARC) was in attendance as a special guest. Father John O'Connor AFSC attended as Chaplain.

District Chapter preparations were conducted under the guidance of a Preparatory Committee chaired by Tracy Adams AFSC. Membership of the Committee consisted of Ms Tracy Adams (Chair), Brothers Chris Gorringer, Thomas Yapo, Lewis Harwood, Mr Merv McCormack and Ms Julie Alibrandi. Mr Chris Barrett (Consultant) was engaged as facilitator. Mr Barrett had been engaged to support the process of developing the new District Strategic Plan and had acted as facilitator for the Mission Assembly, held from 15th to 17th April 2018.

The Preparatory Committee had been delegated the key task of coordinating the development of a District Strategic Plan 2018-2022, as well as planning for the Mission Assembly and District Chapter. Significant consultation was undertaken across the District to provide Lasallians with the opportunity to be engaged in the development process for the Strategic Plan. This included significant input from:

- District Council
- Lasallian Mission Council



Above: Entry sign of The Hermitage.

- Lasallian Leaders Gathering (LLG) -2017 and 2018
- Mission Action Committees - PAKMAC, PNGMAC, NZMAC and AUSMAC,
- Young Lasallians
- Brothers - Meetings in Melbourne, Sydney, Port Moresby and Pakistan
- Mission Assembly 2018

In addition to the consultations, reference documents used to inform the draft Plan included Circulars 469 and 470 as well as the existing District Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

It had been determined by the Brother Visitor, on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, that the overarching theme for the Chapter would be **'The Promise of Vitality'**. This theme and the narrative included with each strategic pillar aim to highlight the genuine opportunities which exist for the mission, and the means to realise a vibrant future.

The Strategic pillars of the Plan are as follows:

1. Strategic Priority 1 – Fidelity to Mission
2. Strategic Priority 2 – Formation
3. Strategic Priority 3 – Viability and Sustainability
4. Strategic Priority 4 – Governance and Leadership
5. Strategic Priority 5 – Brothers Today

The draft Strategic Plan had been presented at the Mission Assembly held in April, 2018. Discussion by the participants in the Assembly provided significant feedback on the Plan. All feedback from the Mission Assembly was captured and much work was then undertaken by the Preparatory Committee to reflect key themes authentically.

Documentation distributed to delegates prior to the Chapter had included:

- Draft District Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- District Statutes
- Viability and Vitality of the Lasallian Mission - PARC 42
- Report of the 45th General Council - Circular 469
- Mission Assembly Report 2018
- District Plan 2013-2018.

The critical outcome envisaged for the Chapter was the review and adoption of the Draft District Plan 2018-2022, in alignment with the propositions of the 45th General Chapter.

The District Chapter Program is in **Appendix 1**.

A list of Chapter Attendees is in **Appendix 2**.

SECTION TWO

CHAPTER DIARY

DAY ONE: SUNDAY 8 JULY 2018

BROTHER VISITOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Brother David Hawke, Visitor, formally welcomed the Brother delegates to the District Chapter, including Brothers from Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. He offered a special welcome to General Councillor (PARC), Brother Ricky Laguda, and acknowledged the presence of current Auxiliary Visitors, Brother Shahzad George Gill and Brother Chris Gorringe; incoming Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Timothy Peter; Affiliated Member and Chapter Chaplain, Fr John O'Connor; Chapter Facilitator, Mr Chris Barrett; and members and executive of the Lasallian Mission Council, Tracy Adams, Merv McCormack and Peter Cartwright. Br David likewise acknowledged the presence of the members of the Chapter secretariat, Julie Alibrandi and Kate Mason.

Brother David offered introductory remarks on the importance of the Chapter to the District and the Institute, noting that the District Chapter is the highest decision-making group within the District, that it should reflect the intentions of the Rule, the promise of vitality and the unity of the District, and that it should be a high point in the life of the District, representing the voices of Brothers who were not in attendance.

Brother David quoted from a Melbourne University dictum, *"Don't try and predict the future, prepare for it"* and reminded us that *Lord, this work is yours*.

The address of the Brother Visitor is printed in full in Appendix 3.

OPENING PRAYER

Following the welcome, Brother Lewis Harwood led the Opening Prayer with the theme "Like guardian angels we are called to Mission", based on De La Salle's 5th and 6th Meditations for the Time of Retreat. The prayer concluded with delegates reciting the District Chapter Prayer.



Above: Br David Hawke, Br Visitor



Above: 2018 District Chapter Group Photo.

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION - BR CHRIS GORRINGE

Brother Chris Gorrige briefly addressed delegates, reporting on the preparations for the District Chapter. Referring to pre-Chapter documentation and to the District Statutes, Brother Chris explained briefly the organisational process which would be followed throughout the upcoming days. The following Resolutions relating to the conduct of the Chapter were adopted:

The District Chapter RESOLVED that Tracy Adams be appointed Chapter Secretary.

Carried 27.0.0

The District Chapter RESOLVED that Ms Julie Alibrandi and Ms Kate Mason be appointed recorders for the Chapter.

Carried 27.0.0

The District Chapter RESOLVED that the process of electing four Members and four Substitute Members for the District Council be in accordance with the current District Statutes.

Carried 27.0.0

The District Chapter RESOLVED that the Returning Officers for the District Council election process be Ms Julie Alibrandi and Ms Kate Mason.

Carried 27.0.0

The District Chapter RESOLVED that, with the exception of (a) the election of District Council Members and (b) where a motion for a secret vote is passed, voting be by show of hands.

Carried 27.0.0

OVERVIEW OF THE GOALS OF THE CHAPTER - CHAPTER SECRETARY

Tracy quoted excerpts from the Rule including 133.2, 137 and 141 and requested active participation from the Brothers in all elements of the District Chapter including strategic direction and planning, the appointment of District Administration and update of District Statutes. *"There is an urgent need*

to find new roadmaps that encourage creativity and innovation in the pursuit of the common good. This common good requires participatory processes, shared responsibilities, and accountabilities by all Regions, Districts and Sectors." This kind of collective effort is nothing new but very much tied to our vow of living "together and by association" for the educational service of the poor. Tracy urged Brothers to be *open to new opportunities and the Promise of Vitality.*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS - BROTHERS TODAY - BROTHER PETER CARROLL



Above: Br Peter Carroll, Provincial, Marist Brothers.

Brother David welcomed Brother Peter Carroll, Provincial of the Marist Brothers in Australia, to the Chapter and provided a brief overview of Brother Peter's background, quality of leadership and leadership style: *"A visionary leader in challenging times."*

Brother Peter spoke of the similarities and connection between the Marists and the Lasallians. He spoke of the current climate and the challenges that all Brothers face, including rapid change, uncertainty, anxiety and fragmentation that exists in religious congregations. The two-loop theory was explained as a new approach to today's realities, that as a community of Lasallians, we should be considering a new narrative in an emerging future; *who are the pioneers, who are the protectors, who are eliminators and how do we protect our resources and what are we evolving into?*

Brother Peter discussed six current emerging energies: *fraternity in the community, shared mission, new forms of Association, living contemplatively, networking and interdependence (joint mission and community between other religious orders) and integrity of creation (sustainable living, living simply).* He also expressed the thought that the greatest danger is the loss of Brothers' identity; What is a Brother for? And how do you define brotherly? We are visible witnesses to Communion. Brother Peter tabled the document, The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church.

Brother Peter acknowledged the importance of the Brothers' Vocation, particularly in a fragmented world that yearns for living in communion and called Brothers to *interpret today as a moment of Grace and look forward to the risen Lord.*

Brother Visitor thanked Brother Peter for his inspiring words.

EVENING MASS

Mass, led by Father John O'Connor, was celebrated in the Hermitage Chapel. The liturgical celebration was enhanced by the musical accompaniment provided by members of our Lasallian Youth Ministry Team, Damian and Sebastian.

Below: Sebastian Duhua and Damian Khoury - Lasallian Youth Ministry Team.





Above: (From left to right) Brothers Shashi Abrar, Anthony Cummins, Rick Gaffney, Shazad Gill, Sir Patrick Lynch & Timothy Peter.

DAY TWO: MONDAY 9 July 2019

Morning Prayer was led by Brothers from the Papua New Guinea Sector, with the theme "Our Story is a Shared Journey".

BROTHER VISITOR'S REPORT - BROTHER DAVID HAWKE

Brother David referred to the District Plan 2013 – 2018, the Mission Assembly Report 2018 and the Report of the Brother Visitor dated 9 July 2018, stating that this Chapter took on a different dynamic to previous Chapters as it built on a District-wide consultation process and on the Mission Assembly which itself had thoroughly reviewed the draft new strategic priorities proposed for the next four years.

In reviewing the current 2013-2018 District Plan, Brother Visitor discussed the following focus areas:

- Life of the Brother in the 21st Century,
- Association for the Educational Service of the Poor,
- Formation, and
- Government and Stewardship of Resources.

Brother David also provided some personal reflections, including on the Promise of Vitality.

Brother David spoke of the success of the Lasallian Mission Services and Lasallian Mission Council and highlighted that the vitality of the mission across the four countries is expressed in schools, teachers' colleges, *yourn town*, Catechetical Centre, the Lasallian Foundation, Boards of Directors, the quality of CEO's and Principals, the fidelity of the Brothers, the multi-faith dimension of schools in Pakistan, the presence of young Brothers and candidates in initial formation, participation in Buttimer and other international formation programs plus District/Local formation programs, the Gerard Rummery Institute, Brothers without Borders and Lasallians without limits.

A greater emphasis on evangelization and catechesis was requested and that priority be given to

the proclamation of the Gospel, although the challenges that exist in the Sector of Pakistan were recognised.

Brother David acknowledged the existing structure of the District Council, Lasallian Mission Council, Sector Councils and Mission Action Committees (MACs) which have cemented District Identity. Brother David called on the Brothers to treasure all Brothers and emphasized that the presence of vocations from Pakistan and Papua New Guinea was a blessing, as was the perseverance of our young Brothers.

The importance of the Spiritual Life of Brothers was highlighted and Brother David invited the Brothers, at this Chapter, to look closely at the life of the Brother in the 21st Century. The Brothers in the District who are actively engaged in the Mission across the four Sectors were acknowledged, but Brother David called for greater engagement of all Brothers, even on a voluntary basis.

Safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults remain a top priority for all Lasallians, and the District is committed to the Safeguarding Standards as proposed by the Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL). Brother David acknowledged the work of Brother Ambrose Payne as the District Professional Standards Officer, the Professional Standards Consultative Committee and the District Council for their advice on susceptible matters.



Above: Statue of St Marcellin Champagnat.

In moving ahead, Brother David spoke of the Promise of Vitality and emerging futures; he asked the Brothers to reflect deeply on the election of the District Council and reminded the Brothers, in reference to Article 99.4 of The Rule, about the participation of younger Brothers in decision-making bodies.

Brother David also asked the Brothers to consider the financial position of the District that was now a significant concern and he sought clear directions to the incoming administration from the Chapter on the financial stewardship of the District.

Appreciation was expressed to Brother Chris Gorringer and Brother Shahzad George Gill, Auxiliary Visitors, and congratulations were extended to Brother Timothy Peter on his appointment as the new incoming Auxiliary Visitor commencing in September. Brother David acknowledged the valued support and advice of the District Council, the Lasallian Mission Council (LMC), Sector Councils and Mission Action Committees (MACs) which all contribute to the Vitality of the District.

Brother David concluded his presentation by asking the Brothers to personally reflect on Ecclesiasticus 2:1-18.

Brother David's report is printed in **Appendix 4**.

APPRECIATION TO THE BROTHER VISITOR

Brother Chris Gorringe thanked Brother David for his outstanding leadership over the past four years. Brother Chris acknowledged Brother David's role as guarantor of the unity and vitality of the District and accredited his readiness to be at the service of his Brothers, always ready to listen and always contactable. Brother David had tirelessly ensured that each element of his mandate had been fulfilled. Brother David's focus on mission and youth, on association and on the wellbeing of the Brothers was recognised. Brother Chris concluded by stating that Brother David's pastoral concern for everyone in the District had been paramount, and his highly consultative approach and efforts to be present and available at all times over the past four years had been outstanding.

Brother David's leadership as Brother Visitor was recognized in the following Resolution:

The Chapter RESOLVED to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of the Brother Visitor, Brother David Hawke, over the past four years.

Endorsed by acclamation.

MISSION ASSEMBLY REPORT - MS TRACY ADAMS

A copy of the Mission Assembly Report had been distributed to delegates prior to the Chapter.

Drawing on a reflection from the Mission Assembly Prayer, Tracy revisited the aims of the Mission Assembly which included:

- The progress of the current Strategic Plan 2013-2018,
- Understanding the environmental context and realities of all four Sectors,
- Engagement, discernment and feedback on draft Strategic Plan 2018-2022,
- Open Dialogue – Forum for Question & Answers, and
- Together and by Association – the richness that is the collective.

Tracy highlighted both the gaps and opportunities that exist within the District. These included:

- Goal setting and the development of metrics of success,
- Visibility of the Lasallian Mission Council and how this fits in,
- Formation and the varying degrees of uptake,
- Challenges in communication, planning and aligning Sector works to the District Plan,
- The promotion of the Brothers' Vocation and Lasallian vocation, and
- Volunteering, short term as well as long-term, programs.



Above: Brothers voting electronically during the Chapter.

Tracy acknowledged the extraordinary Sector reports at the Mission Assembly. These reports had the following themes: -

- Papua New Guinea - One size does not fit all,
- Pakistan - Education is not for sale,
- New Zealand - Audacity and Courage, and
- Australia - Victims of Success.

Tracy spoke of the major priorities of the Mission which included the strength that is Together and By Association, Shared Mission, building capacity at the local level, not being paralysed by change or fear, ongoing formation, responsibility as Lasallians (not simply as educators) – civility and decorum, inclusiveness and heart.

Overwhelmingly, the Mission Assembly had drawn on the *promise of vitality*. The Mission Assembly was about hope and action and aspiring to believe that the best is in front of us. Tracy called on all Brothers to be engaged in the process, to be open to all possibilities and to communicate with honesty.

A copy of the Mission Assembly Report accompanies the Chapter Report.

LASALLIAN MISSION SERVICES - MR MERV MCCORMACK

Brother Chris Gorringer introduced Mr Merv McCormack and acknowledged his outstanding work as Executive Director of Lasallian Mission Council. Merv presented a video on the many vibrant and vast activities of the Lasallian Mission Services (LMS) team throughout the District and provided an overview of the Lasallian Mission Council Priorities 2012-2018 including:

- Governance
- Leadership
- Operations
- Adult Formation
- Young Lasallians.

Merv spoke of the successes and challenges of the Lasallian Mission Services team.

Table feedback included questions on the viability of the Lasallian Foundation and its future, and commentary on the strengths of the Young Lasallians and Volunteer programs. It was acknowledged that Lasallian Volunteers provide energy and enthusiasm and that there are opportunities to look at different Community living arrangements. Ongoing commitment was expressed to undertaking a review of the structure and efficiency of Twinning programs and of adult formation programs.

Merv expressed appreciation to Brother David Hawke and Brother Chris Gorringe for their ongoing support and leadership as well as the support received from Lasallians throughout the District. Merv finished with the following two quotes: *"Who are we for, and who are we going to be?"* and *"We build the bridge as we walk on it."*

DISTRICT FINANCE REPORT - MR PETER CARTWRIGHT & BROTHER CHRIS GORRINGE

Brother Chris Gorringe and Peter Cartwright gave a presentation on the Financial Viability of the District, highlighting that the District was moving into an uncertain future due to so many unknowns. The presentation commenced with an overview of the demographics of the Brothers, including the ageing population of the Brothers in the Sectors of Australia and New Zealand, in contrast with the growing number of young Brothers in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

Peter provided an overview of property currently owned by the Brothers in Australia, properties sold since 2004 and the values of properties. Peter also provided an overview of District Administration Assets and of the District Administration Cashflow 2017.

Funding estimates for professional standards costs including civil claims, legal costs (civil), legal costs (criminal), Redress Scheme and professional standards staffing were presented.

Brother Chris presented a projected cash flow including an analysis of movements (decreases) in total cash and investments from 1 July 2018 to 2020-2028. Brother Chris sought advice from the Chapter with regard to a methodical approach to meeting the financial demands of the District.

A number of Financial Risk Mitigation Strategies were tabled.

Feedback from table discussions indicated a realization that strong action was required to address the District's financial needs, varied support for the mitigation strategies, and support for consultation with other religious orders on strategies that each congregation is assessing. It was agreed that Papua New Guinea and Pakistan should look at sustainable strategies for continuation of the Mission in those Sectors, including the development and/or maintenance of superannuation funds.

The need to explore future possibilities, name every scenario and every possible solution was vital.

The Chapter authorised the Brother Visitor and District Council to implement strategies as required.

PRESENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STRATEGIC PLAN - MS TRACY ADAMS AND MR CHRIS BARRETT

Chris Barrett, Chapter Facilitator, opened the session by referring to the PARC 42 document, Viability and Vitality of the Lasallian Mission, and highlighted the expected outcomes of the Chapter's consideration of the District Plan:

1. Establish a basis for Brothers and Partners to discern its current reality and clarify its intentions on how the future should look like in the light of God's call,
2. Bring greater creativity and energy into the actions that shape the Lasallian Mission in our countries based on reflections and dialogues of the Brothers and Partners, and
3. Create opportunities for Brothers and Partners to dream of a future attuned to the signs of the times.

Tracy drew attention to the foundational documents used to inform the development of the Plan and reviewed the stages of the Plan's development and the broad range of input – a Plan developed "from the bottom up" through wide consultation over a period of eighteen months. Tracy emphasized the importance of facing challenges and taking up opportunities, highlighting that all Lasallians needed to be able to see a place for themselves in the Plan and that the real work would be in implementation.

Modifications of the structure and content of the Plan over the consultation period had led to the identification of five "pillars" or Strategic Priorities:



Above: (From left to right) Brothers Mark McKeon, Alphonso Zoanetti, Vincent Keating, Ricky Laguda, John Cantwell & Garry Coyte.

1. Fidelity to Mission
2. Lasallian Formation
3. Viability and Sustainability
4. Governance and Leadership
5. Brothers Today

Delegates were invited to discuss in small groups the Strategic Intents and Operational Goals linked to each Strategic Priority.

Feedback highlights included the following commentary and suggested modifications:

- the importance of evangelization, Brothers' spirituality, vocations
- local, contextualized "driving" of the Plan
- the leadership roles of the various groupings in the District, eg, District Council, LMC, MACs, Boards, in ensuring implementation of the Plan
- the advantages of merging MACs and Sector Councils
- the need for collaboration
- an understanding that human as well as financial resources were essential for viability and sustainability
- the importance of developing a strong brand strategy, leveraging off the promotion of the tercentenary year
- the use of mentors, coaches to assist in the development of annual plans
- the importance of user-friendly language.

The Draft Plan was strongly endorsed by Chapter delegates. While there were several significant changes proposed (eg, specific reference to the spirituality of the Brothers), discussion highlighted the effectiveness of the exhaustive process by which the Draft Plan had been developed and communicated.

The Chapter Preparatory Committee undertook to make the agreed changes to the draft and to present the Plan in its final form on Day 4 of the Chapter.

EVENING MASS

Evening Mass, with the readings of the day, was celebrated with Fr John O'Connor as Celebrant.



*Above: Fr John O'Connor,
Chapter Chaplain.*

DAY THREE: TUESDAY 10 JULY 2018

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer was led by Brothers of the Sector of Pakistan. The theme chosen by the Sector, based on a letter of De La Salle to Brother Robert, was "Walking with God. May God Continue What He Has Begun in You".

CHILD SAFE POLICY / PRACTICE AND REDRESS - MS TRACY ADAMS AND BROTHER AMBROSE PAYNE

Tracy commenced her presentation by referring to the Royal Commission report and the report of Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL). She reinforced the need for all to read and understand both reports.

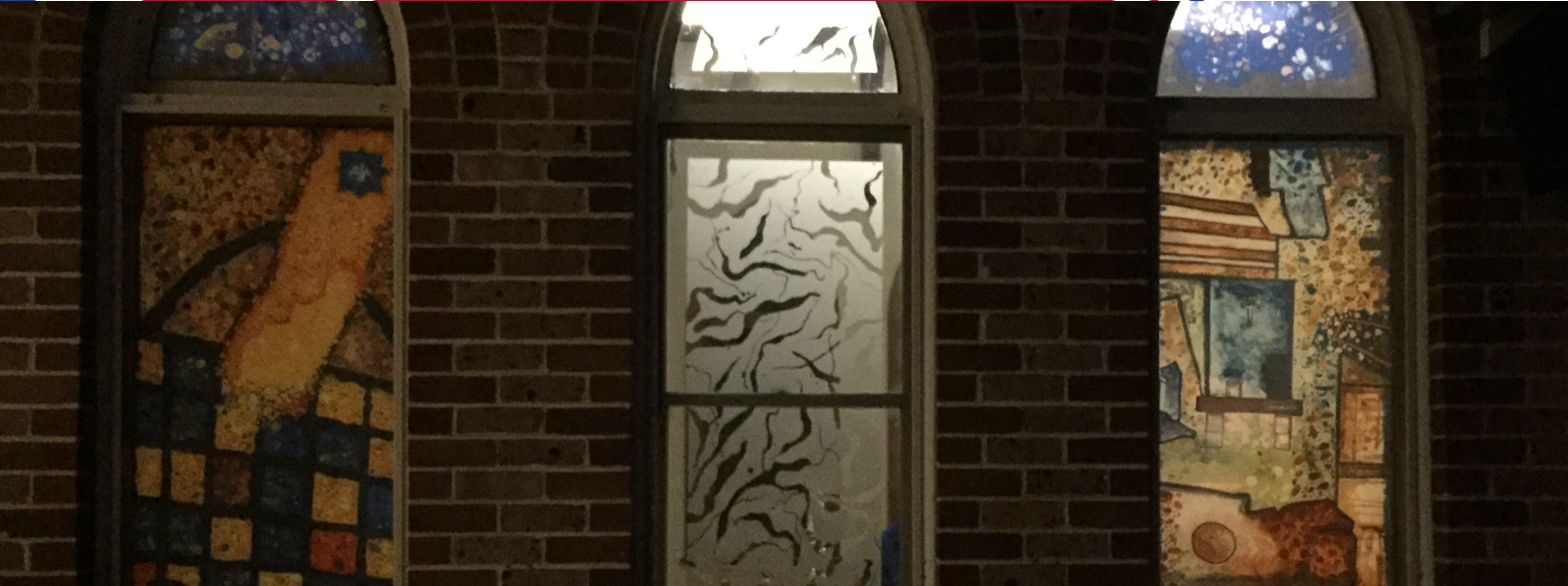
Whilst the Royal Commission happened in Australia, Tracy emphasized the importance of implementing policies throughout the District. The Royal Commission was announced in November 2012 and had involved 57 Public Hearing, 35 Roundtables and 109 Recommendations.

The District's Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy applies at all times to all who work in the Lasallian Mission and as such included Religious, Board Members, Employees and Volunteers.

Tracy spoke of the CPSL responsible for the development of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. CPSL will audit compliance with these Standards, holding the leaders and members of Catholic organisations accountable for the safety of children and vulnerable adults.

There are eight CPSL standards:

1. Committed leadership, governance and culture (public commitment, Leadership of Culture, Risk mitigation – policies, shared responsibility),
2. Children are safe, informed and participate (child engagement strategies – materials/ resources/input, staff have the knowledge/skills/training),
3. Partnering with families, carers and communities (promotes the role of Safeguarding Champion, Encourages family participation, promotion of whole of community awareness regarding child safety),
4. Equity is promoted, and diversity is respected (diversity is recognized – tailored formats, the workforce is reflective of diversity),
5. Robust human resource management (credentials and movement of clergy, Induction – oversea Church personnel/mentor program, oversight and supervision, screening),



Above: The Hermitage Chapel Stained-Glass Windows.

6. Effective complaints management (child-focused complaints handling, clear roles and responsibilities, information and support),
7. Ongoing education and training (mandated induction, annual refresher training – policies and procedures, professional development), AND
8. Safe physical and online environments (situational safety – physical and online).

Policies and procedures supporting child safety (development, monitoring, auditing) are important. Regular improvement (ongoing review and new strategies implemented) is essential.

Failure is not an option. *“Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home.”* Pope Francis.

Brother Ambrose spoke of the Redress Scheme and directed delegates to the website link: www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children/programs-services/children/redress-scheme-for-people-who-have-experienced-institutional-child-sexual-abuse/national-redress-scheme-frequently-asked-questions

Brother Ambrose spoke of issues with existing culture and loss of reputation in the community. Brother Ambrose spoke of the Redress Scheme process. The following points were highlighted:

- To date, the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have committed to joining the Scheme. The South Australian and Western Australian Governments have indicated their willingness to join such a Scheme.
- Redress can include payment of up to \$150,000, access to counselling and psychological services, and a direct personal response from the Institute that is said to be responsible for the abuse suffered by the survivor.

- The level of proof, or certainty, that needs to be reached when considering if a Survivor is entitled to a payment under the Scheme is if there is a 'reasonable likelihood' that the person was sexually abused.

It was noted that the District Council had expressed its support for the District joining the National Redress Scheme, sooner rather than later, once the various States have signed up. The following resolutions were noted from the District Council Meeting held on 25th May 2018:

RESOLUTION

That the De La Salle Brothers apply to participate in the National Redress Scheme as soon as possible after it is established as a genuinely national scheme.

Carried 6.0.0

RESOLUTION

That the options of joining the Scheme as a single institution or as a member of a participatory group be kept open pending further investigation of the implications of each option.

Carried 6.0.0

Delegates were given an opportunity to share reflections in their table groups at the end of Tracy's and Brother Ambrose's presentation.

At the request of Delegates a Resolution was framed to reaffirm the commitment of the District to

- Implement policies and practices to ensure the Safety of Children and Vulnerable adults,
- Implement the Safeguarding Standards developed by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL),
- Undertake professional development and set up systems to ensure compliance with Safeguarding Standards applicable in all Sectors of the District.

The Resolution was endorsed as an Act of the Chapter.



Above: Brother-Delegates at the Chapter, with Br Ricky Laguda

DISTRICT COUNCIL 2018-2022 ELECTION

Brother David Hawke, Visitor, introduced the process with a prayer and reminded the Chapter delegates of the role of the District Council.

The election of members of the District Council 2018-2022 and substitutes was conducted in accordance with the Statute endorsed on Day One of the Chapter:

- **Stage One:** nomination of a Shortlist of twelve Brothers
- **Stage Two:** election of four Council members
- **Stage Three:** election of four substitutes

Stage One: *The shortlist comprised (in order of votes received):*

- Br Shahzad Gill
- Br Garry Coyte
- Br Mark McKeon
- Br John Cantwell
- Br John Pill
- Br Lewis Harwood
- Br Sajid Bashir
- Br Rory Higgins
- Br Kenneth Ormerod
- Br Kumar John
- Br Chris Gorringer
- Br Gary Wilson

Stage Two: *The four Brothers elected to the Council, in order of the number of votes received, were:*

- Br Shahzad Gill
- Br Garry Coyte
- Br Mark McKeon
- Br Lewis Harwood

Stage Three: *As there was a tie for fourth in the election of substitutes, five Substitutes were elected, namely, in order of votes received, the following Brothers:*

- Br Sajid Bashir
- Br Chris Gorringer

- Br John Cantwell
- Br Rory Higgins
- Br Kumar John

Voting was conducted electronically, with Ms Julie Alibrandi and Ms Kate Mason acting as Returning Officers for the election process, and the results were declared at the end of each stage of the process.

The incoming District Council members were welcomed by a round of applause.

(After consulting with the elected members of the District Council in the evening, at the commencement of Day Four Brother David announced the appointment of Brother Chris Gorringe to the District Council.)

District Council Membership is recorded in **Appendix 10**



Above: District Council Members 2018-2022 (From left to right) Brothers Mark McKeon, Lewis Harwood, Christopher Gorringe, David Hawke, Timothy Peter, Shahzad Gill & Garry Coyte.

DISTRICT STATUTES - BR CHRIS GORRINGE

The process of updating the District Statutes was led by Br Chris Gorringer.

On the basis of the directives of The Administrator's Directory 2017, two new sections had been included in the new draft District Statutes, namely

- Protocol for the Safety and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults
- A Guide or Protocol of Transition between the Incoming and Outgoing Visitors

Other modifications were required by the change in the appointment of one Auxiliary Visitor (rather than two in the previous Administration) and by minor changes in the process for approving renewal of vows.

A change was also made in respect of the membership of the Lasallian Mission Council, with the wording changed from "at least 50% lay-partners" to "a majority of lay-partners" (1.3.7.1). Consistency in the language to describe the membership of the Sector Councils (1.3.8.3) was also improved.

A copy of the amended District Statutes accompanies the Chapter Report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY FOLLOW-UP

On the basis of written feedback from delegates, Brother Chris Gorringer and Peter Cartwright presented a draft Financial Viability resolution, copies of which were distributed for discernment to the Chapter delegates. Brother Chris provided commentary on each of the draft resolutions.

In response to a question about borrowing, Brother Ambrose explained the process of borrowing from the Institute, noting, however, that the Institute had limited cash and that assets were primarily in the form of property.

Delegates endorsed all the elements of the draft resolution, for formal ratification as an Act of the Chapter. (See Section 3 of Chapter Report.)

Brother David thanked delegates for looking at District finances boldly and courageously.

DISTRICT PLAN 2018-2022

Tracy presented the final draft of the District Plan, in which had been included modifications agreed by Chapter delegates. The Plan was accepted for formal ratification as an Act of the Chapter. (See Section 3 of Chapter Report.) Appreciation was expressed to all who had contributed to the Plan.

The Chapter-approved District Plan 2018 – 2022 is presented in Appendix 6.

EVENING MASS

Bishop Brian Mascord, recently appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Wollongong, acted as Celebrant for the final Chapter Mass. Bishop Brian has a long history of association with the Brothers in Australia. The celebration was enhanced by the organ accompaniment provided by Brother Paul Toohey. Following Mass, Bishop Brian joined the Brothers for the evening meal.



Above: Photos taken inside the Chapel at The Hermitage.

DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY 11 JULY 2018

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer was led by Brothers from the Sector of New Zealand and featured De La Salle's Meditation for the Feast of St Benedict, the saint of the day.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 'THE WAY FORWARD' - BROTHER RICKY LAGUDA

Brother Ricky had chosen as his keynote theme "*A Way Forward*" – *Lord, the work is Yours*". Brother Ricky spoke of the declining numbers of Brothers throughout the world but spoke highly of the vibrancy of the District of ANZPPNG, illustrated, for example, by the Mission Assembly held in April 2018.

Brother Ricky spoke of the eight priorities that came out of the recent Post-Intercapitular Leadership Meeting;

- Identity,
- Association for Mission,
- Pastoral Ministry of Vocations and Youth,
- Formation and Accompaniment,
- Shared Governance and Animation,
- Leadership and Animation,
- Life and Community of the Brothers, and
- Stewardship of Resources.



Above: Br Ricky Laguda.

Brother Ricky finished his keynote address by stating that the Brothers are urged to "*Grow in faith and Live in hope with Lasallian hearts on fire.*"

ACTS OF THE CHAPTER - CHAPTER SECRETARY

The process of the formal ratification of the Acts of the Chapter was undertaken systematically. Most significantly, the Acts include ratification of

- District Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022
- District Statutes
- Financial Viability Resolution

The Acts of the Chapter are recorded in Section 3 of the Chapter Report.

FORMAL APPOINTMENTS - BROTHER RICKY LAGUDA

Brother Ricky Laguda presented the following formal appointment letters on behalf of Brother Robert Schieler, Brother Superior:

- The appointment of Brother David to the position of Brother Visitor of ANZPPNG.
- The appointment of Brother Timothy Peter to the position of Auxiliary Visitor of ANZPPNG.

The appointments were acknowledged by acclamation.



Above: (From left to right) Brothers David Hawke, Ricky Laguda, & Timothy Peter.

CHAPTER CLOSURE - BROTHER DAVID HAWKE

Brother David concluded his final address by quoting Frank Lowy, *"We dreamt of big dreams and worked incredibly hard to make things happen"*, and asked Brothers to work hard to make things happen in the District.

Brother David asked all to continue the Mission with a *burning zeal with the spirit of faith, believing that there is a future.*

Brother David thanked Brother Ricky Laguda for the development of the PARC 42 key document which had been instrumental in the development of the Strategic Plan and thanked all for the contribution made and their fraternal engagement with the Chapter program.

The full text of Brother David's closing address is printed in Appendix 7.

CONCLUSION

Tracy concluded the Chapter by encouraging the Brothers to *imagine what's possible and move forward with hope and zeal.*

The Chapter concluded with recitation of the official Chapter Prayer.



Above: (From left to right) Julie Alibrandi, Br John Cantwell & Br John Pill.



Above: (From left to right) Brothers John Francis Gari, Gary Wilson & Lewis Harwood.



Above: (From left to right) Merv McCormack, Br Vincent Keating & Br Ambrose Payne.



Above: (From left to right) Br David Hawke & Peter Cartwright.

SECTION THREE

ACTS OF THE CHAPTER

The following Resolutions constitute the formal Acts of the Chapter. The numbers after each resolution refer, in order, to:

- Those in favour
- Those against
- Abstentions

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

The Chapter RESOLVES that the following administrative arrangements be put in place:

- *That Tracy Adams be appointed Chapter Secretary*
- *That Ms Julie Alibrandi and Ms Kate Mason be appointed recorders for the Chapter*
- *That the process of electing four Members and four Substitute Members for the District Council be in accordance with the current District Statutes*
- *That the Returning Officers for the District Council election process be Ms Julie Alibrandi and Ms Kate Mason.*
- *That, with the exception of (a) the election of District Council Members and (b) where a motion for a secret vote is passed, voting be by show of hands*

Carried 27.0.0

ADDRESS OF THE BROTHER VISITOR

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Chapter receive the Address of the Brother Visitor.

Carried 27.0.0

LEADERSHIP OF THE BROTHER VISITOR

The Chapter RESOLVES to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of the Brother Visitor, Brother David Hawke, over the past four years.

Endorsed by acclamation

DISTRICT CHAPTER REPORTS

The Chapter RESOLVES that the following Reports be received:

- *Mission Assembly Report*
- *Lasallian Mission Council Report*
- *Finance Report*
- *Child Safe Policy / Practice and Redress Report*

Carried 27.0.0

CHILD SAFE POLICY & PRACTICE

The Chapter RESOLVES to reaffirm the commitment of the District to:

- *Implement policies and practices to ensure the Safety of Children and Vulnerable adults,*
- *Implement the Safeguarding Standards developed by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL),*
- *Undertake professional development and set up systems to ensure compliance with Safeguarding Standards applicable in all Sectors of the District.*

Carried 27.0.0

DISTRICT PLAN 2018-2022

The Chapter RESOLVES that the District Plan 2018-2022 as finalised by the Chapter be adopted.

Carried 27.0.0

DISTRICT STATUTES

The Chapter RESOLVES that the updated District Statutes be approved.

Carried 27.0.0

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Chapter RESOLVES to authorise the Brother Visitor and District Council to give consideration to a wide range of measures and to implement those required to secure the financial viability of the District.

Carried 27.0.0

REPORT OF THE CHAPTER TO THE BROTHER SUPERIOR

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor, Brother David Hawke, be authorised to validate the official record of this Chapter and to report its proceedings to the Brother Superior as provided in the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Rule, Art. 141

Carried 27.0.0

APPENDICES

CHAPTER REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Appendix 1: Chapter Program

DAY ONE - SUNDAY, 8 JULY 2018

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 3:30pm - 3:35pm | HOST WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - Br Bill Sullivan fms |
| 3:35pm - 3:40pm | WELCOME - Br David Hawke |
| 3:40pm - 3:50pm | OPENING PRAYER - Br Lewis Harwood (Conference Room) |
| 3:50pm - 4:00pm | CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION -Br Chris Gorringer <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ APPOINTMENT OF CHAPTER SECRETARY○ ENDORSEMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS |
| 4:00pm - 4:15pm | OVERVIEW OF THE GOALS OF THE CHAPTER - Chapter Secretary |
| 4:15pm - 4:45pm | KEYNOTE ADDRESS - BROTHERS TODAY - Br Peter Carroll fms |
| 5:00pm - 6:00pm | MASS - Fr John O'Connor |
| 6:00pm | DINNER |

DAY TWO - MONDAY, 9 JULY 2018

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00am - 8:40am | BREAKFAST |
| 8:45am - 9:00am | MORNING PRAYER - Papua New Guinea - Br Rick Gaffney (Chapel) |
| 9:00am - 9:30am | BR VISITOR'S REPORT - Br David Hawke |
| 9:30am - 10:00am | REFLECTION AND DISCERNMENT ON THE BR VISITOR'S REPORT - Chris Barrett |
| 10:00am - 10:30am | MISSION ASSEMBLY REPORT - Tracy Adams |
| 10:30am - 11:00am | MORNING TEA |

DAY TWO - MONDAY, 9 JULY 2018 (Cont'd)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 11:00am - 11:45am | LASALLIAN MISSION SERVICES - Merv McCormack <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ REPORT PRESENTATION○ OPEN FEEDBACK - Chris Barrett |
| 11:45am - 12:45pm | DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT - Peter Cartwright <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ REPORT PRESENTATION○ OPEN FEEDBACK - Chris Barrett |
| 12:45pm - 1:30pm | LUNCH |
| 1:30pm - 3:30pm | PRESENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STRATEGIC PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1:30pm - 2:00pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WHAT IS TRULY STRATEGIC? - Chris Barrett○ OVERVIEW - SETTING THE SCENE - Tracy Adams○ THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN PROFILE - Tracy AdamsTHE CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS - Tracy Adams○ 2:00pm - 3:30pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TABLE DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK - Chris Barrett |
| 3:30pm - 4:00pm | AFTERNOON TEA |
| 4:00pm - 5:00pm | DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION - Br Chris Gorringer <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ APPROVAL OF DISTRICT STATUTES○ ELECTION OF DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| 5:00pm - 5:30pm | MASS - Fr John O'Connor |
| 5:30pm - 6:00pm | SOCIAL |
| 6:00pm - 7:00pm | DINNER |
| 7:00pm | MEETING OF THE NEW DISTRICT COUNCIL |

DAY THREE - TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2018

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00am - 8:40am | BREAKFAST |
| 8:45am - 9:00am | MORNING PRAYER - Pakistan - Br Shahzad Gill (Chapel) |
| 9:00am - 10:30am | CHILD SAFE POLICY / PRACTICE AND REDRESS - Tracy Adams / Br Ambrose Payne Life After the Royal Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ KEY RECOMMENDATIONS○ APPLICATION TO THE WHOLE DISTRICT○ TABLE DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK - Chris Barrett |
| 10:30am - 11:00am | MORNING TEA |
| 11:00am - 12:30pm | PERSONAL REFLECTION AND OPEN FORUM (Pre-reading: PARC 42) - Chapter Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TRENDS AND SHIFTS, LIGHTS AND SHADOWS○ AS WE CREATE OUR NEW REALITY...○ INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION○ TABLE DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK - Chris Barrett |
| 12:30pm - 1:30pm | LUNCH |
| 1:30pm - 3:00pm | DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN ENDORSEMENT - Tracy Adams <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ REVISIT UPDATES AND FEEDBACK○ OPEN FORUM - ANY FURTHER POINTS FOR CLARIFICATION○ PLAN TABLED FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BY VOTE |
| 3:00pm - 3:30pm | AFTERNOON TEA |
| 3:30pm - 5:00pm | PERSONAL REFLECTION TIME |
| 5:00pm - 6:00pm | MASS - Bishop Brian Mascord |
| 6:00pm | DINNER |
| 7:00pm - 8:30pm | ADDITIONAL SESSION IF REQUIRED |

DAY FOUR - WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2018

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00am - 8:40am | BREAKFAST |
| 8:45am - 9:00am | MORNING PRAYER - New Zealand - Br Patrick Lynch / Br Lewis Harwood (Chapel) |
| 9:00am - 9:30am | ACTS OF THE CHAPTER - FORMAL APPROVAL - Chapter Secretary |
| 9:30am - 10:00am | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 'THE WAY FORWARD' - Br Ricky Laguda |
| 10:00am - 10:30am | LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - Open Forum - Chris Barrett <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ SHARED REFLECTIONS |
| 10:30am - 11:00am | CHAPTER CLOSURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ CLOSING REMARKS - Br David Hawke◦ CONCLUSION, CHAPTER CLOSE, CHAPTER PRAYER - Chapter Secretary (Evaluation - Link to Electronic Evaluation) |
| 11:00am | MORNING TEA |

Appendix 2: Chapter Attendees

Delegates

1. Abrar, Shashi
2. Atif, Moon
3. Barrett, Gerald
4. Bashir, Sajid
5. Cantwell, John
6. Cooper, Bernard
7. Coyte, Garry
8. Cummins, Anthony
9. Gaffney, Richard
10. Gari, John Francis
11. Gill, Shahzad
12. Gorringer, Chris
13. Harwood, Lewis
14. Hawke, David
15. Higgins, Rory
16. John, Qumar
17. Keating, Vincent
18. Lynch, Patrick
19. McKeon, Mark
20. Ormerod, Kenneth
21. Payne, Ambrose
22. Peter, Tim
23. Pill, John
24. Toohey, Paul
25. Wilson, Gary
26. Yapo, Thomas Mabol
27. Zoanetti, Alphonso

Lay Partners

28. Tracy Adams
29. Peter Cartwright
30. Merv McCormack

Facilitator

31. Chris Barrett

Chaplain

32. Fr John O'Connor

Special Guests

33. Br Ricky Laguda - General Councillor PARC
34. Bishop Brian Mascord - Wollongong
35. Br Peter Carroll - Marist Brothers Provincial

Secretariat

36. Julie Alibrandi
37. Kate Mason

Appendix 3: Opening Address of the Brother Visitor

We gather here from the four Sectors of the District under the banner "The Promise of Vitality". While we have travelled far and wide to attend and represent four nations and a variety of ministries and communities let's keep very much in mind that this is a District Chapter so let's think District but very much aware that all that we achieve over these days will invite us to be open to application in the local context.

The Rule of the Brothers states: "The life of our Institute, along with the updating of its mission, constitute a never-ending series of creative acts inspired by fidelity, which at times, call for difficult commitments, as John Baptist de La Salle himself experienced." (Rule #160). This Chapter through its draft strategic plan invites us to update the mission and our life as Brothers. Reference in the Rule to a "never-ending series of creative acts" reminds me of the consultative process we have engaged in across the District laying a firm foundation for the Mission Assembly and the District Chapter.

Throughout the process, it has been made quite clear that nothing is set in concrete with this Chapter inviting all to be creative as we reflect upon the five strategic priorities in the days ahead. It has been very clear throughout the process that the District Chapter is the decision-making body as we plan for the future and that does not just mean "rubber stamping!"

I welcome each of you to the District Chapter.

Welcome to Brother Ricky Laguda, General Councilor and Brother Peter Carroll, Provincial of the Marist Brothers who will deliver our keynote address. Welcome to Brothers Chris Gorringer and Shahzad George Gill, Auxiliary Visitors and Brother Tim Peter the incoming Auxiliary Visitor.

The Mission Assembly and District Chapter are linked by the presence of the Lasallian Mission Council with us. Welcome to Merv McCormack, Executive Director of the Lasallian Mission Council and members of LMC. Welcome to Tracy Adams, Chair of the Preparatory Committee and Chris Barrett, our facilitator who has accompanied us in this process.

Fr John O'Connor AFSC of the Diocese of Christchurch is our chaplain. Welcome to John who as you know attended our last District Chapter.

The Business School of the University of Melbourne has a slogan which reads; "Don't try to predict the future, prepare for it." This District Chapter is about preparing for the future not only for the next four years but beyond.

Lasallians, we gather "together and by association" ever mindful that "Lord the work is yours."

"Live Jesus in our hearts!"

Appendix 4: Brother Visitor's Report

The Rule in article 137 reminds us that the District Chapter "evaluates all aspects of the life of the District." This Chapter takes on a different dynamic to previous ones as it builds on a District wide consultation process and Mission Assembly which itself took the former District Plan and developed new strategic priorities for the next four years. This calls for a different report which I see as some reflections on the past four years but also an occasion to report on the outcome of the Acts of the 2015 District Chapter. I am also mindful that documentation you have received, includes reports that were presented at the Mission Assembly. We keep in mind last evenings reminder that we gather under the banner; "the promise of vitality."

I will comment firstly on the Acts of the last District Chapter, offer some reflections on the current District Administration offering a few thoughts as we move into the next four years and conclude with a personal reflection and appreciations.

Life of the Brother in the 21st Century

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor and District Council, using the expertise of others, will develop a model of community leadership to meet the needs of each Sector of the District and that this will be reflected in the District Plan.

Carried 24.0.0

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor and District Council, in collaboration with the Lasallian Mission Council will explore different expressions of community, recognizing the diversity of the District, where necessary.

Carried 24.0.0

The District Council planned a colloquium on leadership to take a closer look at the Chapter resolution. While the traditional form of community with a resident Br Director was affirmed the suggestion that communities be clustered with one Director responsible for several locations surfaced but has not yet been realised mainly due to personnel challenges. The District administration has not delivered on this resolution.

With regard to "different expressions of community" I see the presence of Lasallian Volunteers in some communities as an expression of "collaboration with the Lasallian Mission Council" as an expression of the resolution. The Lasallian Community Melbourne was an expression of a different form of community in so far as Brothers and young Lasallians were involved either as residential or non-residential members. It was anticipated that "Parmenie" at 16 Roma Ave, Kensington may be an expression of a different form of community inclusive of young adult

Lasallians on a non-residential basis but this did not eventuate. Several communities reflect the international character of the Institute.

Association for the Educational service of the poor

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor, Lasallian Mission Council and District Council will give consideration to the discussions of this Chapter to review, edit and modify the District Plan 2013-2016 – Focus 1 – Association for Mission.

Carried 24.0.0

Formation

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor, Lasallian Mission Council and District Council will give consideration to the discussions of this Chapter to review, edit and modify the District Plan 2013-2016 – Focus 3 – Formation and Focus 4 – Youth Engagement to strengthen and create programmes for formation of Brothers and Partners.

Carried 24.0.0

Government

The Chapter RESOLVES that in line with the practice of the Institute, each geographical area of the District will be known as a 'Sector' with a designated 'Sector Co-ordinator'.

Carried 24.0.0

The Chapter RESOLVES that the function of the Sectors and the role of the Brother Coordinator will be developed by the Brother Visitor in consultation with the Sector Coordinators and the Brothers of each Sector and submitted to Brother Superior General for approval.

Carried 24.0.0

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor and the District Council accept the responsibility of finalizing the revision of the District Handbook.

Carried 24.0.0

The Chapter RESOLVES that the Brother Visitor and the District Council finalise the District Statutes and submit them to Brother Superior General for approval.

Carried 24.0.0

Stewardship of Resources

The Chapter RESOLVES that the original objects of the Lasallian Foundation be reviewed and clear guidelines be drawn up and discussed with the Lasallian Foundation Board and Chief Executive Officer.

Carried 24.0.0

The Trustees in collaboration with the Board of the Lasallian Foundation actioned this resolution in the first instance with the Lasallian Mission Council becoming involved and is now the Member of the Lasallian Foundation.

Reflections

Bearing in mind the theme of the Mission Assembly and the Chapter; "Promise of Vitality" I offer a few reflections as part of this report.

From our origins "the purpose of this Institute is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it." (Rule #3).

You have probably heard me say in various contexts across the District that "we are on about Mission." Hence a priority back in September 2014 was the appointment of an Executive Director of the Lasallian Mission Council. Lasallian Mission Services under the leadership of Merv McCormack is a District success story and indeed an example of vitality.

Mission delivery has been enhanced across the District through formation programmes, youth ministry, Lasallian Volunteers, Principal support, mentoring and twinning programmes. The Lasallian Mission Council continues to evolve as it takes responsibility for Mission and at the Sector level, Mission Action Committees continue to develop giving priority to mission in the four countries.

If I were to list what I see as examples of the vitality of the District, in addition to what I have just stated, I add: the vitality of the mission across four countries in schools, teachers' colleges, yourtown, catechetical centre, the Lasallian Foundation, Boards of Directors, the quality of CEO's and Principals, the fidelity of the Brothers, the multi-faith dimension of schools in Pakistan, the presence of young Brothers and candidates in initial formation, participation in Buttimer and other international formation programmes plus District and local formation programmes, the Gerard Rummery Institute, Brothers without Borders and Lasallians without limits and you may add others!

I remarked at the Mission Assembly and mention here for the consideration of the Chapter that the 45th General Chapter reminded us of the Institute's emphasis on evangelization and catechesis. I would hope that our Lasallian educational institutions give priority to the proclamation of the Gospel although we are aware of the challenges this presents in the Sector of Pakistan, St Albert's Catechetical Centre at Khushpur being the exception. Evangelization and catechesis did not rate a mention in the District wide consultation in preparation for the Chapter.

Structures such as the District Council, Lasallian Mission Council, Sector Councils and Mission Action committees along with the interaction of Lasallians within and across Sectors have served to cement District identity; one District, four Sectors. This augurs well in terms of the "Promise of Vitality." Our identity as a District has blossomed and indicates a "promise of vitality."

Brother Alvaro when Superior General used to say often; "our greatest treasure is to be Brothers." I hope Brothers we all believe that. The Annual Visits to communities and especially the time spent with each Brother individually are moments I cherish and appreciate. The fidelity of the Brothers across the District is a blessing, the presence of vocations from Pakistan and Papua New Guinea is a blessing as is the perseverance of our young Brothers.

The first chapter of Circular 469 is titled "Life of the Brother in the 21st Century" and strategic priority 5 in our proposed District Plan is titled "Brothers Today." While Brothers were involved in the District wide consultation and some Brothers present at the Mission Assembly, this Chapter is the time for the Brothers to look closely at the life of the Brother in the 21st century. The fifth chapter of the Rule focuses on the spiritual life of the Brothers, Brothers plural and yet in all the consultations this did not rate a mention. One of the treasures of this District is the fidelity of the Brothers and the fine example of the senior Brothers. However, across the District a re-reading of the fifth chapter and a recommitment to the spiritual life is called for. General Chapter after General Chapter makes this call on us. Does being a Brother in the 21st century call us to get back to basics in areas such as personal prayer, spiritual reading, daily Eucharist, faith sharing to name a few? Is initial formation a stage young men go through and once they get into ministry the basics are not a priority? After all the Rule says; "Whatever their professional responsibilities, the Brothers make sure they devote the time necessary to their prayer" (Rule #68).

"The lifelong commitment of the Brothers to one another and to the educational service of the poor defines the specific nature of the Institute." (Rule #11). The following articles remind the Brothers of their commitment to education and their concern for young people especially the poor. The second chapter of the Rule is on mission. I salute the Brothers of the District from the youngest to the most senior who are engaged in the mission across the four Sectors. There are Brothers also whose mission is to serve the other Brothers in the community. However, there are a number of Brothers who could be engaged in some form of ministry, even volunteer work

who choose to disengage and this is concerning.

During the past four years the Royal Commission and its recommendations have been at the forefront of the public arena and Church in Australia but has served to remind all across the District that the safety and well-being of children and vulnerable adults is a top priority for all Lasallians. And recently legislation on Redress and the four volumes' report of the Truth Justice and Healing Council highlights once again this important area of professional standards.

Volume one of the TJHC report offers reflections of all the Council members. The Hon Neville Owen, Chair reflected; "How could this tragedy have come about? What happened is the polar opposite of all that is central to our Christian tradition. For the Church, by its own failings, to have become enmeshed in a grave betrayal of children is inexcusable." (TJHC Report, Vol 1, P.9). One can substitute De La Salle Brothers for Church.

The Hon Neville Owen said elsewhere; "while we must listen to our past we ought not be captured by it" (TJHC Report Vol 1, P.10). A Lasallian Partner said to me during the Mission Assembly; "we must not be paralysed by the Royal Commission". As a District and particularly in Australia, we have listened to the past, we have been compassionate towards survivors both pastorally and financially. We move forward in the hope that what occurred in some of our institutions will never occur again and that children and vulnerable adults will always feel safe in our institutions. The District is committed to the safeguarding standards as proposed by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd.

No Church Authority can deal alone with professional standards matters. One cannot underestimate the work of Br Ambrose Payne as the District Professional Standards Officer. His availability, professionalism, relationship to survivors and skills as a negotiator have been second to none and I am sure he has given of time and talent at personal cost. Two bodies advise the Visitor on professional standards matters. I thank the Consultative Committee and the District Council for their advice on very sensitive matters. I appreciate also that these people have always respected confidentiality.

Moving Ahead

In the Chapter documentation there is a record of my "Seizing the Moment" presentation at the Mission Assembly which I can take as read.

As we consider the "Promise of Vitality" I raise a few matters. The Tercentenary Year also named the "Year of Lasallian Vocations" is an ideal time to take the work of this Chapter and the preceding Mission Assembly into the four Sectors of the District. I urge all of you to own the

outcomes of the Chapter and play your part in the implementation phase which begins after we depart.

While three Sectors have given top priority to the promotion of Brothers' and other Lasallian Vocations and accepting that there have been efforts in Australia, that Sector needs to give this ministry a higher profile and especially during the Tercentenary Year. Let's hope the new initiative yet to be announced in Australia will bear fruit.

In religious life circles these days there is much discussion about "emerging futures" and conversations are held around governance among other issues. During this Chapter we elect a District Council with the Visitor, if he chooses able to appoint one member. I ask you to reflect deeply on who you will elect to the District Council. We need to think not only of the next four years but also beyond that time frame and ask ourselves "what is the emerging future?".

Yes, I value and expect wisdom and experience but I will also value the presence of some new life on the Council expressed by the younger Brothers. The Rule reminds us in article 99.4 about the participation of younger Brothers in "decision-making bodies."

When I completed my term as Visitor on 31 December 2004, the District was in a very good financial position with an investment portfolio laying a good foundation for the care of the Brothers and the mission well into the future. When I commenced as Visitor on 8 September 2014, the District was facing new financial challenges due to the ever-increasing costs of legal settlements and now with the approaching next four years our financial position is a major concern which this Chapter must face boldly and courageously. This is the highest decision-making body in the District and I expect that you will give very clear directions on our financial stewardship to the incoming administration. Later this morning Br Chris and Peter Cartwright will present the District Financial Report which will serve to better inform you.

Personal

I read and reflect often on Ecclesiasticus 2nd 1-18:

1. My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal.
2. Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.
3. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days
4. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient.
5. since gold is tested in the fire, and the chosen in the furnace of humiliation.
6. Trust him and he will uphold you, follow a straight path and hope in him.

7. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not turn aside, for fear you fall.
8. You who fear the Lord, trust him, and you will not be robbed of your reward.
9. You who fear the Lord, hope for those good gifts of his, everlasting joy and mercy.
10. Look at the generations of old and see: whoever trusted in the Lord and was put to shame?
Or whoever, steadfastly fearing him, was forsaken? Or whoever called to him and was ignored?
11. For the Lord is compassionate and merciful, he forgives sins and saves in the time of distress.
12. Woe to faint hearts and listless hands, and to the sinner who treads two paths.
13. Woe to the listless heart that has no faith, for such will have no protection.
14. Woe to you who have lost the strength to endure; what will you do at the Lord's visitation?
15. Those who fear the Lord do not disdain his words, and those who love him keep his ways.
16. Those who fear the Lord do their best to please him, and those who love him will find satisfaction in the Law.
17. Those who fear the Lord keep their hearts prepared and humble themselves in his presence.
18. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, not into any human clutches; for as his majesty is, so too is his mercy.

I know other people who have been or are in leadership who turn to this passage often! The passage is realistic, calls on the spirit of Faith and urges me not to give up on hope. The virtue of hope is the very foundation of the "promise of vitality."

To be in leadership in the Institute and Church during these times is "an ordeal" as the scripture says. But somehow God gives one the grace "not to be alarmed."

As you are aware I had a major health issue just on two years ago and once you get the big "C" it is always in the back of your mind. During the time of my illness and along with a strong advice from my professional supervisor I learned a little more about self-care. But it is always a challenge. Israel Folau, the great Wallaby rugby player took some time off last year and said; "at the end of the day, looking after your well-being is more important than playing any game." Good advice I say.

I have to say, that one of the "ordeals" for me has been the challenge of trying to accompany Brothers who have been the subject of allegations.

Some, but not all have moved on and this is a matter of constant concern. I listen and listen to these Brothers but I do not have answers. All I can do is hold these men up to God in prayer in the hope that they have better days ahead.

It was rather presumptuous of me to enrol in a four-month's sabbatical programme beginning

in August this year which is now on hold as given my reappointment I did not feel it appropriate to be away from the District for four months. However, in discussion with Br Robert Schieler, Superior General, I am taking leave from 14 August to 16 September this year.

Appreciation


In the past four years the District has had two Auxiliary Visitors; Br Chris Gorringer and Br Shahzad George Gill. Both continued from their previous appointments with Br Chris being Acting Visitor during that period and Br Shahzad holding leadership positions in the Sector of Pakistan prior to it formally becoming a Sector of the District. Come 7 September both conclude their appointments with Br Timothy Peter becoming the sole Auxiliary Visitor with Sector Coordinators in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Pakistan.

Having been away from the District for 10 years to have the experience of both Brothers as Auxiliaries assisted me greatly in the transition back to the District. Br Chris also continued as District Bursar. I valued his capacity for work and expertise in educational, financial and legal matters. His particular focus on PNG contributed greatly to the mission there and the support of the Brothers. As Chair of the Lasallian Mission Council he guided this body as it developed into an incorporated entity. Likewise, his membership of various Boards represented not only their interests but also the interests of the Trustees. He chaired the Economic Council. He also represented the Visitor on a number of bodies such as the CRA Taskforce on Redress and the SAACS Board in Adelaide. Various requests were asked of him often and he was always ready to oblige.

As the Sector of Pakistan eased into the District Br Shahzad's experience and membership of the District Council assisted not only the Visitor but also others to empathise with the unique characteristics of the Institute in a multi-faith society. Br Shahzad endeared himself to many people across the District by his visits to various places.

The solidarity of the three other Sectors with Pakistan must be attributed to Br Shahzad's presence and involvement. Under his leadership the Sector of Pakistan has grown with a steady number of young men joining the Institute. His support of sending Brothers from Pakistan to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand has been a blessing for those Sectors and contributed to that District identity to which I referred earlier.

I have valued the support and advice of the District Council and appreciate that they have kept matters confidential when requested. While the District Council deals with a number of issues, a fraternal spirit underpinned all their deliberations.



The Lasallian Mission Council, Sector Councils and Mission Action Committees have all contributed to the Vitality of the District; I appreciate their contribution.

I appreciate the work of the Economic Council and the professional approach they take towards their work. I thank all engaged in working in the Provincial Office for both the Trustees and Lasallian Mission Services. And I want to acknowledge the work of Kate Mason who is not only my Executive Assistant but assistant to all who call upon her expertise which she shares so generously.

Appendix 5: District Council 2018 -2022

Appendix 7: Brother Visitor's Closing Remarks

President:

- Br David Hawke (Brother Visitor)

Council Members:

- Br Timothy Peter (Auxiliary Visitor)
- Br Garry Coyte
- Br Shahzad Gill
- Br Christopher Gorringer
- Br Lewis Harwood
- Br Mark McKeon

Substitutes:

- Br Sajid Bashir
- Br John Cantwell
- Br Rory Higgins
- Br Kumar John

ANZPPNG District Plan 2018-2022

Endorsed by the District Chapter on 10 July 2018

STRATEGIC PLAN IN OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC INTENTS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 FIDELITY TO MISSION

Fidelity to the Lasallian charism requires our commitment to the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church and assumes a spirit of faith and zeal to best address the needs of the young, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

- Authentic Delivery of the Lasallian Mission
- Mission Delivery through Association
- Place-based Models of Mission Delivery
- Giving Voice through Lasallian Advocacy and Social Justice
- Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Lasallian Vocation

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 FORMATION

Informed by the core values of faith, service and community, formation under the leadership of the Gerard Rummery Institute provides the opportunity for development, both personal and professional, of people of all faiths in ways which bring the Lasallian mission to life.

- Adaptive Lasallian Formation Programs
- Formation in Action
- Engaging Young People

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The identity and vitality of the Lasallian mission will be sustained by faith, strong stewardship of resources both human and financial, a commitment to creativity, innovation and partnering, and the utilisation of contemporary technologies and business practices.

- Financial Sustainability
- People, Positioning and Partnerships
- Contemporary Business Management Systems

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The development of current and future leaders, new governance paradigms, and adaptive organisational structures are fundamental to authentic Lasallian association for the delivery of mission across all Sectors of the District.

- Vibrant and Sustainable Mission
- Building Governance and Leadership Capacity
- Risk Management

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 BROTHERS TODAY

Today's world, especially that of young people and the poor, requires authentic witnesses of Christian faithfulness, fraternal relationships and a Gospel life with and for others. (Circular 469)

- Spiritual Life
- Identity of the Brothers
- Vocation of the Brother
- Expressions of Community Life
- Brothers' Formation
- Community Leadership
- Health and Wellbeing

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 FIDELITY TO MISSION

"Ask God to be good guides for the young people confided to you, through the inspiration you receive through God's assistance, and by your fidelity to doing your work." MR197.3

Fidelity to the Lasallian charism requires our commitment to the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church and assumes a spirit of faith and zeal to best address the needs of the young, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

| STRATEGIC INTENT | | OPERATIONAL GOALS | |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 1.1 | Authentic Delivery of the Lasallian Mission | 1.1.1 | Utilise human and financial resources to further the mission in areas of highest disadvantage in the District inclusive of twinning. |
| | | 1.1.2 | Develop Lasallian works within global/societal realities including multi-faith, no faith and multi-cultural contexts. |
| | | 1.1.3 | Develop an evidence-based instrument to enable the discernment of each work of the District as authentically Lasallian. |
| 1.2 | Mission Delivery through Association | 1.2.1 | Facilitate the sharing of human resources between works across the District and internationally. |
| | | 1.2.2 | Develop a youth participation framework to engage young Lasallians in mission. |
| | | 1.2.3 | Utilise digital platforms which increase connectivity, collaboration and exchange of information and resources. |
| | | 1.2.4 | Develop strategic partnerships among a range of entities including inter-congregational, Diocesan educational authorities and inter-denominational groups. |
| 1.3 | Place-based Models of Mission Delivery | 1.3.1 | Develop viability criteria to assess and prioritise new and existing works. |
| | | 1.3.2 | Develop models of mission delivery which are adaptive and responsive to each local context. |
| | | 1.3.3 | Evaluate existing programs to assess adequacy and impact. |
| 1.4 | Giving Voice through Lasallian Advocacy and Social Justice | 1.4.1 | Undertake advocacy to promote the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and at-risk communities. |
| 1.5 | Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults | 1.5.1 | Implement Catholic Professional Standards (CPSL) across the District. |
| | | 1.5.2 | Develop a child engagement strategy, including child friendly information, communication and reporting pathways. |
| | | 1.5.3 | Implement professional development specifically focused on child safety for those engaged in Governance and Leadership. |
| | | 1.5.4 | Develop an annual audit schedule for the review of policies and practices across works. |
| 1.6 | Lasallian Vocation | 1.6.1 | Develop and promote the Lasallian vocation to attract people with skills for all roles related to the mission. |
| | | 1.6.2 | Promote careers within the Lasallian mission. |

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 LASALLIAN FORMATION

“Reflect on what Saint Paul says, that it is God who has established in the Church apostles, prophets, and teachers, and you will be convinced that God is also the one who has established you in your work.” MR201.1

Informed by the core values of faith, service and community, formation under the leadership of the Gerard Rummary Institute provides the opportunity for development, both personal and professional, of people of all faiths in ways which bring the Lasallian mission to life.

| STRATEGIC INTENT | | OPERATIONAL GOALS | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 2.1 | Adaptive Lasallian Formation Programs | 2.1.1 | Promote an informed understanding of Lasallian formation. |
| | | 2.1.2 | Develop a Lasallian Professional Learning Framework to integrate structures, pedagogy and programs. |
| | | 2.1.3 | Implement an annual program of formation for all those in governance and leadership. |
| | | 2.1.4 | Co-design, develop and deliver culturally appropriate and adaptive Lasallian formation programs. |
| | | 2.1.5 | Increase access to all Lasallian formation programs by utilising a range of modalities. |
| | | 2.1.6 | Utilise global partnerships across the Institute for professional development opportunities. |
| | | 2.1.7 | Source sponsored professional development opportunities to deepen capacity for leadership across the District. |
| | | 2.1.8 | Establish an on-line repository of Lasallian resources available to support self-paced formation. |
| 2.2 | Formation in Action | 2.2.1 | Utilise the experience of those who participate in extended formation opportunities to contribute to formation in the District. |
| | | 2.2.2 | Consolidate the practice by each MAC of supporting and guiding formation activities and the setting of participation expectations. |
| | | 2.2.3 | Provide multicultural and inter-faith immersion opportunities to deepen personal formation. |
| 2.3 | Engaging Young People | 2.3.1 | Deliver a range of formation programs for young Lasallians. |
| | | 2.3.2 | Support youth ministry and volunteer opportunities across the District. |

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

"Jesus Christ has sent you, and the Church, whose ministers you are, employs you, so bring all necessary attention to fulfilling this service with as much zeal and success as the saints have done." MR199.2

The identity and vitality of the Lasallian mission will be sustained by faith, strong stewardship of resources both human and financial, a commitment to creativity, innovation and partnering, and the utilisation of contemporary technologies and business practices.

| STRATEGIC INTENT | | OPERATIONAL GOALS | |
|------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| 3.1 | Financial Sustainability | 3.1.1 | Realise cash from the sale of District property assets. |
| | | 3.1.2 | Improve financial management practices and KPI reporting across each Sector to deliver transparency, rigor, accountability and due diligence. |
| | | 3.1.3 | Access new income pathways inclusive of partnerships, sponsorships, philanthropy and government funding. |
| | | 3.1.4 | Develop financial models and practices to secure the financial viability and sustainability. |
| 3.2 | People, Positioning and Partnerships | 3.2.1 | Develop human resource models which enable the recruitment, remuneration and retention of suitably qualified and experienced workforce particularly in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. |
| | | 3.2.2 | Develop a Sector alumni network to provide opportunities and connections to individuals and works. |
| | | 3.2.3 | Develop a sustainable model for resourcing of Lasallian volunteer programs across all Sectors. |
| | | 3.2.4 | Develop a brand strategy to inspire and encourage engagement. |
| | | 3.2.5 | Develop and coordinate District-wide activities to celebrate significant Lasallian events. |
| | | 3.2.6 | Develop a communication strategy to articulate a compelling and cohesive narrative of the realities of the poor and Mission. |
| 3.3 | Contemporary Business Management Systems | 3.3.1 | Utilise contemporary technologies to provide cost effective communications and business systems across the District. |
| | | 3.3.2 | Develop collective purchasing opportunities within each Sector and the District. |
| | | 3.3.3 | Develop local business/community partnerships which underpin works financially and through the provision of in-kind services. |

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

“Act in such a way, by your good and wise leadership of those entrusted to you, to obtain your reward and your glory”.
MR208.3

The development of current and future leaders, new governance paradigms, and adaptive organisational structures are fundamental to authentic Lasallian association for the delivery of mission across all Sectors of the District.

| STRATEGIC INTENT | | OPERATIONAL GOALS | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 4.1 | Vibrant and Sustainable Mission | 4.1.1 | Streamline District governance and leadership structures. |
| | | 4.1.2 | Communicate District structures, services and personnel to encourage awareness of and engagement with the Mission. |
| | | 4.1.3 | Amalgamate MACs and Sector Councils. |
| | | 4.1.4 | Recruit and appoint personnel with skills and competencies required for leadership and membership of MACs. |
| | | 4.1.5 | Implement annual business plans developed by MACs in each Sector. |
| | | 4.1.6 | Develop a model for lay participation on the District Council. |
| | | 4.1.7 | Investigate the viability of LMC as a Public Juridic Person. |
| 4.2 | Building Governance and Leadership Capacity | 4.2.1 | Develop and implement a leadership development program for Brothers from all Sectors. |
| | | 4.2.2 | Develop and implement a skills matrix to identify and inform membership and development of Boards, MACs and committees. |
| | | 4.2.3 | Facilitate timely succession planning through targeted professional learning. |
| | | 4.2.4 | Promote opportunities for women in leadership roles across the District. |
| | | 4.2.5 | Develop and implement a mentoring program within and across Sectors. |
| 4.3 | Risk Management | 4.3.1 | Develop and maintain a risk management model inclusive of risk appetite, risk identification and risk management strategies. |
| | | 4.3.2 | Assess and report on critical financial risks associated with issues such as legal liability, redress, funding changes and government policies across all Sectors. |
| | | 4.3.3 | Assess and report on critical risks associated with child and vulnerable adult safety and wellbeing. |

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 BROTHERS TODAY

"Entreat the God of hearts to make your heart and those of your Brothers one in the heart of Jesus". MD39.3

Today's world, especially that of young people and the poor, requires authentic witnesses of Christian faithfulness, fraternal relationships and a Gospel life with and for others. (Circular 469)

| STRATEGIC INTENT | | OPERATIONAL GOALS | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 5.1 | Spiritual Life | 5.1.1 | Strengthen and animate the spiritual life of the Brothers in the spirit of Chapter 5 of the Rule. |
| | | 5.1.2 | Promote opportunities to share spirituality and community life with people engaged in ministry. |
| 5.2 | Identity of the Brother | 5.2.1 | Promote the significance of the Brother in Lasallian works, the Church, and wider community. |
| | | 5.2.2 | Revitalise the confidence of the Brothers in their self concept, as Brothers to each other, and to the wider community. |
| 5.3 | Vocation of the Brother | 5.3.1 | Emphasise service of the poor as a key component of Brothers' vocation promotion in all four Sectors. |
| 5.4 | Expressions of Community Life | 5.4.1 | Strengthen and animate community life so that it reflects diversity in culture, personality and age. |
| | | 5.4.2 | Develop viability models for communities taking into account people, leadership and financial factors. |
| | | 5.4.3 | Develop new paradigms for community living inclusive of all Lasallians and members of other congregations. |
| 5.5 | Brothers' Formation | 5.5.1 | Develop and promote formation programs for all Brothers in theology, catechetics and shared Mission with Lasallian partners to enable them to fulfil their role in evangelisation. |
| | | 5.5.2 | Establish mentoring and accompaniment programs for all Brothers across the District, with a focus on young Brothers. |
| | | 5.5.3 | Develop personalised programs for young Brothers to prepare them on a professional and apostolic level including as members of decision-making bodies. |
| 5.6 | Community Leadership | 5.6.1 | Develop and implement a program for current and future Community Directors. |
| | | 5.6.2 | Strengthen financial acumen in the management of community finances. |
| | | 5.6.3 | Promote shared and delegated responsibility for leadership within communities. |
| 5.7 | Health and Wellbeing | 5.7.1 | Maintain appropriate support services and programs to provide for the health and wellbeing of Brothers of all ages. |
| | | 5.7.2 | Develop activities and options for senior Brothers that value their experience and wisdom. |

When the Mission Assembly concluded I remarked that the real work now begins and at the opening of this District Chapter I urged all the delegates to take ownership of the outcomes and apply them in the local context; the four Sectors of the District. At the age of 87, Sir Frank Lowry sold Westfield. When asked about his extraordinary achievement he remarked; "we dreamt big dreams and worked incredibly hard to make things happen." Let's work incredibly hard to make things happen out there in our vast District.

In her remarks late yesterday afternoon, Tracy Adams encouraged us to "continue to focus on where we want to go" and urged us to "make sure the future is what we want it to be."

The final chapter of our Rule; "Brothers Today" continues to inspire. "Imbued with the spirit he (Founder) bequeathed to us, and with the Partners who share our mission, we remain faithful to the living tradition of the Institute. In communion with all those who preceded us, we continue to respond with burning zeal to the calls of the Lord, of the Church and of the world for the glory of God." This Chapter under the banner of "the promise of vitality" has remained faithful to the living tradition of the Institute". The strategic plan invites us, to respond "with burning zeal" and we do that mindful of our spirit of Faith and that there is a future.


In the document PARC 42, Br Ricky expressed the hope that the viability and vitality instrument would "create opportunities for Brothers and Partners to dream of a future attuned to the signs of the times." This is what our approved strategic plan invites us to do, and it is in the implementation phase that I hope we will see that future realised.

The quote from Sir Frank Lowry regarding working "incredibly hard" applies to each of you as you engaged so productively in the work of the Chapter and, also in the prayer, Eucharist and meals. I did not hear one complaint about the schedule. All accommodated the schedule to get the work done. Thanks to each of you for your contribution during the Chapter and for many of course in the lead in time to it.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of a number of people whose involvement for an extended period of time laid the foundation for the Chapter. Br Ricky the PARC 42 working document "Viability and Vitality of the Lasallian Mission" is one of the key documents that launched our District into the Mission Assembly and District Chapter process. Your work on that document, your long trip here from Madrid to Hong Kong to Sydney, and your keynote address is indicative of the support and inspiration you give us as a General Councilor.

I thank the people who gave presentations over the past few days and also those who prepared and lead the prayer.

Without a doubt, all will agree when I express appreciation to the Chapter Preparatory Committee.



Brothers Lewis, Thomas, Chris, Merv McCormack, Julie Alibrandi and Tracy Adams along with Chris Barrett have put in countless hours at the Provincial Office and elsewhere leaving no stone unturned to conduct a process inclusive of four Sectors of the District. Each of you contributed beyond the call of duty and in addition to your full-time ministry. Why did you give so much time so generously? Because each of you expresses a passion for the mission and the future of the District which is catching. I express my deep gratitude to each of you.

As CEO of yourtown, it appears to me that Tracy works 24/7, but she took on the role as Chair of the Preparatory Committee and gave 110% effort. Likewise, she steered us so well through the past few days. Tracy, the District is indebted to you as a Lasallian whose zeal is an inspiration to us all.

Those of us who work alongside Kate Mason and I am sure all who have observed her work at the Chapter would describe her as a precious gem. The layout and presentation of the documents you received as soft and hard copy prior to and during the Chapter are all Kate's work. In the days prior to the Chapter I would arrive at the office and would ask Kate "did you stay all night". She worked countless additional hours preparing for the Chapter and, also worked overtime here these days to ensure that all worked like clockwork. Nothing has been too much trouble to you Kate, and you do all so cheerfully.

