

A Reflection by John Lamb, Principal 1996 to 2009 (written in October 2021)

In many ways my time spent as Principal of Trinity College was the highlight of my career of 46 years spent in Catholic Education. By the time I left the College in 2009 to enter into retirement I had spent 14 years as leader of the College and the school was then 28 years old.

When the Marist Brothers were invited to open the College they purposely chose the Beenleigh side of the highway, rather than the more affluent eastern side of the highway. It was here and in the surrounding suburbs that most good could be achieved in areas that socially and economically needed it most. I found it both refreshing and satisfying to work with families who actually appreciated the work of the College Staff.

It was here I believe that the spirit that pervaded the College had its inception. The influence of the Marist Brothers and their charisms, and the appreciative parents and students, all facilitated by a dedicated and generous Staff were the synthesis that enabled the College to present meaningful, effective and long lasting Catholic education to the community.

During my time at Trinity we were fortunate that student enrolment increased from 500 students to 850 students, which meant an increase in (mostly) young and enthusiastic staff, a wider curriculum, improved conditions for staff and students, and improved resources in the classroom. Increased numbers means increased finances which means improvements in most areas of College life.

I witnessed the College develop a strong Learning Support area for our most needy students (built on a great foundation of the famous Integration Unit), a deepening of spiritual conviction through interaction with Marist charisms and a dedicated Religious Education staff, and a big move into Vocational Education as a worthy career pursuit for at least half of our student body.

When finances improved I opted not to move into a new building program but decided to pursue much more modest projects that would improve the working conditions of both Staff and students. The College Office was redesigned, the auditorium closed in and carpeted, air conditioning in all classrooms and staff rooms, covered walkways joined all the College buildings, and the oval was extended and fenced. A new Home Economics room, a music room, new Library rooms, and refurbished staff rooms were completed. Also a new porte cochere and College entrance and gates, a roof over the basketball courts, new covered netball courts, new boundary fences and a student car park, and an Aboriginal Garden, were constructed. The old house was refurbished and a full time security person employed. College grounds were enhanced and a new block of land purchased for the construction of an approved Trade Training Centre and Staff car parking.

But much more than all these structural improvements I believe the College community, students, staff and parents, continued to foster and embrace a healthy, happy and productive spirit - the Spirit of Trinity. I am proud of having being a part of this Spirit over fourteen years in the history of the College.

John Lamb
Oct, 2021