

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND

January - December 2015



Sr Marie Centre, St Plus X Adamstown

A Message from Bishop Bill

As many of you will know by now, I am a lover of learning and a believer in the potential of Catholic education to bring positive change to the lives of individuals and communities.

There are many dimensions to education – encouragement and support from families, students’ openness to learning and opportunity, the quality of teaching, peer support, resources and facilities.

This annual report of the Diocesan Schools Building Fund addresses the latter, in ways which I find heartening and even exciting!

The work of maintaining and improving the facilities in our 56 schools is constant and this report indicates that students and parents – the key stakeholders – can be confident that we are taking care of our assets.

We are doing more than that, however. We are setting the bar high in terms of plans for new, architect-designed schools in communities where there is a definite demand. We have enhanced existing schools with new, state of the art facilities, and perhaps the epitome of this is the new contemporary learning facility, the Damascus Centre, at St Paul’s High School, Booragul.

Director’s Message

This Diocesan Schools Building Fund annual report is satisfying, in terms of the achievements it documents, and encouraging, in terms of the confidence it evinces in the education we offer.

There is always a need to balance maintenance of, and improvements to, existing facilities and the provision of new facilities. This report affords ample evidence of both.

This year, we have announced that two of our junior secondary schools – St Mary’s, Gateshead and St Joseph’s, Lochinvar – are preparing to serve students from Years 7 to 12. This requires additional classrooms and specialist facilities which are being provided.

Also, new secondary schools will be built at Chisholm, allowing students to progress from St Aloysius Catholic Primary to the Catholic College next door, and Medowie, serving the Port Stephens and Myall Coast areas.

At the same time, facilities that are less glamorous but just as important – such as halls, covered outdoor learning areas, lifts and

Meanwhile, additional facilities at many primary and secondary schools continue to appear, all under the auspices of the Diocesan Schools Building Fund. I visit schools frequently, and while there is far more to a school than ‘the plant’, I believe each of us works, and learns, more effectively in surroundings that are conducive to the task.

Schools are complex communities, and projects that lead to school improvement – whether a new covered walkway or a new hall – can be community-building. Fundraising, working bees, official openings and open days are all opportunities for students, families and staff to share in the enjoyment of learning and of being one. And “where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20).

I commend all who have contributed to this report and, more significantly, to the effectiveness of education in our schools.



+ William Wright

Most Reverend William Wright,
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

of course, classrooms – are in progress. Many of our schools have long histories, usually originating with a religious congregation, and this history is valued and protected.

These works are the outcome of real partnerships – of families, parish and school communities, State and Commonwealth Governments, and the Catholic Development Fund.

Families’ contributions through the Diocesan Schools Building Fund have substantial and tangible impacts on students’ education. This report supports this assertion and should reassure parents that from Kindergarten to Year 12, their children are the beneficiaries of the faith they have shown in Catholic education.



Ray Collins

Ray Collins,
Director of Schools

Introduction to the Diocesan Schools Building Fund

The Diocesan Schools Building Fund (DSBF) is a reporting structure for all income and expenditure related to building capital works and land acquisition for diocesan school purposes. The Diocesan Family & School Building Levy (DF&SBL) is collected from families of students attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. This levy contributes to the total income of the DSBF and therefore towards the cost of buildings, facilities, land and in addition, the funding of diocesan pastoral activities.

Other sources of income for the DSBF include Government Capital grants, the NSW State Government Interest Subsidy Scheme, the

Catholic Schools Office (CSO), parishes, school communities and Catholic Development Fund (CDF) loans.

The DSBF, which is managed and administered by the CSO (commenced January 2013), exists to ensure the diocese is able to meet past, present and future commitments. The CSO provides financial reports and proposes school facilities, plans and budgets to the Diocesan Finance Council and the Catholic Schools Council, which are advisory councils to Bishop Bill Wright.

This report accounts for, and communicates, the projects, activities and financial reporting for the DSBF from January to December 2015.

Building Projects and Land Acquisition

2015 was another year of significant school planning and development including the engagement of an architect for the new secondary school at Chisholm. This will be the first new secondary school built in the diocese in over 30 years. Preliminary planning also commenced for another new high school at Medowie and several projects received Capital grants through the Commonwealth and State Governments Capital funding program.

- ▶ **St Pius X High School, Adamstown** The third stage of major redevelopment at St Pius X received a Capital grant in 2015. The project involves the complete refurbishment and extension of the school library and the installation of a lift to provide access to its multiple levels. Construction is expected to commence in 2016.
- ▶ **St Paul's High School, Booragul** The construction of a new and contemporary Library and Learning Centre was completed in 2015. The new 'Damascus Centre' named after the conversion experience of the school's patron, St Paul, on the road to Damascus, is a striking addition to the central courtyard. The functional planning directly responds to changes in educational pedagogy and offers a wide range of collaborative learning areas within the new library space. This innovative building has won the Regional Institute of Architects award and the NSW Master Builders award for educational facilities.
- ▶ **Rosary Park Catholic Primary School, Branxton** Construction of covered outdoor learning area, canteen and amenities commenced late in 2015.
- ▶ **St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Chisholm** Stage 1 of the diocese's first primary school to be built in over 30 years was ready and opened for the 2015 school year. The school is committed to 21st century learning environments and teaching methods. The detailed design of the second stage of development continued during 2015 and was also successful in receiving a Commonwealth grant.
- ▶ **Chisholm Secondary School, Chisholm** An architect was selected through a design competition to commence the planning and design of a new Year 7-12 secondary college adjacent to St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Chisholm. The school is planned for commencement in 2018 with a Year 7 cohort. The school will be constructed over several stages and the first stage will be submitted for a Government Capital grant in early 2016.
- ▶ **St Mary's High School, Gateshead** Master planning commenced during 2015 to consider the extent of refurbishment and development that may be required to accommodate the school developing from Years 7-10 to Years 11 and 12, starting in 2018. The scope of works is likely to be quite significant and therefore a competitive design process will also be undertaken during 2016.
- ▶ **St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton** The extensive refurbishment of science and music facilities was undertaken after the HSC was completed in November 2015. The works are expected to be completed during the first term of 2016.
- ▶ **St Patrick's Primary School, Lochinvar** The first stage of a major reconstruction of the school's facilities commenced in 2015 with a grant application for Capital funding. If successful, the construction of new staff, administration and infants classrooms will commence in 2016.
- ▶ **All Saints College, St Joseph's Campus, Lochinvar** Construction of a new multi-purpose hall and associated Technical and Applied Studies (TAS) learning space commenced in December 2015 after a Capital grant was received earlier in the year. The project will provide a much-needed school community gathering space and also some additional facilities towards the commencement of the first Year 11 cohort in 2018.
- ▶ **St John the Baptist Primary School, Maitland** Works commenced during 2015 to install a lift which will provide access to a majority of the upper level classrooms.
- ▶ **All Saints College, St Mary's Campus, Maitland** Construction of a multi-purpose school hall commenced during 2015. The new facility was designed for connection to the Trade Training Centre Hospitality building completed in 2012.
- ▶ **St Mary's Primary School, Warners Bay** The construction of covered walkways and covered outdoor learning area was completed.
- ▶ **Cessnock** Acquisition of land adjacent to St Patrick's Primary school has provided a long-awaited level turfed area for students to play.

School Planning and Development

The School Planning and Development Committee (SPDC) charter is to propose strategic plans and oversee associated project planning to Bishop Bill Wright for the development and sustainability of existing and new school facilities. In addition to the capital projects reported, the SPDC continues to work on a program to renew and improve school facilities, considering demographic data and key indicators for future provisioning of schools in the diocese.

The demographic studies forecast strong enrolment growth in the Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens regions. In response to the studies, due diligence and subsequent recommendations, the diocese has constructed and opened in 2015 a new primary school at Chisholm.

In 2013 the CSO, on behalf of Bishop Bill Wright, commissioned a Study into the Provision of Secondary Education in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The reasons for this study are many but include capacity issues and demographic pressures identified in the studies mentioned previously. The approved recommendations from this study, which included the construction of two new secondary schools at Chisholm and Medowie, to open in 2018 and 2020 respectively were communicated in 2015. In addition, All Saints College, St Joseph's Campus, Lochinvar and St Mary's High School Gateshead will be converted into Years 7-12 (previously Years 7-10 only), to commence in 2018.

Summarised Financial Reporting Year Ended 31 December 2015

Diocesan Schools Building Fund - Financial Highlights for 2015

Income sourced from:	\$	Note 1
DF&SBL	5,788,094	
Government grants	1,750,879	
NSW Interest subsidy	847,190	
Other income	74,735	
Total Income	8,460,898	

Expenses incurred for:	\$	2
Depreciation	5,931,010	
Interest expenses	2,690,147	
Other expenses	278,823	
Total Expenses	8,899,980	

Loan Portfolio:	\$	3
Land loans - non-subsidised	7,959,006	
School building loans - subsidised	12,899,854	
School building loans - non-subsidised	27,948,589	
Total Loans Unpaid 31.12.15	48,807,449	

Loans Financed for/from:	\$	4
Loans advanced for projects	7,849,062	
Interest for loan portfolio	2,690,147	
Sub total - financed for	10,539,209	
Less:		
Loan repayments	7,674,303	
Total Loan Increase For 2015	2,864,906	

Diocesan Family & School Building Levy	\$	5
<i>Sourced from:</i>		
DF&SBL collected from families in current year	6,552,135	
Prior year surplus *	235,959	
<i>Applied to:</i>		
Loan servicing for principal and interest	4,567,054	
Capital expenditure not financed by loans	1,221,040	
Monies provided to diocese for pastoral care	1,000,000	

* Remaining surplus \$3,602,760 will be carried forward for use in future years

Notes

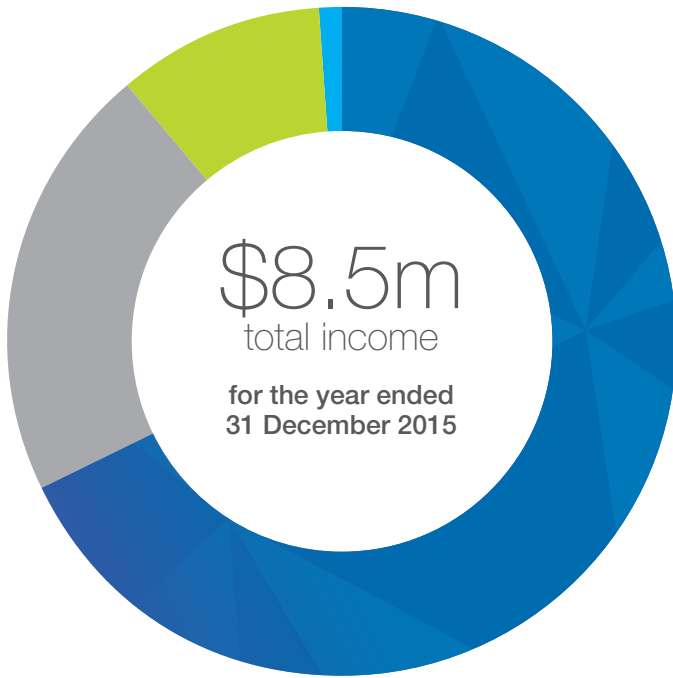
- Income is sourced predominantly from:
 - Diocesan Family & School Building Levy (DF&SBL)
 - Capital Grants from both State and Commonwealth Governments
 - Interest Subsidy from NSW Government

This income is allocated to repay loans and/or attracted to specific building projects.
- Expenditure is incurred for interest on loan repayments, depreciation of school buildings and associated infrastructure.
 - School buildings are depreciated over a 50-year life with shorter useful life for temporary buildings and fixture assets.
 - Income attributable from the NSW Government Interest Subsidy scheme assists in the repayment of interest incurred on a significant portion of building loans.
- The loan portfolio consists of three categories. All loans are contracted with the CDF for a term of 20 years. As the NSW Interest Subsidy scheme has ceased to fund additional loans, all future loans will be classified as non-subsidised.
- This item indicates that during 2015 the loan portfolio increased by \$2,864,906 predominantly for funding capital works at St Paul's High School, Booragul and additions to existing school buildings.
- The DF&SBL is collected from families of students attending diocesan Catholic schools. It contributes to the income of the DSBF and to funding diocesan pastoral activities.

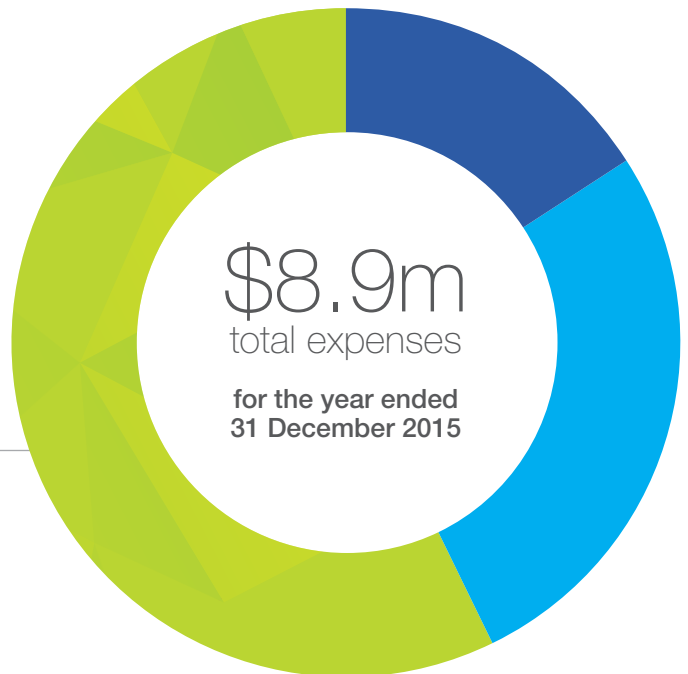
The DF&SBL is collected, accumulated and applied to building and land projects that vary in frequency and duration across years. Accordingly it is applied annually on a needs basis.

Special Note:

Financial Highlights for 2015 is a correct summary based on the financial statements for the Diocesan Schools Building Fund, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for the year ended 31 December 2015 to which an unqualified audit report was issued.



▶ DF&SBL	68%
▶ Government Grants	21%
▶ NSW Interest Subsidy	10%
▶ Other Income	1%



▶ Depreciation	16%
▶ Interest Expenses	27%
▶ Other Expenses	57%



▶ Land Loans - non-subsidised	16%
▶ School Building Loans - subsidised	27%
▶ School Building Loans - non-subsidised	57%

Capital Project Summary

Completed projects at 31 December 2015

School	Project	Construction Stage/ Forecast Completion	Government Grant	Local Contribution	Project Cost
ABERDEEN, St Joseph's High School	Construction of car park.	Completed in 2015	-	382,039	382,039
ADAMSTOWN, St Pius X High School	Stage 2 - Refurbishment of science, Technical and Applied Studies (TAS) classrooms.	Completed in 2015	1,583,189	1,640,692	3,223,881
ADAMSTOWN, St Pius X High School	Replace Sr Marie Hall destroyed by fire.	Completed in 2015	-	949,590	949,590
BOORAGUL, St Paul's High School	Construction of classrooms, specialised library area, administration and outdoor learning area.	Completed in 2015	2,691,850	2,914,622	5,606,472
CHISHOLM, St Aloysius Catholic Primary School	Stage 1 - Construction of new primary school.	Completed in 2015	3,015,341	4,758,796	7,774,137
WARNERS BAY, St Mary's Primary School	Construction of covered walkways and covered outdoor learning area.	Completed in 2015	-	140,299	140,299

Committed projects as at the year ended 31 December 2015

School	Project	Construction Stage/ Forecast Completion	Government Grant	Local Contribution	Project Cost/ Budget
ADAMSTOWN, St Pius X High School	Stage 3 - Construction of staff amenities, refurbishment of classrooms and specialised learning library.	In design	1,460,370	1,539,630	3,000,000
BOORAGUL, St Paul's High School	Stage 2 - Construction of general learning areas, administration, staff facilities and associated buildings.	In design	2,317,595	2,282,405	4,600,000
BRANXTON, Rosary Park Catholic Primary School	Construction of covered outdoor learning area, canteen and amenities.	Under construction		700,000	700,000
CHISHOLM, St Aloysius Catholic Primary School	Stage 2 - Construction of administration, staff and classroom areas.	In design	2,038,911	2,761,484	4,800,395
CHISHOLM, Secondary School	Stage 1 - Construction of new secondary school.	In design	3,500,000	3,500,000	7,000,000
GATESHEAD, St Mary's High School	Redesign of school frontage & Year 11/12 facilities upgrade.	In design	500,000	2,500,000	3,000,000
HAMILTON, St Francis Xavier's College	Refurbishment of science laboratories and music areas.	Under construction	-	1,609,011	1,609,011
LOCHINVAR, St Patrick's Primary School	Stage 1 - Construction of classrooms, administration and staff areas, enclosed and open travel areas.	In design	1,801,203	1,198,797	3,000,000
LOCHINVAR, All Saints College - St Joseph's Campus	Stage 3 - Construction of multi-purpose hall and Technical and Applied Studies (TAS).	Under construction	2,432,896	2,567,104	5,000,000
LOCHINVAR, All Saints College - St Joseph's Campus	Year 11/12 facilities upgrade.	In design	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
MAITLAND, St John the Baptist Primary School	Installation of lift.	Under construction	-	250,000	250,000
MAITLAND, All Saints College - St Mary's Campus	Construction of hall.	Under construction	1,131,372	484,873	1,616,245
CESSNOCK	Land and demolition.	Demolition underway	-	85,000	85,000
Temporary buildings	Demountable classrooms - various locations.	Ongoing	-	1,061,533	1,061,533



Damascus Centre, St Paul's Booragul



Sr Marie Centre, St Pius X Adamstown



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