Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Friday we gathered as a whole school community to celebrate Mary, Help of Christians - the Patroness of Australia. We honour Mary on this day as our school ‘feast day’ as we are a community who looks to Mary for inspiration as a model of faith and self-sacrifice.

With the help of Mary, our patron and guardian, we place the needs of our country and its people before our gracious God.

With the help of Mary, we pray for those who lead our church and our country, Australia. Like Mary, may their decisions be guided by the wisdom of God for the common good of all God’s people.

With the help of Mary, we pray that we may embrace and respect all Australians. May we be a sign of true Christian hospitality and generosity to them.

With the help of Mary, we pray for those who seek hope in Australia, especially migrants and refugees. May we be an example of global peace, human rights and justice for all.

With the help of Mary, we pray for all Australians. May they be an example to the world showing concern for global peace, human rights and justice for all.

With the help of Mary, we pray for yourself and for all who follow Jesus, that we will bring the light of Jesus to all.

With the help of Mary, we pray for Christian unity. May all who follow Christ be renewed in their commitment to him and to the Gospel.

Under the motherly protection of Mary, help us to remain faithful to you as we rejoice in our land and its people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Lord hear us.

Last Sunday we celebrated Trinity Sunday. Let us always be conscious of the significance and power of the sign of the cross which we make each and every day. A celebration of the Holy Trinity – the love of God the father, the example of Jesus the son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mark your Diaries!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st June</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day – Gold Coin Donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P &amp; F Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th June</td>
<td>Pyjama Mufti Day- gold coin donation for St Vincent de Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th September</td>
<td>GRANDPARENTS’ DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th September</td>
<td>Whole School Creative Arts Performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Celebrations of Learning and Merit Awards
We have already moved from regular whole school assemblies, which mainly involved children sitting and listening, to a more interactive model at grade and stage levels. More opportunities for children to share and show their work and learning. Not only work samples but also the chance to show and share HOW they are learning.

The next change we are making is to discontinue our Gold and Silver Awards. This system will be phased out between now and the end of this term. We have already started to shift our emphasis and put focus on giving children immediate feedback on their learning and acknowledge the children’s efforts as immediately as possible.

Why are we changing?
Research tells us that rewards systems DO NOT have a significant impact on learning success. Positive and immediate feedback from teachers is what DOES make a difference so this is what we have decided to put more energy into.

What we have observed over time is an increased preoccupation with the ‘awards system’ rather than a focus on the children’s learning! Let us work together to place more importance on the intrinsic value and joy of learning, and less on external control and rewards. We need to teach the children to take personal responsibility for their actions and their learning.

From the Principal’s perspective this will give me more time to give immediate feedback to children when I visit their learning spaces, which I do regularly!

Teachers will continue to give out some merit awards to celebrate and acknowledge the children’s learning and achievements with a strong emphasis on recognition rather than reward and on this being more immediate and closure to the learning!

It was a unanimous staff decision to make the above changes following in depth discussions and careful consideration.

School Funding Uncertainty
With a Federal Government elections looming, the future funding of our Catholic schools is of great concern! There is great uncertainty about the funding of our schools coming from all sides of politics!

Some questions to ask our Prime Minister and other federal politicians!

1. When will the final financial outcomes for each of the six years of the rollout, 2014 to 2019 inclusive, for each Catholic school (both Catholic Education Commission and non-systemically funded) be known?
2. Can you explain your claim on Sunday 19 May that the average non-government school in NSW will lose $800,000 if the new funding model is not adopted?
3. What guarantees do we have that the full funding for the model will actually be found, or delivered, by 2019?
4. How can the Commonwealth predict funding for 2016 at this stage, given the 2015 review of indexation?

As a community we need to be proactive in ensuring justice for those families who choose a Catholic education and already pay up to 20% - 25% of the overall cost through school fees and fundraising (depending on which figures you choose to believe!). Will we be further penalised for saving the government money?!

Whole School Creative Arts Performance – Mark the Date!
ALL children are expected to participate in this major performance evening on Wednesday 11th September. We ask you to plan ahead to make arrangements for your children to participate. This performance will be central to the Term 3 Creative Arts Program. ALL children will be involved in the day time rehearsal and the evening performance.

Caring for Each Other in Times of Need
Please join us for OLOW’s BIGGEST morning and afternoon tea to raise money for breast cancer research. I encourage you to support this community fundraising event next Friday 7 June. A note was sent home earlier this week. Details are repeated later in this newsletter.

Feast of the Sacred Heart
I look forward to gathering as a whole school community with other members of our parish for the Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass next Friday 7 June at 9am. This will also be an opportunity for us to make donations of non-perishable food to the Penrith Community Kitchen which cares for those most in need in our own ‘back yard’, here in the Penrith area.

Together, let us act justly;
Together, let us love tenderly; and,
Together, let us walk humbly with our God.

Allan Jones
PRINCIPAL
FROM THE REC...

Feast of Mary Help of Christians:
Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. It was wonderful that so many of you could join with us to pray for Mary’s guidance and protection of our Great South Land. Thank you to Mrs Scott, Mrs McKeon, Mrs Grima-Starky and Mrs Johnston for preparing the children and to the children of Year 4 and Year 6 who led our prayer celebration so beautifully.

Feast of the Sacred Heart and Penrith Community Kitchen:
Next Friday the 7th of June is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As is the tradition at Our Lady of the Way, we attend Mass as a whole school and present hampers of food for Penrith Community Kitchen to help those in need.

We once again ask for your support this year by sending in a non-perishable food item with your child by next Friday the 7th of June. Baskets will be in each grade’s learning space throughout next week for collection.

Penrith Community Kitchen appreciates all generous donations, however some food items they most need are tins of vegetables, tinned soups, jars of ‘dinner tonight’ or similar sauces, long life milk, flour and sugar.
Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Please join us to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart at the 9:00am Parish Mass.

Sacramental Program:
The children preparing to celebrate their First Eucharist are completing their formal lessons this week. The Revision and Practice Evening is next Wednesday 7th June with First Eucharist taking place on the 15th and 16th of June. Please keep the children in your prayers.

Parish Children’s Mass:
On the 23rd of June we will celebrating our next Parish Children’s Mass. It is also the day of Reconciliation enrolment. We are inviting children to take part in reading God’s Word, the Prayers of the Faithful, Gospel procession, offertory procession and the choir. If your child would like to be involved in any aspect of this celebration, please let the office know via a letter or by emailing me at CDay3@parra.catholic.edu.au. We hope that many children will take the opportunity to lead the parish community in prayer on this day.

Carole Day
Religious Education Coordinator

St Finbars Youth / Family Mass.
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.
6pm. 46 Levy St Glenbrook. All Welcome.

😊 We would like to extend a special invitation to all, Adults, Children, Mums, Dads, Singles, Friends, Neighbours, Everyone to attend our Youth / Family Mass.

Bring the Teens, Bring the Grandkids, we know they will have a great time.

Exciting Youth Group Changes!

From the 5th of May onwards, two youth groups will be running at St Finbar’s Parish Centre.

1. The Edge Youth Group will run for primary school kids from 5-6pm (before the Youth Mass)
2. The Lounge Youth Group will run for high school students from 7:30-8:30pm (after Youth Mass)

😊 There will be: Wonderful Music, a Terrific Homily from Fr Wim. We will be having a BBQ, Soup and Supper, Games
😊 We need some Dads to Volunteer for BBQ. Please contact Darren Dukes on 0405 324 515 if you can help.
😊 This Mass has become a very popular Mass for Adults, the Youth, Children of all ages and some very young at heart Seniors.
😊 A big thank you to all who provided the lovely Supper at last week’s Youth / Family Mass.
😊 If you are able to help with Soup & Supper, please contact Cath on 47 395 763
😊 Choir practice from 4pm. All welcome to join in. Please ask for Claire Brown...

So bring a friend when you come along to enjoy the fun. Youth Groups will run on the first and third Sunday of each month - either side of the Youth Mass.

We look forward to seeing you all there and making this new format a success.”

Kindest regards
The St Finbars Youth Group Team.
The Water Droplet
By Isaac Haskett 6S

Way up high
A tiny raindrop
Falls from above
And lands in a stream.
The sun comes out with a shiny beam
That sends him back up to where he belongs
And then he starts again.
But he lands on a tree
And helps it to grow
Then he has a run off into the ocean
And then he goes back up into the sky
Where he sleeps
Then he falls again
And he falls onto a car
And grasps onto his friends
Then they all fall onto the hot ground
And then separate
Finally they go back up to where they belong.

(Congratulations Isaac. Your poem shows
a wonderful understanding of the water cycle.)

Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
On Tuesday May 21st twelve boys from Years 5 and 6 represented OLOW at the Diocesan Soccer Gala Day. The team demonstrated great sportsmanship and their success on the field improved with each game. Fun and participation are the focus for all gala days and all players achieved this. Special thanks to Mr David Smith for taking on the role of OLOW referee. We greatly appreciated his efforts and were very grateful for his time. Thanks also to Mrs Risse, Mrs Mercieca, Mr Storr and Mr Stevens for your assistance throughout the day.

Anne-Maree McKeon

Missing Shirts
Students representing OLOW are provided with a playing shirt for some gala days. We are missing a small number of soccer and touch football shirts as well as two basketball singlets. Parents are asked to check to see if the shirts have been accidently stored in their children’s drawers and cupboards. Please return them to school ASAP. Thank you.

Supporting PNG: Learning Resource Charity Drive....
I have been invited to travel to Papua New Guinea in the school holidays to assist in further developing a school in a remote village: Sanananda. I believe the school has one school teacher and about 40 students, most of them are primary school age. It is a grass hut on a dirt floor with extremely minimal resources. OLOW have been invited to contribute whatever we can to help assist this third world community. It would be greatly appreciated if you could look through your bookshelves and study's/offices to see if you have any unused items that may be useful in setting up this school: picture books, writing tools, exercise books, notepads – anything that could be used in a classroom! Tubs will be placed in the office for staff, students and parents to contribute to.
Thanks in advance for your support. I will post some photos on my return.

Mrs Curry 😊

Crunch&Sip
Our school is introducing Crunch&Sip, a program endorsed by the NSW Health Department in conjunction with Healthy Kids Association. This program has been brought about due to the increasing rise of obesity in young children and the associated health issues that arise as a consequence. Crunch & Sip is a primary school based program that encourages children to choose vegetables and fruit as a snack and water as a drink.

Crunch & Sip takes place each day in the classroom. We encourage you to send in fresh vegetables or fruit and a water bottle, so they can take part in this great program. As a part of this program, and to reduce waste, we would appreciate the children bringing their fruit and vegetables in a container in place of plastic bags or wrapping.

Jenny Hensen & Dolores Grima-Starkey
Live Life Well & School Co-ordinators (LLW&S)

App of the Week
Name: World Book’s World of Animals
Cost: FREE (For the lite version) or the full version is $5.49

World Book’s is an educational app that gives children of all ages plenty of opportunities to explore, compare, rank, and quiz themselves on their favourite animals. This interactive app features beautiful pictures, videos and animal sounds, quick facts, encyclopedia articles, and more!

Regards
Mrs Grima Starkey
Learning Technology Support Teacher
Standards Based Assessment and Reporting

Reporting

At OLOW School, like all schools in Australia, we are required to provide a formal written report on each student in our care, twice per year. This usually takes the form of a half yearly and a yearly report. We are obliged to make use of a standards based reporting system with a common grade scale for student in Year 1 to 6. Students in Kindergarten are graded based on effort, application and achievement.

The information contained in the forthcoming report is a summary of your child’s achievement and is one of a number of ways we communicate with you about his or her progress. The upcoming Parent Teacher interviews will provide us with the opportunity to reflect upon and discuss ways to work together to assist your child’s ongoing learning and development.

The Grade Scale

This is a scale developed to outline a common set of standards that teachers are required to use to report on your child’s level of achievement. The grades are determined by measuring student performance on material covered up to the point in time of the reporting period.

The grade your child receives will reflect their level of achievement based on the material covered so far this year. The grade scale summarises how well students achieve at each grade by describing the depth of knowledge and understanding and the range of skills that students working at that standard typically show.

The reports are based on expected student achievement for their academic year level not their learning stage.

The Grade Scale is represented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade or Word</th>
<th>Grade Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making Progress

If your child receives the same grade on two consecutive reports they have made progress. For example if they receive a C in English in the middle of the year and again at the end of the year they have made progress. Between the two reporting periods the student will have learned new knowledge and skills of a more advanced nature. To receive a Grade C on the second occasion the student must have: a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills in relation to this new and more challenging material.

Please speak with your class teacher(s) or contact me at mmifsud@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions relating to the OLOW CURRICULUM SPOT.

Michael

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin
**Crunchy Munchy Café Meal Deal $ 4.00**
Hot Dog with Sauce, Flavoured Milk, Fun Stick Biscuits (Chocolate or Vanilla) 
(Valid from Monday 27th May to Friday 7th June)

**Congratulations**
Congratulations to the following students:

- Isabelle Moran (Kinder) and her mum and dad on the safe arrival of a beautiful baby sister, Caitlin. Welcome into the big wide world and may God bless you and your family always!

- Mia & Patrick Urquhart who have been selected to walk the red carpet with actor Steve Carell and Kyle Sandilands for the premier of Despicable Me 2 as a promotion for 2dayFM. Well done little Minions.

**Condolences**
Condolences to the Sweeney family – Elizabeth in Year 4 and James in Year 2 - following the recent passing of Fiona’s father. May you be comforted by knowing that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

**Kinder 2014 Interviews Reminder**
Please spread the word and encourage those you know who may be interested in enrolling their children at OLOW to submit their applications as soon as possible. The official enrolment period ends on 31st May after which places will be offered for 2014.

For siblings of current students an interview is required and again we ask you to submit an enrolment application as soon as possible. Places cannot be guaranteed after 31st May if we have not received an enrolment application.

**Springwood Residential Project Update**
On Monday 3 June, members of the Chancery property services unit will outline plans for the Springwood Residential Project at a meeting in the Bishop Manning Learning Centre at St Thomas Aquinas Primary, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood. Much work has been undertaken on this project since Bishop Anthony’s visit last year. All members of the Blue Mountains Catholic community are invited to the meeting, which will commence at 6pm. Information about the Springwood project is available on the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta’s website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

**Parking Problem**
The school has received a complaint from residents of the block of units on the corner of Troy Street and Great Western Highway. OLOW parents have been parking in their private car park in the afternoon. This is proving difficult as they have elderly people being dropped off and picked up at various times. It would be appreciated if this practice could cease immediately. Thank you.

**Silver and Gold Award Recipients**
Congratulations to the following children who received awards this fortnight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silver Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ Cassie Dixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Layla Starr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Kyan Roach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Bailey Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Jade Elford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Riley Brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ Layla Starr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Jayden Roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Madeline Renny</td>
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</table>
**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED**
If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, you are welcome to “STEPPING BEYOND” group sessions which are held on the last Tuesday of each month. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Venue: CCSS Centre 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Date/Time: Tues. 28th May. 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00. Further detail and registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

**DEALING WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM**
Each year CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers so as to minimize your legal fees and how to protect your rights regarding family assets. This night is being held on Wed 12th June at 7.30pm at CCSS Centre, 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Mr Richard Brading, (Solicitor at Wesley Legal Service, Castlereagh St.) Further details and registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

**Penrith Lakes Model Show**
Looking for a family day out on the Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday (Monday 10 June)? Head down to the Sydney International Regatta Centre for the Penrith Lakes Model Show, a day of displays, demonstrations, high speed racing and ‘have a go’ activities from an array of model clubs, including seaplanes, powerboats, nitro cars and scale ship. The event also includes entertainment, food stalls, rides and a jumping castle. Entry is free with a gold coin per vehicle parking fee. Get down to the Sydney International Regatta Centre between 10am and 3pm on Monday 10 June for a great day out at the Penrith Lakes Model Show!

**Details:**
Penrith Lakes Model Show, Monday 10 June, 10am – 3pm
Sydney International Regatta Centre, 1823-1895 Old Castlereagh Road, Penrith
www.regattacentre.nsw.gov.au / 02 4730 0000 / regatta@communities.nsw.gov.au
O.L.O.W Biggest Morning & Afternoon Tea

Please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat – ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2013

WHEN:  Before Mass (8.00 am – 9.00 am)
         After Mass (10.00 – 11.30 am)
         Before school finishes (2.15 pm – 3.00 pm)

GOLD COIN DONATION
PLEASr BRING A PLATE

RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON

ALL MONIES RAISED TO BE DONATED TO BREAST CANCER RESEARCH
You are invited to join us for

St Joseph’s Primary School’s 50th Jubilee Dinner

Friday 28th June at 7.00pm

Emu Sports Club,
1 Leonay Parade, Leonay

The evening will include the following:

- Nibbles on arrival
- 3 course dinner
- Band or DJ

(Drinks are not included, however a bar is available)

Tickets are $50 each.
Book individually or per table (8 people).

Tickets are available from the school office from
Wednesday 1st May to Friday 14th June
or until sold out.

There will be a maximum of 200 tickets available.

Please note that this event is available to adults only (ie 18 years or older).
Term 2 General Meeting

Guest Speaker

As part of our Term 2 General Meeting

The PRC welcomes

Greg Whitby

Executive Director of Schools, CEO Parramatta

Presenting

Parental Engagement in our technology rich Catholic schools

The important role of parental engagement in our technology rich schools and how our Catholic schools and CEO reinforce this vital role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>3rd June 2013</th>
<th>General Meeting Time</th>
<th>7pm – 9:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Diocesan Assembly Centre (DAC), Cnr Flushcombe Rd &amp; Marian Street, Blacktown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About Greg Whitby

Author of Educating Gen Wi-Fi, Greg Whitby is an innovative educator, with a passion to ensure schools meet the needs of today’s learners. For over two decades, Greg has been rethinking the nature of learning and teaching in a digital age. Working closely with school and system leader to build teacher capacity in order to improve the learning outcomes, he has forged global partnerships with leading educational thinkers such as Michael Fullan, Viviane Robinson, Helen Timperley and Lyn Sharratt.

Founding Chairman of CEnet and Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and the Australian Institute of Management, Greg also received a Papal Knighthood in the Order of St Gregory the Great for his contribution to Catholic education.

The PRC has been very fortunate to be able to welcome Greg Whitby at our Term 2 General Meeting to present to our parent body – Parental Engagement in our Technology Rich Catholic schools.
## Term 2 General Meeting

### Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>3rd June 2013</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>7pm – 9:30pm</th>
<th>Doors Open</th>
<th>6:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Diocesan Assembly Hall, Cnr Flushing Rd &amp; Marian Street, Blacktown</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Acknowledgement Of Country</th>
<th>Michelle Parkes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Rev. Fr Paul Marshall Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Planning and Evangelisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meeting Welcome</td>
<td>Selina Calleia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Business Arising from previous general meeting</td>
<td>Selina Calleia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>President’s Report</td>
<td>Selina Calleia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Mona Mazlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Vice President’s Presentation</td>
<td>Lynn McKinnon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
<td>Rebecca Moxey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>CCSF Report</td>
<td>Anne-Maree Platken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>UCANN Report</td>
<td>Anne-Maree Platken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Guest Presenter Parental Engagement in our technology rich Catholic Schools The important role of parental engagement in our technology rich schools and how our Catholic schools and CEO reinforce this vital role</td>
<td>Greg Whitby Executive Director of Schools, CEO Parramatta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cluster Meeting and Report</td>
<td>Cluster Leaders to lead groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>About tonight’s faith leader</td>
<td>Rev. Fr Paul Marshall Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Planning and Evangelisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>General Business</td>
<td>Selina Calleia Lynn McKinnon/Sonia Nesci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Thank you and Farewell</td>
<td>Selina Calleia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today there are many changes happening in the OOHC system in NSW. There is a need for an independent peak body organisation representing a large membership of registered foster carers in NSW.

Earlier last year a group of volunteer foster carers, seeing the need for a peak advocacy body, came together to re-register the FCANSW association. The name was retained from the original peak body as it is in-line with the other state and federal Foster Care Associations. Together all Associations are united in a common cause to support foster carers and improve the system.

Our aim is to unite all foster carers to ensure the OOHC system is operated in an honest, open transparent manner.

The Association is able to establish working partnerships and liaise with NGOs and Community Services on behalf of carers. At present we hold regular meetings with the department and attend other meetings organized by the department, to ensure the voices of carers are being heard, and where possible advocate on behalf of carers in new policy development.

The Association offers its members advocacy, support and information via peer support groups, online forum, meetings and newsletters. We endeavour to keep carers up to date with regard to changes in the foster care system in NSW. Together with Community Services and NGO’s we wish to ensure that this transition will result in minimal impact and disruption to carers and the children in their care.

The Association has set up an online forum www.fcansw.org.au for registered carers in NSW. Here foster carers can register, access vital information and come together in a secure online environment to share advice, links.

Our Mission C.A.S.E

CARERS UNITE- For all NSW foster carers to unite into a powerful collective voice.

ADVOCATE- To advocate on behalf of foster carers & their families, & to form strong working partnerships with government & non-government organisations in support of a quality OOHC system.

SUPPORT- To provide peer support to foster carers, & to assist them to achieve the best possible outcomes for their foster children & families.

EDUCATE- To educate foster carers & raise awareness in the general public of the vital role of foster carers.

Our Vision
To provide advocacy, support & information to carers, to ensure they continue to receive the best support from their NGOs, allowing each child in care to achieve their full potential.
FCANSW welcomes & supports a culturally diverse community of foster carers who come from all different backgrounds & offer a wealth of experience.

What unites us is the common goal we have in raising this next generation to reach their full potential.

How to Join FCANSW
Go to our membership application link on our website: www.fcansw.org.au.
Or to be posted a membership form contact us on (02) 4987 1847 or email admin@fcansw.org.au.