



Annual Report 2023



PO Box 588 Burnie Tas 7320
Telephone +61 3 6432 7600
Principal, Mr Gregg Sharman
Email principal@mrc.tas.edu.au
www.mrc.tas.edu.au

History

- 1972 Amalgamation of the two Colleges took place. There were four Sisters of Mercy and eight Marist priests on staff at this time. Marist Regional College opened with 555 students. With the amalgamation came the new College crest. The College motto becomes 'Love the Truth'.
- 1975 This was the last year boarders were accepted at Marist Regional College.
- 1985 Sr Joan Thomas was appointed Principal replacing Fr Garry Reynolds. She was the first female to be appointed to this position and the first female Principal of a co-educational secondary college in Tasmania.
- 1991 Fr Ray Chapman was Principal of the College and Sr Anne Arundel RSM appointed as Deputy Principal, continuing the involvement of the Sisters of Mercy at the College.
- 1993 Fr Bill Ryder was appointed Principal of the College and served the College until 2000.
- 2000 Governance of the College moved from the Society of Mary to the Marist Regional College Governing Council, led by Archbishop Adrian Doyle, with membership made up of a representative of the Marist Fathers, a representative of the Sisters of Mercy, Director of Catholic Education and two local representatives.
- 2003 Mrs Susan Chen (Acting Principal from June 2002) was appointed as the first lay Principal. At the end of the year the College farewelled the last Marist Father to teach full time, Fr. Paul Pearce. The Colin Theatre, named after Jean-Claude Colin, co-founder of the Society of Mary, was opened.
- 2004 Refurbishment and extensions enabled the development of a second Home Economics kitchen and improved MDT facilities. These were required as a result of increasing student enrolments.
- 2007 College gymnasium, the Harcombe Centre, was blessed and opened by Archbishop Adrian Doyle and was named after Fr James Harcombe SM. The Performing Arts Centre, Conway Hall, was blessed by Archbishop Adrian Doyle and opened by Dr Dan White, Director of Catholic Education. The hall was named after Sr Mary Sabina Conway RSM.,
- 2009 The College celebrated 50 years of Marist education in Burnie with class reunions, an anniversary dinner, College Mass, blessing and opening of the Geoffrey Coombs Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden was funded by donations from the College Old Scholars.
- 2010 160 Year 7 students moved into the Chanel Centre. The new facility was named after Marist father Saint Peter Chanel.
- 2011 868 students enrolled at Marist, the school's largest intake. Renovation of facilities continue with the building of a new canteen, Dadirri Student Centre, fashion design centre, media laboratory and Cradle Coast Trade Training Centre.
- 2012 Opening of the Cradle Coast Trade Training Centre to cater for vocational education and training. Stage 1 of Middle Years, Chanel Centre, was officially opened to accommodate Year 7 students.
- 2013 Stage 1 of the Middle Years area, McAuley Centre, was completed to accommodate Year 8 students. Principal of 11 years Mrs Susan Chen retired.
- 2014 Mr Adrian Drane appointed as Principal. Stage 2 of the Middle Years area, McAuley Centre, officially opened and occupied by Year 8 students in Term 2.
- 2015 The College became Mercy affiliated. The College Masterplan was revisited for the next ten years.
- 2016 The College Strategic Plan was formed for the next five years. The College received funding and approval to redevelop the existing Year 9/10 area.
- 2017 Redevelopment began of the existing Year 9/10 area which will be called The Marian Centre.
- 2019 (April) Mr Adrian Drane takes extended leave for medical treatment.
(June) Mr Peter Douglas appointed as Acting Principal for the remainder of the year.
(August) Official opening of the Marian Centre.
(September) Mr Adrian Drane passed away on 16 September.
(October) Mr Gregg Sharman is announced as Acting Principal for 2020.
- 2020 Mr Gregg Sharman announced as Principal from 2021.
- 2021 Mr Gregg Sharman announced that he will take Renewal and Long Service Leave for 2022.
- 2022 Mr Noel Nethery appointed Acting Principal for 2022.
- 2023 Mr Gregg Sharman, Principal
Strategic Direction 2024-2027 Drafted
CET and Federal Government Approval of a Materials Design and Technology Centre
- 2024 Mr Gregg Sharman, Principal



Contents

Principal's Report	1
Staffing.....	4
Catholic Identity & Mission	6
Pastoral Care and Wellbeing	9
Learning and Teaching.....	10
Finances.....	21

Principal's Report

The past 12 months have been a year filled with achievements, growth, challenges and memorable moments for our College community.

Academic Excellence

Our commitment to academic excellence remains unwavering. This year, we take pride in the outstanding achievements of our students, supported by a committed staff. Many students received prestigious awards, showcasing their dedication to scholarship and the pursuit of knowledge. These many names frequented our presentations at assemblies.

Our Learning and Teaching focus, through their innovative teaching methods and research endeavours, will continue to evolve through our "*Insight*" project over the next three years. *Insight* focuses on improving the three key foundations of teaching and learning:

1. A comprehensive, knowledge-rich Curriculum that supports students' growth in learning, knowing and remembering, every day;
2. Cognitive Science (the Science of Learning): Developing our understanding about how people learn; to overcome the limits of working memory to maximise student learning and to build long-term memory in all key subjects;
3. High impact pedagogy: Regular and intensive coaching to assist our educators in actively applying the science of learning as we design highly efficient and effective teaching and learning methods in the classroom.

We hope that *Insight* will play a pivotal role in furthering the high academic standards of Marist Regional College for which we are known.

In the realm of research and innovation, our college continues to make significant strides. Our Learning Area Leaders have actively engaged in this cutting-edge research project. On three occasions this year, the College hosted educational leadership and subject content matter experts from around the country, providing a platform for intellectual exchange and collaboration. These are some of the nation's most dynamic and talented educators and they visited the classrooms of eighteen of our teachers this year. Additionally, staff learning was supported by modulated professional learning and observations in other schools.

Cultural and Extracurricular Achievements

Beyond academics, our college community has showcased its talents in cultural and extracurricular activities. Numerous events captivated the audience and demonstrated the diverse talents of our students. The participation and success of our students in inter-school competitions have brought accolades to our students, reinforcing our reputation for excellence beyond the classroom.

Infrastructure Development

The physical infrastructure of our college has seen notable improvements over the past year. Outdoor works from last year were completed in Term One and have enhanced the learning environment and overall campus experience for our students.

In December 2023, we were provided ministerial approval that the College had been successful in securing a \$750,000 Federal Grant, to develop a long-awaited Materials, Design and Technology Centre. The total budget for this project is of significance; one of the largest of its type in this area in the state.

To further advance the College's facilities and support the logistical challenges that come with a major project, we will build a new temporary classroom that will line our most western boundary, with the intent to house our MDT classes in 2024. For 2025, it will be our intent to utilise this space to build our units indoors as part of the VET Construction course.

To enable disability access to our library, senior Science block and Colin Theatre, we have been provided with Catholic Education Tasmania and local government approval to build a lift to these areas.

We remain committed to providing state-of-the-art facilities that support both academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Well-being and the nurturing of our staff and community has been a focus for 2023, particularly in light of the sudden passing of Year 10 students, Samara Whitney and Campbell Anderson. We continue to extend our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Samara and Campbell, as well to those staff who worked closely with them in their time at St Brigid's Catholic School, Wynyard, as of course at Marist Regional College.

More broadly, the social and emotional health of our students and staff will continue to be prioritised at this College as evidenced through the initiatives communicated by Mr Sam Johnstone, our Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care and Well-being. Sam and his team have developed a Pastoral Care and Well-Being scope and sequence program for the four terms of the year, developmentally appropriate for each year level.

Community Engagement and Social Responsibility

Our College recognises the importance of community engagement and social responsibility. Through various outreach programs and initiatives, our students and faculty have actively contributed to the welfare of the community. The activation of our Social Justice group, initiated as a consequence of our Mercy Youth Leaders' experience, provided to a number of activities. We believe this group will only continue to grow in time for the College.

We believe that our college's enrolment will be at an all-time high next year. This has meant we have strategically considered our resource allocation and expanded our human resources to approximately 160 staff. We are experiencing a significant period of growth and confidence.

In conclusion, the academic year 2023 has been marked by achievements and milestones that reflect the dedication and hard work of the entire College community.

We express our gratitude to our students, parents, and staff, who illustrate a commitment to the ideals and values that define a Marist Regional College education, and extend these to our College Advisory Board, who play an active role in its governance and future planning. Thanks especially to Mrs Maree Collins (Chair) and Fr John Girdauskas, for their ongoing support, time, and encouragement.

We look forward to future growth and success as we are inspired by the spirit of our founders to pursue excellence in the holistic development of our students.

Gregg Sharman
PRINCIPAL

2023 Leadership Team

Composition of the College Leadership Team in 2023 was as follows:

Mr Gregg Sharman - Principal

Mrs Emily Sass - Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Mr Sam Johnstone - Deputy Principal Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Mr Peter Douglas - Director of Faith and Ministry

Mr Brady Yates - Director of Organisation

Mr Andrew Leary - Business Manager

Mr Aaron Humphrey - Director of Student Support

Miss Bobbi-Jo Bailey - Director of Curriculum & Pedagogy

Ms Maxine Neaton - Director of Middle Years

MRC Board

I wish to also thank the Board of MRC as they contribute in an advisory capacity to the Principal on the strategic direction of the school.

Mrs Maree Collins - Chair

Mr Jonathan Cahill - Vice Chair

Fr John Girdauskas - Parish Priest

Mr Peter Johnstone - Board Member

Mrs Jackie Wickham - Board Member

Mrs Clare de Haan - Board Member

Mr Ben Sandow - Board Member

Mr Andrew Leary - Secretary/Treasurer Ex-Officio

Mr Gregg Sharman - Principal

Marist Regional College continues to have a professional and dedicated staff. Some notable staff changes are outlined below:

Staff Arrivals

Bobbi-Jo Bailey
Rhiannon Bomford
Rachel Clayton
Nicole Cooper
Peter Douglas
Hannah Horrack
Atifur Khan
Amy-Rose Langmaid
Raelene Leaver
Thomas Lutwyche
Oliver Morgan
Emily Millar
Bradley Nairn
Shania Saward
Monique Smith
Darron Snare
Joanna Stirrat
Ruby Sun
Belinda Saltmarsh

Staff Departures

Mandy Bakes
Rachel Clayton
John Clousen
Julie Clousen
Carolyn Cox
Carmen Foster
Deb Freeman
Alana Jaffray
Yolanda Juen
Andrea Kelly
Phoebe Koop
Shauna Laird
Pam Maxwell
Sherry Rand
Ann Roberts
Serena Ryan
Belinda Saltmarsh
Fran Sanford
Shania Saward
Shaun Summers
Craig Winchcombe
Hayley Wolstenholme

THE COLLEGE IN 2023 - A QUICK OVERVIEW

Highlights of 2023

- Evening of Excellence - Celebrating the success of our students in all spheres of learning.
- Induction of Student Representative Council - The SRC have performed their leadership and role modelling across the school superbly this year. Led by School Captains, Veyakhar Pather and Fine Fifita, the SRC and team have been involved in many successful activities throughout the year. Their selfless service to the school is noted.
- Senior College Autumn Ball
- School Interhouse Carnivals and Interhouse Events - A greater emphasis has been placed on greater belonging and significance of House. Not just sports but all activities on the school's calendar where students can openly be involved in contributing to their House in some way.
- World's Greatest Shave
- Sports Awards Evening - Acknowledgement of all team and individual awards for 2023.
- Sports Championships
- STEM Awards

- Debating/Public Speaking
- Senior College Musical Theatre Performance – *Heathers*
- Subject/Career Information Evening
- SRC Breakfast
- Year 12 Vale Mass and Graduation Ceremonies
- Final Year 12 Liturgy held in the Harcombe Centre followed by the Graduation Function at Communion Burnie
- ICAS and other student achievements.

Strategic Direction 2024-2027

Launched in March 2024.

This will soon be accessible on our College website.

Strategic Direction 2024-2027

Catholic Identity
We will strengthen a culture of engagement with the Faith and Mission of the College as an authentic Catholic Community, where Jesus is known and loved.

Learning
We will have developed a clearly defined Learning and Teaching framework, so that the outstanding academic and the growing vocational tradition of the College is fostered through consistent, explicit, practical, and high impact teaching practices through a low variance curriculum for all.

Leadership
We will have an ongoing leadership development for both staff and students, so that high impact leadership is fostered at all levels.

Pastoral Care and Well-Being
We will have authentic relationships, learning opportunities, embedded systems, and effective communication for all members of the College community so that all can flourish in a safe and supportive environment.

Stewardship and Resources
We will continue to actively take up the role of stewards so that decisions are made to advance the College educationally, economically, and ecologically. We are stewards of the traditions of the College and nurture meaningful connections with the past, as we prepare for the future.

A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

One of the core requisites of the Catholic school is the primacy of prayer. Taking many forms, from a welcoming or gathering prayer to begin each school day, to the solemnity of a Catholic Education Week Mass which brings representative from every Catholic school on the North West Coast. Services of the Word in a more formal setting, somewhat formulaic – comprising a welcome and opening prayer, a reading from sacred scripture, a reflection, a series of intercessory prayers, a closing prayer and missioning or blessing.

Services of the Word

Our Services of the Word reflect the many facets of the liturgical cycle of the Church and the needs of our College community:

- Staff Service of the Word at the beginning of the school year
- Senior College Service of the Word while on retreat
- Service of the Word and Commissioning of Student Leadership Body
- Ash Wednesday Service of the Word
- 7th Week of Easter Service of the Word
- 22nd Week in Ordinary Time
- Morning prayer for Samara
- Remembering Samara: A Service of the Word
- Afternoon prayer for Campbell
- Remembering Campbell: A Service of the Word
- Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica: A Service of the Word
- Graduation Assembly
- Graduation Service

Celebrations of the Eucharist

Fr John Girdauskas presided at each of these celebrations:

- Mass celebrating the commencement of the school year
- Catholic Education Week Mass - Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
- Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - College Feast Day
- Vale Mass (Year 12)
- Year level Masses for Years 7, 8 and 9 at St Mary's Star of the Sea Church

Special Days

- Holy Thursday Service
- Feast of St Bartholomew
- Feast of St Joseph Calasanz

Daily Prayer Support

- Daily prayer supplied to MEL
- The Annunciation of the Lord
- Anzac Day
- Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday
- Feast of Pentecost
- Feast of St Patrick
- Solemnity of St Joseph
- The Most Holy Trinity
- Feast of St Peter Chanel SM

COMPLETION OF CHAPEL WORKS

After four years, the Sister Ursula Frayne Chapel has been completed – the Marian Aboriginal art by Richard Campbell has been correctly placed and labelled, the Stations of the Cross from the former Marist St James Chapel have been restored to their rightful place, the tabernacle permanently installed, and the sanctuary lamp installed. We are indebted to our utility staff, particularly Mr Danniell Haines, who was responsible for the hanging of the Stations of the Cross.

A COMMUNITY OF MINISTRY

Marist Immersion Program for Staff

At the end of July, six staff flew to Sydney for the Marist Immersion Program. The program was being held for the first time since 2019. The program is a four-day staff engagement with Marist Charism and Culture. Staff who attended were Renice Billows, Tom Lamb, Ann Burke, Helen Cox, Renee Hayes, and Aaron Humphrey. Attendees considered the early Marist history from Fourviere to the foundation of the four Marist congregations, the establishment of the Marist missions in Oceania and the Pacific and the development of the Marist charism and culture in Australia. Finally, they reflected on the Marist legacy and the future of Marist schools as authentic Marist communities.

Young Mercy Leadership Pilgrimage and Conference

From 19 – 21 July, Year 11 student representatives from Mercy schools across Australia gathered at the nationwide pilgrimage and conference in Melbourne. Our college sent 7 students.

The pilgrimage and conference took place at two Mercy school venues – the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy and Our Lady of Mercy, Heidelberg. The theme of the gathering was ‘Living Mercy today’ and focused on justice and reconnecting post-Covid.

Those selected to attend on behalf of the College were: Alistair Brett, Jessica Church, Ella Cobbing, Lily Collins, Charlotte Jaensch, Ava Radford and Isabel Thomas. Mrs Caroline Brett and Mrs Tess McDonagh accompanied the group. Unfortunately, the pilgrimage will not be available in 2024, though there will be a national Mercy conference.

Vinnie’s Sleepout

A small, but hardy group of Year 11 students attended a Vinnies Sleepout on Friday 22 September in the Harcombe Centre. Along with staff members, Steve van Ommen and Peter Douglas, the nine youngsters engaged with Vinnie’s volunteer staff and the regional manager as they partook in a soup meal and listened intently as they heard in detail the issues of homelessness and poverty and the impact on the lives of so many on the North West Coast. While not all survived the rigours of a cool, spring night on this Burnie hill, Mr van Ommen and student Charlotte Flint (in a cardboard box and blanket) succeeded in making it through the entire night. The majority of these students used this opportunity to accrue service hours for the Community Service component of their RE course.

Just Leadership

Northern and North West college representatives arrived at St Brendan-Shaw on 2 November for a secondary Just Leadership Day. The day focused on the great work of our main Catholic charitable agencies and was facilitated by representatives from these organisations and Mrs Leanne Prichard of CET (and CARITAS). As in past years, these days provided an opportunity for student leaders from different schools to come together, to learn about Catholic Social Teaching, servant leadership and the work of CARITAS Australia, Vinnies and Catholic Mission. The following students (from Years 8 to 10, plus one from Year 11) attended the day and did the College great credit: Feranmi Adeboye, Amarli Bloom, Ruby Constable, Triston Crawford, Sneha Dehigaspitya, Alexandra Dow, Oceania Eustace, Jessie Gates, Charlotte Gibbs, Libby Hardstaff, Tannah Jenkins, Angus Krisenthal, Imogen Lee, Alexander Luck, Lily Marshall, Brooke McNaughton, Halle Ollington, Oliver Pinner, Elliana Pring, Bella Pugh, Tess Radford, Phoenix Simpson, Charlotte Spinks and Jobie Wescombe.

Welcoming our Muslim Friends

Over time our Muslim contingent of students has grown to nine and is expected to continue to grow. We welcome them and their contribution to our intercultural and interreligious conversation.

Music Ministry

Our Music Ministry group has continued to give life to the many services and liturgies held throughout the year. Aably lead by Ms Jessica Magee and accompanied by Mr Nathan Humphreys, the vocal maturity and capacity of this group has been well and truly show-cased. Members in 2023 included Alistair Brett, Miller Jackson, Charlotte Loring, Charlotte Jaensch, Annie Chapman, Cassie Chesnik, Ryder Shipley, Elizabeth Leaver, and Isabel Thomas.

Justice Group

The Social Justice Group is a collection of empowered and activist students who aim to make a positive difference in their local, national, and international communities and help others overcome threats of oppression and poverty. The social justice group learned the intricacies of equality, equity, race, religion, gender, and more global issues during the Mercy Pilgrimage, which was a trip to Melbourne in which they learned about activism underpinned by Mercy and Marist values. The Social Justice Group's efforts are shown in the clothes drive they held, which was a great success and aimed to spread quality and reused clothes while raising money against the fast fashion industry and human trafficking. They are excited and encouraging students from other year levels to join and help make a difference! – *Alistair Brett*

Daily and Focused Prayer

Breakfast Club

Running every day in Terms 2 and 3, the Breakfast Club is funded by the College and staffed by Ms Rachel Clayton, the Faith and Ministry Trainee and volunteer staff and students – Mr Craig Winchcombe, Mrs Catherine De Santis, Alex Vucicevic, Alistair Brett, Charlotte Gibbs, Zahli French, Sarah De Santis, and Aayush Timalina. Hundreds of students have enjoyed the winter morning offerings of toast and milo. Thank you to this pretty amazing team!

Relay for Life

A small but sturdy group of students and staff completed the Penguin Relay for Life on Saturday and Sunday 25-26 March in good weather. There was much camaraderie and a distinguishable growth in appreciation for those who have experienced cancer. Thanks to Ms Rachel Clayton who coordinated our participation in this event.

Retreats and Staff Spirituality Day

Our Retreat program began with our Senior College retreat days prior to the commencement of school. Mr Sam Clear was a major contributor to these days. Several weeks later, our Year 7s, while on camp at Riverbend, took the opportunity for reflection and hands on activities. In September, our Year 9s also had the privilege of working with Mr Clear. The end of November saw our Year 10s spend a reflective day with Mrs Leanne Prichard, while Year 8s were led by Mr Peter Douglas in early December. Both students and staff appreciated these days.

Mr Peter Douglas

Director Faith & Ministry

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

It is with great pleasure that I present the Pastoral Care and Wellbeing report for 2023. Our commitment to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment remains at the forefront of our mission, ensuring every student at Marist Regional College feels valued and supported throughout their educational journey.

Student Support Programs

GEM-E Program: We continue to use and work with the GEM-E program in each year level as it provides such a positive foundation for our students and their daily wellbeing. We continue to grow in this space as the program takes hold and continues to be implemented and developed further.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Workshops and Seminars: A series of workshops and seminars on mental health and wellbeing were conducted throughout the year. These sessions covered stress management, resilience building, and strategies for maintaining a healthy school-work-life balance.

Student Support Services: Our dedicated team in Student Support and Wellbeing has been readily available to students, providing confidential support for a variety of personal and academic issues. There have been some huge emotional challenges this year and we will continue to support students and staff to the best of our ability.

Community Engagement

Parent Workshops: To enhance the partnership between the school and parents, workshops were organised through Headspace to engage with parents and support them with mental health and care.

Collaborative Events: The school actively participated in community events, fostering a sense of belonging and connection among students, parents, and staff.

Achievements and Highlights

Values Awards: A monthly recognition program was implemented to acknowledge students and staff who demonstrated outstanding commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive school culture by living out the school values: Compassion, Hospitality, Justice, Respect and Responsibility.

Future Initiatives

Looking ahead, Marist Regional College is committed to:

1. Expanding mental health resources and services.
2. Implementing additional peer support programs.
3. Collaborating with external organisations to enhance wellbeing initiatives.
Implementation of the 7-12 Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Educational scope and sequence.
4. Mentorship Programs: The College aims to strengthen its mentorship initiatives, pairing senior students with incoming Year 7 students to help with transition from primary school to high school.

The Pastoral Care and Wellbeing efforts at Marist Regional College in 2023 have contributed to a positive and supportive school culture. As we continue to prioritise the holistic development of our students, we look forward to building on these successes in the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team: Director of Student Support Mr Aaron Humphrey, Director of Middle Years Ms Maxine Neaton, and Year Level Coordinators Mrs Helen Cox, Mr Damien Gale, Mr Jack Filz, Mrs Jess Magee, Mr Luke Wescombe, Mrs Renee French and Mr Steve Eddington, and the Wellbeing Team. Classroom teachers from all faculties, I appreciate all of you and the work you do to care for our students each and every day. Without your high level of student support and care, we could not achieve what we do on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support to make my role here at the College an extremely enjoyable and rewarding one.

Mr Sam Johnstone
Deputy Principal Pastoral Wellbeing

Learning and Teaching

Our mission at Marist Regional College is to bring life to all through Excellence and Holistic Education. I can say hand on heart that this has been the case for the Learning and Teaching environment throughout 2023.

We have had so many successes to be proud of both within and outside the classroom environment.

Mrs Nicki Rogers took on our Extension Learning Key Teacher role in which she was able to support a number of students to excel in extra-curricular academic pursuits, supported by many of our Learning Areas Leaders.

With the introduction of the Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy position, we welcomed Miss Bobbi-Jo Bailey into the College. With her expertise in Curriculum Development, our teachers have formed Professional Learning Teams during the year who met regularly to take part in 'backward design planning' for our implementation of the Australian Curriculum Version 9.0 in 2024.

As a teaching staff, we have also been through a 'Preparation Phase' in finding out more about the Science of Learning through Catholic Education Tasmania's Insight Project.

INSIGHT, based on the science of learning and reading, encompasses the way we teach in every classroom. This teaching approach empowers all educators using high impact teaching to help their students grow in knowledge, wisdom, and service. Eighteen of our teachers have undertaken intensive Professional Learning with this project throughout the year, with a number of students also being exposed to this through classroom demonstrations and coaching of our teachers.

There have been many great individual and group achievements during 2023, and this cannot happen without the hard work and dedication from the whole MRC staff. It also must be said, Learning and Teaching does not flourish without the support from family and friends, so a big thank you to all who play a part in creating opportunities for our students to thrive and achieve their potential.

Mrs Emily Sass
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching

Student Support Centre

Student Support has seen significant changes with the new position of Director of Student Support in 2023 to work with our Student Support Coordinators to oversee all programs, support, and interventions of students on Learning Plans. Through this, we have also been able to employ 21 Teacher Assistants for the year who provided side-by-side support to our students and to help deliver our successful Macqlit program for our Year 7's and 8's.

The differentiation and support across students' needs has enabled most students to access the Australian Curriculum. The Curriculum Support classes have also benefited from having teacher-led, smaller class sizes which has enabled tasks to be differentiated, adapted, and modified to assist the student in completing their work.

In 2024, we will see significant changes again to our ever-growing space with a new improved Student Support Centre at the hub of our school, one additional Student Support Coordinator and further intervention teachers. We thank the work of Sophia Jackson, Aaron Humphrey and Deb Freeman in the Student Support space who have established the current programs, and we know that the school is in good hands with the new team overseeing this area.

We wish to thank all of our families for working with us. We have had over 200 parent meetings to discuss, plan and implement strategies for the betterment of students. We appreciate their support assisting us to create a successful, thriving school.

2023 Year 12 Academic Results

The graduating class of 2023 achieved exceptionally well in relation to their TASC/TCE/VET results. In 2023, 86 Year 12 students graduated.

Nithush Sheyamalan, Cate Simpson and Zoe Drane achieved the top 101 status for students in Tasmania.

In terms of percentages for those who sought and achieved an ATAR:

- 16.7% achieved an ATAR over 95
- 29.6% achieved an ATAR over 90
- 50%% achieved an ATAR over 80

Statistically, a normal distribution of students who achieved an ATAR would be:

- 5% - 95 or above
- 10% - 90 to 95
- 20% - 80 to 90
- 30% - 70 to 80

There were a great number of excellent results for students who completed courses not seeking an ATAR across both Vocational Education and Training (VET) and non-pre-tertiary studies. These are fantastic achievements by the entire cohort, which shows the depth and breadth of skills and attributes of the graduating class.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing was conducted in March 2023 for all Year 7 and 9 students, using the online platform.

2023 Comparison between Year 7 Marist and other schools

Year 7	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Marist	68%	59%	72%	65%	71%
Tasmania	61%	53%	63%	55%	57%
Australia	69%	63%	73%	64%	67%

% = Strong or Exceeding *Blue cell* = Results where we are above state and national levels

2023 Comparison between Year 9 Marist and other schools

Year 9	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Marist	66%	63%	71%	62%	70%
Tasmania	56%	51%	62%	46%	54%
Australia	63%	58%	71%	56 %	64%

% = Strong or Exceeding *Blue cell* = Results where we are above state and national levels

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Outcomes

The status of VET has been viewed as a worthwhile and viable choice of subject selection in Senior College years and post-school options by young people at the College. Factors such as providing personalised VET information about VET jobs and studies through an interview process for Year 10 to 12's has opened greater exposure to course content and different career pathways. Job satisfaction is a key motivator for students deciding on a VET pathway; and job security in critical skills shortage areas has seen an increase in the different courses on offer. The College increased course offerings for 2024 and the interview process ran over a 4-week period from the end of Term 3 and into Term 4.

Electrotechnology (Career Start) will run next year, with the exciting offer of receiving a dual qualification in this Certificate II level as well as a qualification in Sustainable Energy over two years. Studying at St Brendan Shaw College (SBSC) in a cluster arrangement with other colleges, students have the added benefit of completing a couple of further units to gain the second qualification. Both courses are highly regarded by industries, and as there is a critical skills shortage of jobs, there are possibilities to continue studying at TasTAFE or sign contractual arrangements with an apprenticeship. Certificate II in Animal Care will also be delivered off-campus at SBSC; this highlights our determination over the past few years to offer this qualification in Tasmania in full, without the need or expense to complete a practical component in Victoria.

Work placement also increased this year, with more than 45 students going into the workforce, under guidance from a wide variety of industries and mentors. Many Certificate II level programs now imbed practical hands-on placement. From this process, many students obtain part-time work or are offered full-time positions, which promotes an attractive option in a learning and earning environment post-secondary schooling.

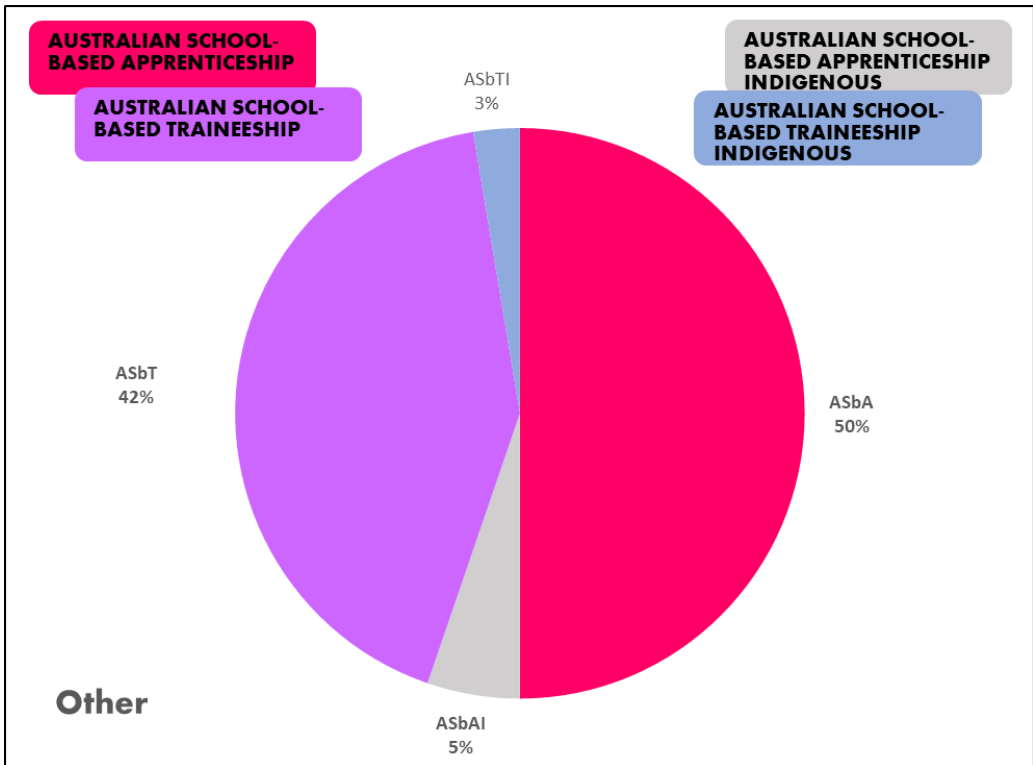
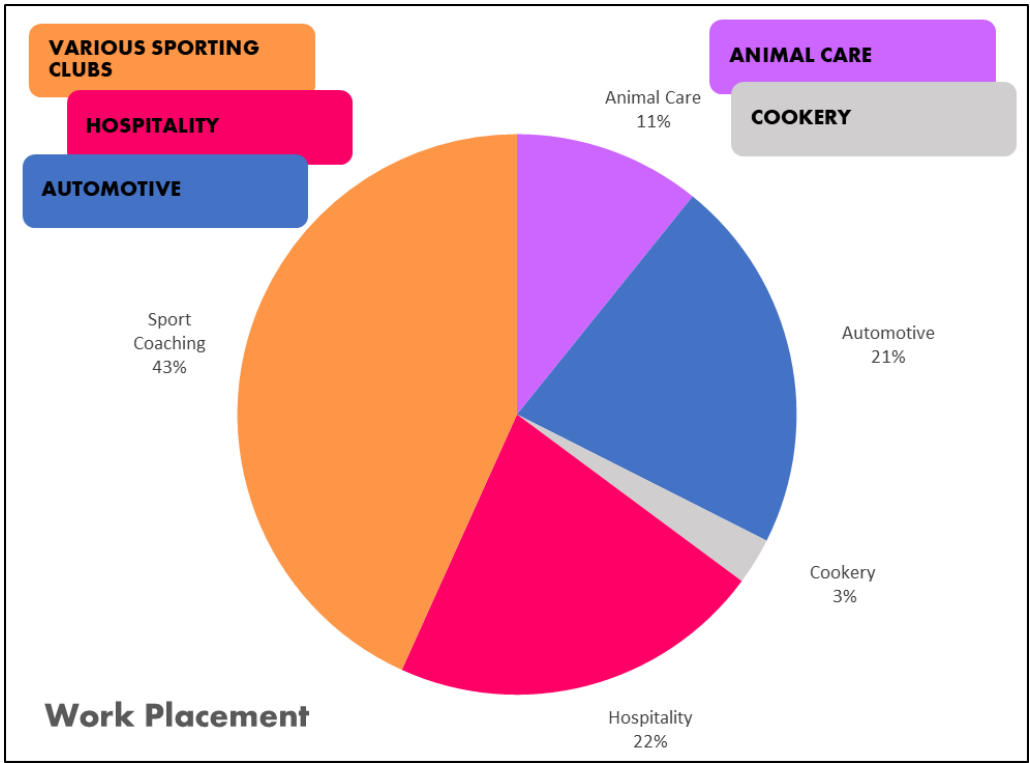
The Engineering program successfully finished its first year with student satisfaction above satisfaction levels, and 2024 numbers into TasTAFE will see a full class attending off campus next year. TasTAFE and Marist have worked together to ensure the development of an excellent program meeting all stakeholder needs, especially those of our students.

Introductory programs for the Year 10 cohort have seen a 98% pass rate of quality driven short skills set courses and student choice to continue into their desired full qualification in Years 11 and 12. 2024 enrolments have seen a rise in numbers, especially in the Automotive and Construction programs.

There has been an increase in students choosing to complete their Tasmanian Certificate of Education and Australian School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. Value adding and increasing opportunities for students to earn, learn, develop amazing new skill sets, and polishing employability skills, in readiness for the workforce represents attractive educational and job options post Year 12.

The national need for skilled workers in high-demand VET related occupations continues to extend our desire to offer quality driven programs with direct links to employers and industries with high potential for employability. Modifying programs into introductory courses are attractive options for the Year 10 cohort and improving facilities, modernizing buildings to meet high quality learning and teaching outcomes still sits at the heart of decision making when expanding offerings of taster courses or full qualifications.

Ms Jen Reeves
VET Coordinator



Pathway Planning 2023

Career and Pathway Planning at Marist Regional College in 2023 has been a very busy and exciting year for all involved, with many students gaining a vast array of academic, vocational, and personal success throughout the year.

The year started with the Beacon Foundation offering our Year 10 Package of Learning (PoL) students a 'Polish Program'. This proved to be a very successful day with our students being provided the opportunity to connect with a range of local industry representatives, learning about the required 21st Century skills to join the workplace, and the opportunities available in our local and surrounding areas. This workshop also started the process for our PoL students to connect with local industry in the pursuit of work placements, which proved to be very successful.

Once again, MRC worked closely with the University of Tasmania, ensuring that all the students heading down the university pathway were offered the best opportunities available. Justine Geason and her colleagues worked closely with several of our students throughout the year, providing them with up-to-date advice about all the courses and pathways available. This year, Justine made herself available weekly to meet up with students and spoke to our Senior College students, as well as Year 10s in year level assemblies and lunchtime slots. It was also great to see a healthy number of our students take up the Schools Recommendation Program, ensuring a placement at Utas in 2024 before the completion of Year 12.

This year we also saw a vast array of mainland universities visit the College throughout the year, specifically working with our Senior College students, but also providing information, support, and resources to our Year 10s in preparation for SC. These universities included: Monash, Deakin, ANU, University of Melbourne, and RMIT. Our Year 12s also had the opportunity to attend the Tertiary Information Session held at the Utas Cradle Coast Campus, which also included most of the universities listed above. This session proved to be very beneficial.

It was also great to have both the Australian Defence Force and Tasmania Police work closely with our students again. Both organisations attended our subject selection evening, with a large number of students seeking information and advice from both. It was also pleasing to see several of our Year 12 students take part in the Career Development Program that is offered by the Tasmanian Police Force. This required the students to submit an application to attend, with the successful recipients being invited to spend several days during their Term 3 holidays at the Police Academy in Rokeby. A fantastic opportunity for all involved!

Tasmanian Manufacturing, Minerals and Energy Council (TMEC) also provided our students at MRC with some fantastic industry real-life experiences. Many of our students were given the chance to learn and use the welding simulators, with many achieving great results. TMEC also provided our Year 10 Package of Learning students with the opportunity to visit a number of Advanced Manufacturing Companies along the North West Coast, which proved to be a very successful day for all involved.

It has also been pleasing to see a large number of our Year 10, 11, and 12 students take up the opportunity to undertake a work placement throughout the year, with a very diverse range of local businesses and organisations providing our students with some great opportunities. These placements included students undertaking work experience in occupations such as law, accounting, midwifery, veterinary, physiotherapy, personal training, building, engineering, electrical, fitting and machining, metal fabrication, and automotive. Many of these students have since gained apprenticeships, traineeships, and full-time work from these placements, which is fantastic! We are very grateful for all the local businesses that provided our students with these great experiences and look forward to continuing to grow these connections well into the future.

A great year had by all, and it was very pleasing to see our students at MRC flourish in the diverse range of pathways they choose!

Destination Report - 2023

In 2023, ninety-eight students graduated from Year 12 at Marist Regional College. From these ninety-eight students, we have been able to track down the destination of 93 of them. Once again, most of this cohort (68%) have either enrolled in their tertiary studies for 2023 or will be considering doing so within the next three years, with 9 students choosing to take this year as a gap year to either work, travel or consider other options before returning to their intended studies.

It is also very pleasing to highlight that from the ninety-eight Year 12 students, fifty-four students achieved an ATAR (*Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank, a number between zero and 99.95 that indicates where the student ranks in their year group*).

Out of these students, 28 students achieved an ATAR above 80, 16 above 90, and 9 above 95. This data illustrates that approximately 25% of our graduates' achieved results in the nation's top 10%. Also worth noting, one-third of our graduates again achieved results in the nation's top 20% of performers, which is fantastic!

The most popular tertiary course destinations once again included Health and Allied courses (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Paramedic, Radiotherapy, and Health Sciences = 26 students), with Nursing equating to 10 of these students and Medicine 3. With Pharmacy now being offered at the UTas Cradle Coast Campus, it was great to see 6 of our students take up this great opportunity and the incentives that Utas are offering. Once again, it is worth noting that at MRC, the strong support given to Mathematics and Sciences has strongly assisted and fostered this interest and popularity. This is again an impressive number of highly motivated students who have graduated and progressed on to their career pathway in their selected area of interest.

Other professional career pathways from MRC include:

- Education (primary and secondary education) - 6 students
- Engineering - 4 students
- Music - 3 students
- Media and animation - 2 students
- Marine and Antarctic Science - 2 students
- Law - 2 students
- Social Work - 2 students
- Psychology - 1 student

- Mathematics- 1 student
- Science - 1 student
- Architecture - 1 student
- TasTafe - 5 students
- American College Soccer Scholarship - 1 student
- MRC Traineeships - 1 student

The number of students choosing to study at a mainland university dropped in comparison to previous years with only 16 students choosing this option for 2024, with 35 students choosing to study at UTAS. This is a huge increase from previous years and can be attributed to UTAS's popular Student Recommendation Program (SRP). The nominated mainland universities included: Monash, Deakin, RMIT, AIT, ANU, University of NSW, University of Queensland, James Cook University, and Charles Sturt.

It is also worth noting that of the 9 students from the 2023 cohort who have chosen to take a gap year, 5 of these students achieved very respectable ATAR results, and have the intention to begin their university studies in 2025. Most of these students have indicated that they will be studying at a mainland university.

With the practical Vocational Educational Training courses in Building and Construction, Automotive, Hospitality, and Nursing being offered at MRC, it was pleasing to see 9 students gain either an apprenticeship or traineeship aligned to these industries after undertaking these courses and gaining the required pre-qualifications. As is the usual practice in the Career Centre at MRC, student counseling, and career advising to these students always includes discussions on alternate pathways such as pre-vocation courses, employment opportunities, GAP schemes, and certificate qualifications to strengthen the possibility of gaining an apprenticeship.

There are also 15 students in this year's group who have either gained full-time or part-time work across a diverse array of industry sectors.

Above all, these are very impressive results from our 2023 Year 12 group. It is a credit to all the students for all the hard work they have put in and to their parents and staff who have supported and guided them along their journey to this point!

Mr Luke Wescombe
Career Pathways Coordinator

Sport

2023 was a significant year of sport at MRC, with increasing participation across the cohort in events and sporting teams, as well as some significant team and individual performances.

Two students represented Australia on the International stage in 2023. Jack Latham (Year 11) in Triathlon at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago, and Lara Walsh (Year 11) in Snowboard Cross at the FIS Junior World Championships in Italy.

Term 1

NSATIS Basketball and Tennis commenced in Term 1, and it was a successful year for most of our teams with our Boys 1sts Basketball (first since 2016) and Boys 1sts Tennis (3rd in a row) and Girls 1sts Tennis (5 in the last 6 years) winning NSATIS Championships. Progressing through to the SATIS finals in early Term 2, where they took on Guilford Young, Hutchins and Collegiate. Unfortunately, our teams were unable to bring home the state final, but all the students put in an excellent performance.

Our NSATIS Girls 1sts Basketball was a young team and finished 3rd whilst the Boys 2nds, also a young team, finished 6th. Congratulations to the players and coaching staff for another great year.

Term 1 had the majority of our inter-house and representative carnivals take place which includes:

- MRC Junior and Senior Swim Carnival (Won by Frayne)
- MRC Athletics Carnival (Won by McAuley)

The Marist Schools Association Basketball trip returned after a break due to COVID, with a boys team travelling to Adelaide. The team ended with a record of 3 wins and 4 losses. All losses were 14 points and under in close battles that could have gone either way. Thank you to Mr Samuel Johnstone and Mr Grant Sims for accompanying the team.

The College had students compete in NSATIS Athletics in Launceston was rained out, but a strong MRC team still attended the SATIS Carnival, with a number of students having 1st place finishes, and the U16 Boys team claiming the SATIS Championship pennant.

Term 2

Term 2 saw a heavily oriented AFL Football roster, with the SATIS Senior Boys, NSATIS Senior Girls and the NWJFU Boys 7, 8 & 9/10 teams playing throughout. There was also the introduction of a Western Conference 7-10 girls roster which will hopefully expand into a full roster in the future, such is the nature of the growing girls game Nationally. The highlight being our Year 7/8 Girls team convincingly winning the coastal final over Ulverstone.

The MRC Cross-Country Carnival (won by McAuley) and Tasmanian All School Cross-Country events took place in Term 2 with the Year 9 MRC Girls record being broken by Gemma King. The MRC Cross-Country Team had a great day in Symmons Plains, with 4 students placing in the top 3 for their respective age-group, and the Year 8 (U15) girls team winning the state championship.

The BNA Saturday Netball Winter Roster also commenced in Term 1 with 7 teams from Years 7-10 playing throughout the roster. It was great to see 4 of these teams play in Grand Finals late in Term 2, with teams winning in B2 and B3, and finishing runners up in A1 and B3.

Student teams also represented the College at the All-Schools Mountain Bike event in a rainy Launceston, and a number of teams participated in the All-Schools Futsal Titles held in Devonport (7-10) and Launceston (11-12).

Term 3

Term 3 is always a big term for sport, with our NSATIS Soccer, Netball and Hockey rosters commencing. The Boys Hockey Team again reached the SATIS Hockey Final, making it 4 NSATIS titles in a row, and hosted Guilford Young College in Burnie, but unfortunately going down. The girls finished 2nd place in a reduced NSATIS competition. The Netball (1sts - 4th, 2nds - 5th) and Soccer (Boys - 6th, Girls - 4th) teams were competitive at times throughout the competition but were unable to reach the NSATIS finals which are very competitive in these sports.

Volleyball was a new addition to the NSATIS landscape for MRC, with both Boys and Girls teams being in the mix for the final right up until the last round game. The teams finished in 3rd (Boys) and 4th (Girls) respectively.

The Girls AFL Gala Days took place for our Year 7/8 (2 teams) and 9/10 teams – a narrow loss to Burnie saw the 9/10 team finish 2nd, and the 7/8 teams played each other in the final (eventually leading to the Premiership noted earlier).

Due to unexpected events at the College, MRC were limited with participants in NSATIS Swimming and did not attend SATIS Swimming.

Rounding out sport for Term 3, we had 3 teams (7/8 Boys and Girls and 9/10 Girls) compete in the regional High School Netball Championships conducted by Netball Tasmania. All teams advanced to the state finals which were held in Devonport and Ulverstone which were held in Term 4. All teams were competitive at this event but were unable to come away with a championship.

Term 4

Term 4 started off with the annual Sports Award Evening to celebrate the achievements of our students and sport teams throughout the year. It is always a great opportunity to recognise the athletes and staff for their achievements, dedication, and commitment to school sport. Old Scholar and current Western Bulldogs AFL player Ryan Gardener was the Guest Speaker. He reflected that coming to Marist was one of the best decisions he made and assisted him on his path to the AFL. Ryan spoke of resilience, commitment, community connection and family that all helped him on his path.

MRC sent two teams (7/8 and 9/10 boys) to Hobart for Rugby 7's against local school teams and Hutchins. It was a successful experience with the 7/8 boys remaining undefeated in 4 games, and the 9/10 boys losing just one. Thank you to Hutchins for being generous hosts.

The North-West High School Basketball Championships and State Basketball Championships were held in November, with 9 MRC teams competing throughout the tournament. The highlights from the tournament included:

- Year 7/8 Boys Division 1 NW Third Place
- Year 7/8 Boys Division 2 Runners-up
- Year 7/8 Girls Division 1 NW Runners-Ups

Both Division 1 7/8 teams progressed through to the High School State Basketball Championships in Launceston. Here, the 7/8 Girls came out as State Champions defeating Sacred Heart in the final.

Rounding our sport for 2023, MRC competed in the All-Schools Triathlon Challenge held in Devonport and the two-day SATIS T20 Cricket Tournament held in Launceston. This tournament being a great steppingstone into trying to grow Cricket at the College.

Congratulations to all students and teams on their sporting achievements in 2023, and a big thank you to all staff and families who support the ongoing participation of MRC in the events throughout the year.

Mr Thomas Lutwyche
Head of Sport

Student Attendance Data

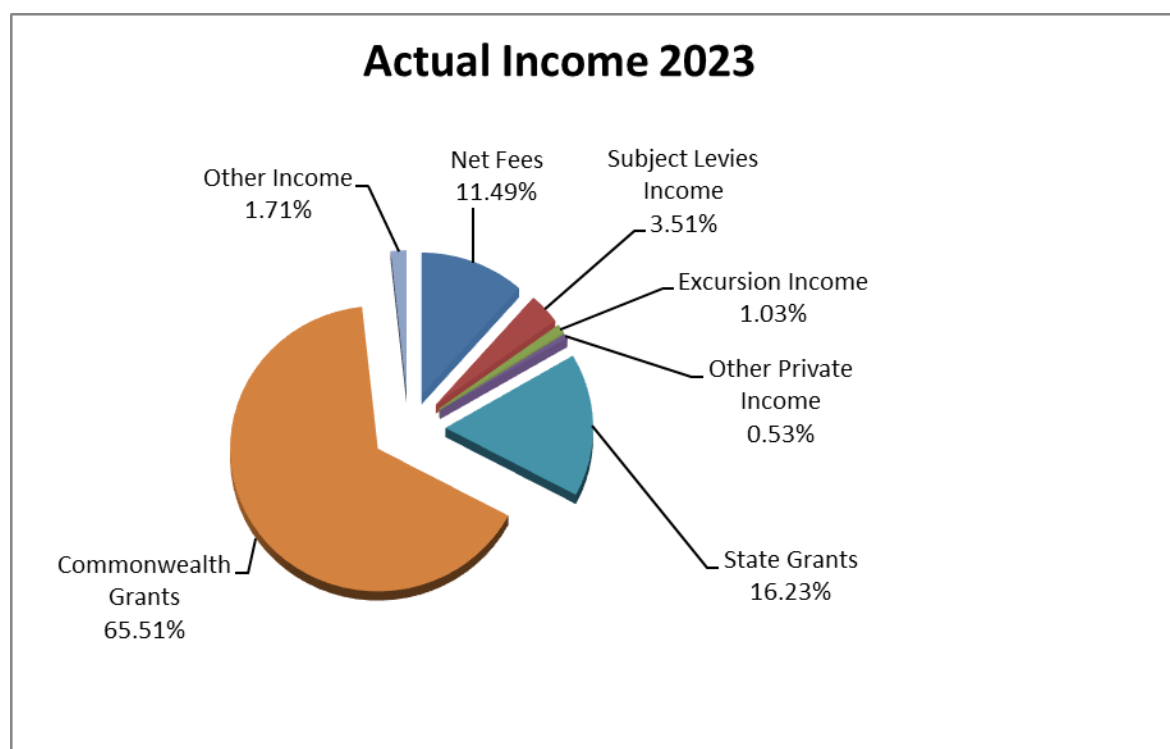
Throughout 2023, student attendance was monitored on a per period basis.

On average, student absence per annum rates:

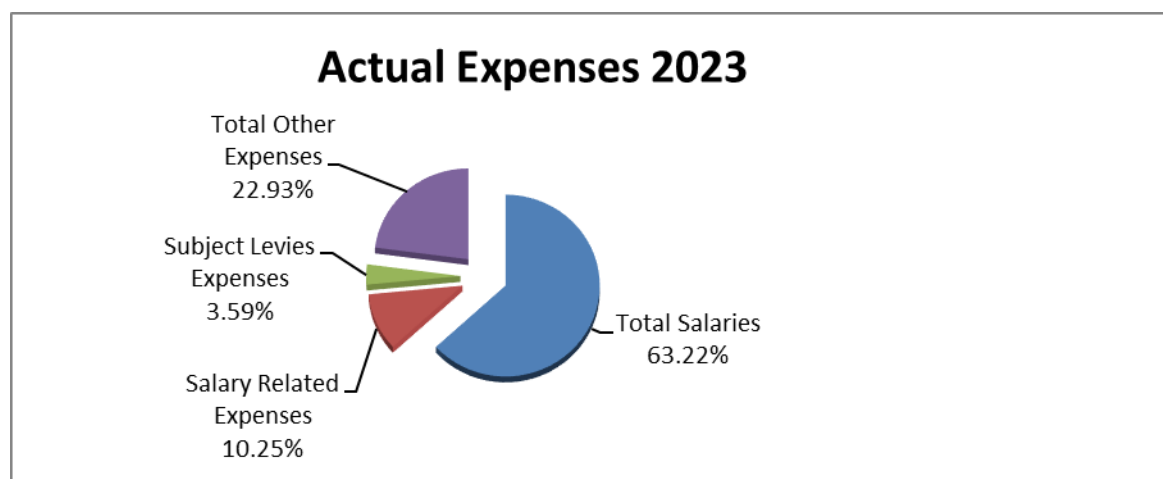
Year Level	Percentage	Days
7	88.44	16.52
8	89.31	15.13
9	89.05	15.51
10	88.95	15.83
11	90.47	14.86
12	88.39	18.22

Student Numbers at DESE Census (Aug 2023)

Year 7	154
Year 8	167
Year 9	138
Year 10	145
Year 11	123
Year 12	95
Totals	822

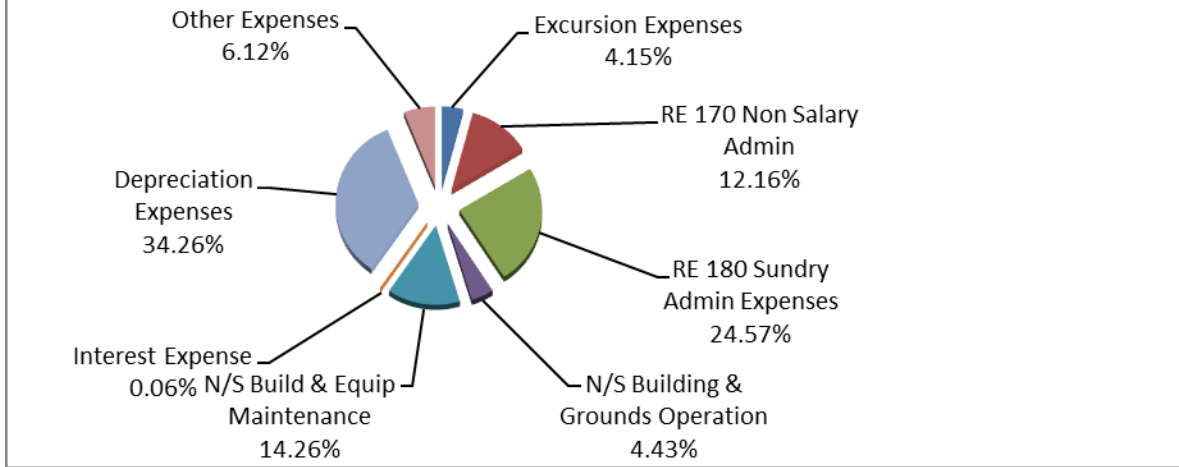


The College’s main source of income is derived from government grant funding (81.74%) for the provision of education services and to fund the general operational requirements of the campus. School fees net of discounts (11.49%) represent the other major component of our income sources, whilst income received for subject levies (3.51%) is used to fund the subjects as reflected in the expenses.



Salaries and salary-related expenses (73.47%) make up a significant portion of the College’s expenditure.

Allocation Other Expenses 2023 Actual



Our Sundry Administration Expenses (24.57%) have increased from last year (20.85%), which includes increases in both TCEO Levies and general insurance premiums.



Paraka Street Burnie
PO Box 588 Burnie Tas 7320
Telephone +61 3 6432 7600

Email principal@mrc.tas.edu.au
www.mrc.tas.edu.au



Marist Regional College is a Catholic Co-educational Secondary College with an enrolment of approximately 800 students from Years 7-12, servicing the North West Coast of Tasmania.