

Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter

our mission

Jarjum's mission is to educate urban Aboriginal children who are not currently participating or coping in mainstream primary schools and to alleviate the social, emotional, behavioural and health disadvantages of these children so that they can return to mainstream schooling, and to provide opportunities for them to pursue secondary education. It will serve girls and boys aged between 4 and 13 from Kindergarten to Year 6.

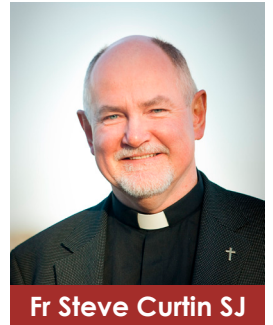
In partnership with the Redfern Aboriginal community and other community organisations, the growth of the children will be intensive and holistic. With a low student-to teacher ratio, care of the individual student will be at its heart. It will provide a culturally attuned and locally responsive approach to meet each child's individual needs through social, spiritual, academic and emotional engagement with the child.

Jarjum will focus on the educational foundations of literacy and numeracy, along with building each child's self-concept and self-worth. The school day will include transport to school, before school care, washing facilities and clothing, meals, health checks and after school activities. A key feature will be community development with parents and carers through opportunities to participate in school activities such as meal preparation, sharing stories and regular gatherings.

The success of Jarjum College will draw on the Jesuit and Catholic experiences in Aboriginal primary education and urban Aboriginal outreach programs.

Dear Friends of Redfern Jarjum College,

Thanks to the friendship and generosity of so many people, Redfern Jarjum College is becoming a reality. As I introduce this first edition of the *Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter*, I thank you most sincerely for your support for our newest school, and I acknowledge the Gadigal people, the traditional owners of the land on which our new school stands.



Fr Steve Curtin SJ

The first Jesuits in Australia came from Austria and founded a mission in South Australia in 1848. Seventeen years later the Irish Jesuits also began a mission, this time in Victoria, which ultimately spread to Sydney. It is not widely known that in 1882 the Austrian Jesuits, with some Australians who had joined them, established a mission among indigenous Australians on the Daly River, in the present-day Northern Territory, then still a part of South Australia. Fr Donald MacKillop SJ, brother of St Mary MacKillop, was for many years Superior of that mission and a passionate advocate for Aboriginal people. After that early mission closed, we had no established work with indigenous Australians until the 1970s when a number of Jesuits returned to this important ministry. Now we are Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal friends walking as partners and building communities together.

When Pope John Paul II visited Alice Springs in 1986 he spoke of the indwelling of God's Spirit in Aboriginal culture and of the genius and dignity of Aboriginal people. The Holy Father also acknowledged the dispossession and suffering that followed white settlement. In paying tribute to the missionaries of the Christian faith who served in Aboriginal communities, John Paul II also honestly acknowledged their frailty and mistakes. As we walk together now in Redfern we acknowledge our need for the help and support of the Redfern Aboriginal community to make this new school truly responsive to the needs and aspirations of the families we wish to serve.

We now have a College Council and a very enthusiastic Principal. Construction of the College is well underway. Thank you for walking with us on this journey to give education and a better future to a new generation of Aboriginal Australians.

May God bless us and bless our new school.

Fr Steve Curtin SJ
Provincial

the redfern jarjum college council

Day-to-day management of RJC will be by the members of the Redfern Jarjum College Council. The Council has been appointed by the Provincial of the Jesuits, Fr Steve Curtin SJ, and in this first RJC Newsletter, we briefly introduce them to you:

ERIC GOODWIN

Eric is the Chair of the Redfern Jarjum College Council and a former Chair of St Aloysius' College Council. Eric is an engineer by profession and has over thirty years' experience in the construction and real estate industry.



DAVID GREEN

Has been the Business Manager at St Aloysius' College since 2004.



FR CHRISTOPHER GLEESON SJ

Father Christopher Gleeson SJ was ordained a priest in 1975 and is a past Headmaster of Xavier College Melbourne and St Ignatius' College Riverview Sydney. Presently, he is the Provincial's Delegate for Education.



FR MELVIN LLABANES PP

Fr Melvin Llabanes is from The Philippines and is the Parish Priest of St Vincent de Paul Parish in Redfern.

GRAEME MUNDINE

Graeme Mundine, a prominent Aboriginal Catholic leader and former Marist Brother. He works as the Executive Officer of the Archdiocese of Sydney's Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.



FR PETER HOSKING SJ

Fr Peter Hosking SJ is the Rector of St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point and is a trained clinical psychologist.



FR BRIAN MCCOY SJ

Father Brian McCoy SJ is the Provincial Assistant for Ministries Among Indigenous Peoples within the Australian Jesuit Province.



ELIZABETH O'CARRIGAN

Elizabeth is Regional Director of the Eastern Region within the Catholic Education Office Sydney and has been a member of the CEO Leadership Team since 2008.

AILSA GILLET OAM

Works as an Executive Assistant at St Aloysius' College and is the founder of *Life for Koori Kids*.



AUNTY BERYL VAN-OPLOO

Has worked in the hospitality industry for 50 years and for the past 20 years has been a TAFE teacher in tourism and hospitality, more recently providing training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth at Yaama Dhiyaan and through her catering company in Redfern.



progress to date

Thank you all for your support in getting Redfern Jarjum College off the ground, and while we still have a long way to go, we can report that design drawings have been completed, authority approvals are in hand and construction is well advanced towards a finish date in October 2012. The building works are being undertaken by Onsite Building Services under the direction of our Architects Cracknell and Lonergan (Julie Cracknell and Peter Lonergan). The total cost of the works approximates \$2.5M.

A walk along Redfern Street presents the new façade to the former St Vincent's Presbytery, which, as a heritage building, is being restored and integrated with the College extensions.

Photographs of the building work appear throughout this edition of Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter.

from the principal

As a Gamilaroi woman, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Gadigal people from the Eora Nation on which Redfern Jarjum College will be established. I also acknowledge the Elders both past and present.

First and foremost I would like to thank those people who so generously donated to the Appeal to fund the building of Redfern Jarjum College. Thanks to the support of over 1,000 private donors and the generous support of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Catholic Education Commission and the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits), building work has started on the College and barring any more rain we will commence classes in October 2012.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and pay tribute to everyone in their different communities who made the positive decision to support the Appeal and help make a tangible difference for present and future generations of Aboriginal boys and girls.

It is a pleasure and honour to be appointed as the Founding Principal of Redfern Jarjum College. This first newsletter is merely the beginning of many more to come; it is an opportunity to keep you informed of the many great and exciting developments at RJC (Redfern Jarjum College).

At RJC 'one size will not fit all'. We will have diversity within the teaching/learning process to meet the needs of our young people complimentary to their Aboriginal culture, giving them confidence and the skills to go on in their education to high school and beyond. The world is their oyster!

As Founding Principal, it is my intention to surround our children with specialist staff and volunteers who are able to think outside the square and are able to mould the curriculum to accommodate the needs of our students and the wider community.

Over the coming few months we will begin to take enrolments.

I look forward to keeping you informed of our developments and of the ongoing support of Redfern Jarjum College.

Beatrice Sheen
Founding Principal



L to R: Fr Christopher Gleeson SJ, Fr Peter Hosking SJ, Ailsa Gillett OAM, Graeme Mundine, Beatrice Sheen (Principal), David Green, Fr Melvin Llabanes PP, Elizabeth O'Carrigan, Eric Goodwin (Chair)
On site at Redfern Jarjum College.

A Touch of History Fr Frank Brennan SJ

In the late 1970's, a group of Jesuit novices would come from Canisius College at Pymble and live at Redfern for a couple of months each year. We were very raw, and a touch anxious. In 1976, I was one of the group. Four of us lived in "a dive" in Great Buckingham Street. We would spend the day in and around the presbytery with Fr Ted Kennedy. At first I was terrified. Ted opened his door to all comers, including those who were drunk or affected by drugs. He provided a home for the homeless, and a place of belonging for the most alienated on the streets of Redfern. I had the plumb job: I was Shirley Smith's driver. Each day I would drive Mum Shirl to court, or to prison, or to the homes around Redfern looking for people to go to court or to report to police for parole. Shirl would issue instructions and give advice – with great authority and with a love that embraced all. In court, her word was gospel; on the streets, it was fail-safe; and in the presbytery, it was maternal. The Sunday eucharist in St Vincent's Church was a reminder that God so loved the world as it was in its brokenness that He sent His own son in complete self-giving love. Fr Ted and Mum Shirl incarnated the mission and the call for all of us. I am so pleased that their images will greet all comers to Jarjum College. Ted and Shirl will welcome the learner and commission the taught to go forth and make the world a better place.

The St Vincent's Presbytery building has social and historic significance as the residence for 30 years of Fr Ted Kennedy, and by implication its recognition as "home" to the local Aboriginal community. The Presbytery also has local Aboriginal significance in its contributory role in the establishment of Aboriginal organisations; The Aboriginal Medical Service and Aboriginal Housing Company; and by its association with the first urban Aboriginal Lands Rights acknowledgement in the local government area. Fr Ted Kennedy along with Mum Shirl, an Aboriginal Elder, are well remembered for their work with the Aboriginal Community in Redfern.

From Eric Goodwin, Chair of College Council

Dear Supporters,

The College Council of Redfern Jarjum College would like to acknowledge the many people, companies and organisations for their generous support of the inaugural Redfern Jarjum College Appeal.

Your gifts in support of the school have enabled us to achieve so much.

Initial funding for the establishment of the school has been generous, but in order for us to complete the work to the specifications we desire for our children, we still need to raise a further \$300,000.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our major supporters, a challenge has been given to all the supporters of RJC.

For each \$1 we raise between now and 30 June 2012 this supporter will triple the original gift, meaning if a gift of \$1,000 is raised the supporter will donate a further \$3,000 making the gift \$4,000 in total.

We ask you to consider making a further donation in support of Redfern Jarjum College. All gifts are tax-deductible and every gift, no matter what size, will be matched by our generous supporter.

Every gift will make a difference to the lives of those children we seek to serve and whose lives we seek to turn around.

If you are able please complete the gift box below and return it to Redfern Jarjum College to ensure that your gift is matched and that our dream to open the doors of Redfern Jarjum College in October 2012 can become a reality!

Kind regards

Eric Goodwin

Name:

Address.....

Telephone: E-mail:

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

☐ \$2,000 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$7,500 ☐ \$500
☐ \$250 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$.....

To support the establishment of Redfern Jarjum College.

☐ Enclosed is a cheque made payable to *Redfern Jarjum College*
☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Expiry Date:

Name on Card:

Company or personal name(s) for tax-deductible receipt:

☐ I wish for my gift to remain anonymous when the list of donors is published in the *Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter*

Please return your donation via the following:

Mail it to RJC PO Box 3177 Redfern NSW 2016 • Via fax 02 9936 5691 • E-mail to beatrice.sheen@stalloysius.nsw.edu.au

Banner Graphic designed Cecile Jestin

For further details, please contact:

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