

Marcellin Technical College commenced as the Australian Technical College-Adelaide South in February 2006, where a staff of four oversaw the refurbishment of the former Christies Beach High School western campus site, developed new curriculum and embarked on a vigorous marketing campaign to enroll students in the new model of education and training.

The College began operation in February 2007 with an enrolment of 104 students. The programme was a two year course over Year 11 and Year 12 and introduced students to Certificate III training programme in Building and Construction, Electrotechnology, Metal Fabrication and Mechanical Engineering. In addition, some students who were signed to a school-based apprenticeship spent blocks of paid time working with a host employer. The new paradigm was embraced by the College community. Students saw the relevance, parents saw the engagement and staff observed the growth in maturity of the students.

With the election of a new Federal Government in late 2007, the Technical Colleges programme, which had made a significant impact on the training and education sector, was scrapped and each College was asked to find a partner to continue the model. This was done through the Catholic Education Office. The College was re-named Marcellin Technical College and embraced the charism of St. Marcellin Champagnat, becoming a Marist associate education and training facility. In our short life as a Marist associate school, the welcome from the Marists has been outstanding.

Since the College's transition into Catholic Education, many changes have occurred. The College has become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in its own right, delivering the additional courses of Automotive, White Card training, Test and Tag course and Training and Assessment (TAE). The College enrolment numbers have more than doubled to 209

in February 2011 and additional courses and partnerships have been developed.

In partnership with the Grapegrowers and Winemakers of McLaren Vale, the College has undertaken to address the workforce sustainability in the Viticulture Industry by generating traineeships in a pilot programme. This programme, which is a Certificate III course in Viticulture, is a joint venture between River Murray Training, Irrigation Australia, the Grapegrowers and Winemakers of McLaren Vale and Maxima Group Training in SA. The qualification, which also allows the students to complete their South Australian Certificate of Education, is a two year programme with seasonal paid work in the vineyards.

In a programme that took 18 months to develop, the College has worked closely with Thoroughbred Racing SA (TRSA) to establish an opportunity for the apprentice jockeys at the Morphettville Apprenticeship Academy to complete their SACE through Marcellin Technical College. The 10 apprentices who are part of the College community are excited about this opportunity to secure an academic qualification while continuing with their chosen career.

An Animal Studies course, developed in cooperation with TafeSA, commenced in 2011 with a pilot group of 12 students. This course allows students to complete a Certificate in Animal Studies. In addition, a partnership with the Santa Teresa Community, 80 km south east of Alice Springs has been forged through Sacred Heart College in Adelaide and Br. Rod Thomson from the Ltyentye Apurte School in that community. The College has 9 indigenous students either commencing a Certificate III course in a chosen trade.

In summary, the College is looking forward to its life as a Marist associate school.

Jim Fenoughty, Principal

