

OFFICIAL OPENING OF JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS

25 OCTOBER 2009

Address by Polycarpus Kouroushis, Chairman of the Parish Board of Directors.

Thank you and Good afternoon.

Your Eminence Archbishop Stylianos of Australia;

Rev Father Christos Triandafyllou and Presvytera Sevasti;

The Hon Jason Clare Member for Blaxland representing the Hon Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations; Minister for Education; Minister for Social Inclusion

The Hon John Hatzistergos, Attorney-General of New South Wales;

Hon Robert Furolo MP member for Lakemba and Mayor of Canterbury City Council

Hon Tony Stewart MP member for Bankstown

Hon Kayee Griffin MLC Councillors Bill Kritharas Fadwa Kebe from Canterbury City Council

Our Indigenous Elders uncle Ivan Wellington, Stan Mitchell and Phil Botti

Mr Ioannis Pitsas Consul of educational affairs representing the Consul General of Greece

Mr Jack Passaris OAM chair of Intercommunities Council

Mr Alegounarias president of Board of Studies

Mr Christos Candalepas, president of the Parish and Community Board of Trustees and Mrs Candalepas;

Mr Theofilou OAM president of St Euphemia Parish and Dr Savoulis President of St Spyridon Parish

Mr John Gorie former Mayor of Canterbury City Council

Mr Hatzikyriakou representing Laiki Bank

Mr Dugar representing the National Australia Bank

Dr Greenhalgh Principal of Meridien School, Strathfield

Mr Kypreotis representing the St Andrews Theological College of our Archdiocese

Mr Messaris from SBS Radio

Mr Angelo Candalepas and Mrs Candalepas Architect of our New School

Mr Sozomenos family, the builders of our new school

Mr Tsoutsas and Mrs Tsoutsas Principal of All Saints Grammar

Mrs Lillies Head of All Saints Junior School and Dr Lillies

Mrs Constandinides Head of All Saints Senior School and Mr Koler

Other distinguished guests, Staff, mums and dads and most importantly boys and girls who are the students of All Saints Grammar.

Your Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, The Hon Jason Clare, Reverent Fathers, Distinguished guests from all level of government, educational and professional life, Ladies and Gentlemen, Parents and Students of All Saints Grammar.

It is my pleasant duty to welcome you here today on behalf of the Board of Directors and thank you for accepting our invitation to join us in celebrating the completion of our new award winning School. I believe that you will be glad you decided to attend and pledge that this portion of the celebration will be brief.

I respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional owners of the land on which we stand the Cadigal people of the Eora Country.

We are honoured to be able to use this site with the approval of the traditional owners for the purpose of providing the best education for all children.

Together we acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country we all live in and share together – Australia.

What you are about to see is the result of countless numbers of people working together towards a common goal. It's been said, "Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

I'm confident that you will agree the new primary school is a facility that the whole community can be proud of. It represents the commitment of the All Saints Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of Belmore to its youth and to the importance of providing an environment that truly supports teaching and learning.

The journey that has led us here today started many years ago. We had some false starts and, sometimes, false hopes. But the community of people that make up our school district had a vision.....a vision of a place where its children could learn and grow, and be assured of the best education it had to offer. We had that desire and our vision became a reality. It is this reality that brings us here today to celebrate our school, our children, and the commitment our community has made to making education a priority.

I give recognition to all the anonymous hands that extended themselves. I give thanks to those that donated and are still donating large sums of money in pursuits of our children's fu-

ture.

I would like to recognize the members of this and previous Boards of Directors and Ladies Auxiliary who saw the need and took the action necessary to bring the vision to reality.

I give thanks to the community group that worked with us from the conceptual stage through the final design and spent many hours in all aspects of the project.

I compliment the architects Candalepas and Associates on their bold and imaginative approach and the way they have incorporated this modern building, with its state-of-the-art facilities, into the campus, alongside the All Saints Church. No longer isolated within a domestic setting, the School building is placed in conversation with the magnificent Church of All Saints.

Our school is the recipient of the prestigious SULMAN award. The highest architecture award a public building can receive in NSW. We have with us today Miss Maryam Gusheh, a lecturer in Architecture at the University of NSW. Maryam has written an inspiring report on our new school in "Architecture Australia" in August 2009.

We haven't published it yet but, All Saints has also won an international commendation in the prestigious and difficultly judged Emerging Architecture Awards in London. All Saints is also shortlisted for the National Architecture Awards in Australia.

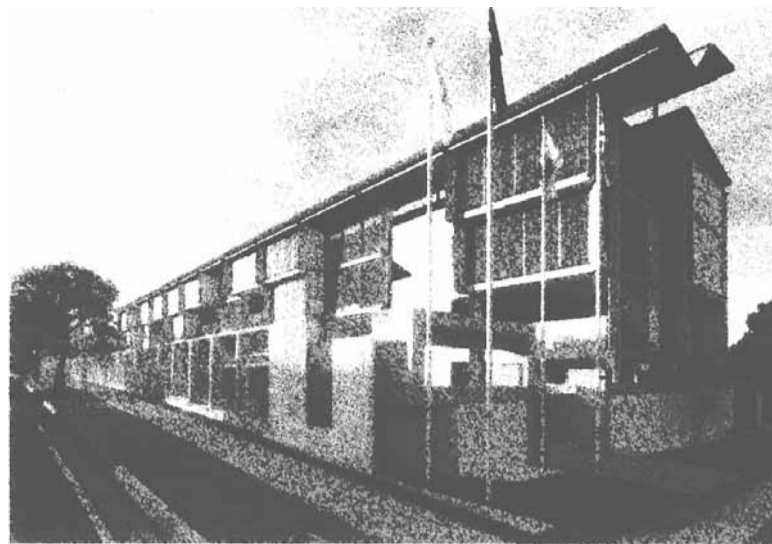
I'd like to recognize Sozomenos family and all the, sub-contractors and their work crews who worked with us to provide the fine facility that you'll be touring shortly.

I'd like to recognise the administrative team members as well as faculty and staff who spent countless hours meeting with architects during the design phase.

My friends, we would have not reached this point without our dedicated, passionate and inspiring Principal, Mr Anthony Tsoutsas.

It is the drive and initiative of our Principal, along with our Junior School Head Mrs Elfa Lillies, our staff, the Business Manager Mrs Lorraine Plant, the Board of Governors, the Parents and Friends that has achieved what has been achieved here today, and I want sincerely to congratulate all of them on their efforts.

I thank the Australian Government for giving \$750,000 to this school to help cover the total cost of \$7.5 million dollars. I would like also to highlight that



a further \$2.5 million has been earmarked by the Australian Government towards construction of our school multifunction hall whose construction will start in the near future.

I Thank the Hon Jason Clare, Member for Blaxland for opening our school today representing the Hon Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Workplace relations, Minister for Social Inclusion and Minister for Education.

Such assistance is not natural right but is earned in recognition of the high standards evident in our Grammar School.

I thank the State Government for their interest subsidy support. Representing the State Government here today we have Hon Robert Furolo member for Lakemba as well as Hon Tony Stewart member for Bankstown. At the Church this morning we were honoured with the presence of The Hon John Hatzistergos, Attorney-General of New South Wales.

I give thanks to our Local Government. Our School and Parish and Community have long standing connections to our local Council. We are honoured to have with us today, three generations of Mayors. Our current Mayor and member for Lakemba Hon Robert Furolo together with previous mayors Hon Kayee Griffin MLC and Mr John Gorie joined by Councillors Fadwa Kebbe and Bill Kritharas. Thank you for your support.

We are deeply honoured today to have with us Mr Peter Theofilou, President of St Euphemia Parish as well as Dr Savoulis, President of St Spyridon Parish, and the Principal of Meridien School at Strathfield as well Mr Kypreotis representing St Andrews Theological College joining us in celebrating the opening of our new school. Thank you for your support.

I give thanks to Father Christos for his constant moral and spiritual support and unwavering strength in supporting All Saints Grammar and our com-

munity. He has been a fundamental pillar of this community.

Your Eminence I need not tell you that Your advice, your prayers, your presence here today and every other time have embodied and encouraged our aspirations at all times. May the years ahead be as fruitful as the last 35 have been under your watchful eye.

And finally, I'd like to recognize my wife Branka and daughter Christiana who support me and put up with my crazy schedule and love and they are both committed to this community with Christiana a Year 1 student of All Saints Grammar.

I pray for the souls of those that have departed and I know that they are here celebrating with us today.

I feel honoured and deeply touched to be part of this remarkable event. The completion and opening of this school is a matter that is close to my heart.

Students, I hope you are very proud of your new school because you should be. I hope that you recognise and understand the tremendous schooling that you are getting under your Principal, your teachers and with the help of the P and F, you have a big future in front of you and I wish you all the very best. Be proud of your school, be proud of your area, be proud of your Greek heritage and religion and be proud of Australia.

In closing I wish to thank each and every one of you who have come to celebrate a historic milestone in the history of our All Saints Grammar School. I pray that the Blessings of our Lord through the intercessions of All Saints grant each of you and you families, health, happiness, peace of mind and heart and I hope to see you in many of the other celebrations.

With the reality impressively in front of us, it is my pleasure that I ask His Eminence and Hon Jason Clare to unveil the plaque.

Thank you.