Statement of Benjamin Reynolds

Head of Sport
Marcellin College

Introduction

I, Benjamin Reynolds, am the Head of Sport at Marcellin College. I have held this position for 5 years. Previously I was Teacher in Charge of Basketball as well as being a Physical Education teacher and Pastoral Leader. My qualifications include Bachelor of Applied Science in Physical Education

Co-curricular Sport and Health and Physical Education Program

1 The Co-curricular Sport and Health and Physical Education Program at Marcellin College is an integral part of the curriculum and comprises;

- Physical Education (PE) classes; and
- Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV) and Victorian Schools Rugby Union (VSRU) competition games.

2 The Sports program at Marcellin prides itself on creating an environment that focuses on sportsmanship whilst developing the physical, mental and social skills of our boys.

3 The co-curricular program is a very important part of the life of the College and integral to the growth and development of our students. It provides a highly competitive program where students represent the College with great sportsmanship whilst developing physically, mentally and socially. The Sport program aims to compliment sport in the community whilst providing further learning opportunities within the Marcellin community. It not only connects students but connects their families to our community.

4 Participation rates in AGSV and VSRU (football, rugby, soccer and cricket) competitions are high. Rates are set out in the table below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enrollment</td>
<td>1438</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>1430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
<td><strong>63%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summer Sport**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enrollment</td>
<td>1438</td>
<td>1432</td>
<td>1415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sports facilities**

5 There are three key outdoor sporting facilities (class rooms) at Marcellin College:

- Lyons Oval;
- Bray Oval; and
- Gartner fields.

6 Lyons and Bray Ovals have turf wickets and are used for the higher grade cricket and AFL matches. The Gartner fields has three playing “fields” – and during winter is used as a rugby pitch (closest to Bulleen Road) and two soccer ovals.

7 As each of the sporting facilities are used daily for Health and Physical Education classes, they are in effect, class rooms. Attach a map showing the location of the two ovals and Gartner fields.

8 Marcellin has an advantage over Trinity and Carey in that our sporting facilities are co-located with our classrooms. We use our ovals daily for Health and Physical Education classes as well as sport training. The quality of these fields supports a high level of learning outcomes and connectedness to our community. Our boys and our staff love using our fields. Having these classrooms on campus also prevents wasted time transporting staff and students to external venues of similar size and
standard. Carey and Trinity need to do this as their main teaching spaces are at the main schools campuses.

**Sports program – use of ovals.**

9 Marcellin uses the two ovals and Gartner fields for several sports:

(a) PE – daily basis.

(b) During summer – for the School Cricket program of 105 boys in seven teams.

(c) During summer for Athletics training.

(d) During winter for the school football program of 410 boys in thirteen teams.

(e) During winter for the school Rugby program of 113 boys in six teams.

(f) During winter for the school soccer program of 305 players in fourteen teams.

9 Marcellin also uses the two ovals and Gartner fields to support its old collegians:

(a) Old Collegians Cricket club of 70 players in 4 teams.

(b) Old Collegians Soccer club of 55 players in three teams.

(c) Old Collegians Football club of 210 players in eight teams.

(d) Over 35 Baldies Football program of 97 players in two teams (A group of over 35 year old men who get together all year round to train and play. A fantastic Mens Health initiative by Old Collegian Dr Berni2 Crimmins).

11 Finally, Marcellin also makes the Gartner fields available for community uses.

12 School summer sport and training runs from mid-August through to mid-March. Old Boys is much longer:

(a) School boys start Week six of term three – August 20 until week seven of term one – March 16th and the Old Collegians follow the same timeline.

13 Winter sport and training from mid-February to mid-August. Old Boys much longer.
(a) School boys start week Four – February 18th until end of week 6 August 17th. Old Collegians Football start November 15th and Old Collegians Soccer start December 1st. Both finish September 15th-20th depending on finals.

The individual use of the ovals and the Gartner Fields is set out below.

### Lyons Oval

15 Superb AFL ground that caters for both schoolboys and Old Collegians football.

16 Outstanding Cricket oval for schoolboys and senior men with a 5-pitch wicket table.

17 Old Collegians used portable lighting system to allow for training in the winter months.

- Used daily for health and physical education classes. 9.00am – 3.30pm.

- Cricket in Summer

  - School teams use grounds, five games in Term 4. October to December. School teams use grounds five games in Term 1. February to March.

  - Saturday school Cricket game times are from 8.30am-12.30pm.

  - School Cricket teams can use Lyons Oval for Cricket training also.

  - Old Collegians teams use grounds, eleven games in Term 4. October to December. Old Collegians use grounds eight games in Term 1. February to March.

  - Old Collegians games are from 1pm-6pm. Some Sunday games as well.

- Football in Winter

  - School Football teams use grounds, nine rounds in Term 2-3. April 15th – August 15th.

  - Saturday school Football game times are from 8.00am-1.00pm.

  - School boys use Lyons Oval for Football training also. From 3.30pm-5.00pm 4 nights a week.
- Old Collegians use grounds football training. 5.30pm-8.00pm with portable lighting.

- Athletics/Cross Country in Winter/Spring
  - 400m track marked out and used by athletics and cross-country teams in term 2-3. April 25th to September 11th.

**Bray Oval**

- Exceptional AFL ground that caters for both schoolboys and Old Collegians football.
- Exceptional Cricket oval for schoolboys and senior men with a 5-pitch wicket table.
- Not under lights and no lights used.

- Used daily for health and physical education classes. 9.00am – 3.30pm.
- Cricket in Summer
  - School Cricket teams use grounds, five games in Term 4. October to December. School teams use grounds five games in Term 1. February to March.
  - Saturday school game times are from 8.30am-5:00pm.
  - School boys can use Bray Oval for Cricket training also.

- Football in Winter
  - School Football teams use grounds, ten rounds in Term 2-3. April 15th – August 15th.
  - Saturday Football game times are from 8.00am-1.00pm
  - Schoolboys use Bray Oval for Football training also. From 3.30pm-5.00pm 4 nights a week.
  - Old Collegians play nine home fixtures (reserves and seniors) when there are no school boy games.

- Cross Country
  - Bray Oval also used to host AGSV cross country in April. 200 boys and girls involved across 9 schools.
Gartner Fields

The Gartner Fields are different from the Lyons and Bray Ovals in that they contain three multi purpose playing areas, used for Rugby, soccer and cricket. They are also partially under lights, so that night training can occur. Lights cover the main soccer pitch and the rugby fields for winter training.

- Used daily for health and physical education classes. 9.00am – 3.30pm.

- Cricket in Summer
  - One junior turf and 2 synthetic pitches.
  - 6 synthetic training cricket nets.
  - School teams use grounds, five games in Term 4. October to December. School teams use grounds five games in Term 1. February to March.
  - Saturday school Cricket game times are from 8.30am-12.30pm.
  - School Cricket teams use Gartner Fields for Cricket training also. 3.30pm-5.00pm 4 nights a week.
  - Old collegians train 2 nights a week from 6.00pm-8.00pm.

- Soccer in Winter
  - School Soccer teams use grounds, ten rounds in Term 2-3. April 15th – August 15th.
  - Saturday school Soccer game times are from 8.00am-1.00pm.
  - School Soccer teams use Gartner Fields for training also. From 3.30pm-5.00pm 4 nights a week. Old collegians soccer train 2 nights a week from 6.00pm-8.00pm.
  - Old Collegians play eleven home fixtures (reserves and seniors) when there are no school boy games.

- Rugby in Winter
• School Rugby teams use grounds, ten rounds in Term 2-3. April 15th – August 15th.

• Saturday school Rugby game times are from 8.00am-1.00pm.

• School Rugby teams use Gartner Fields for training also. From 3.30pm-5.00pm 5 nights a week.

• Cross Country

• Gartner fields also used to host AGSV cross country in April. 200 boys and girls involved across 9 schools.

**Ground Condition**

22 Marcellin prides itself in providing sports grounds that are some of the best in the state. Opposition schools always comment on the quality of the grounds that we provide for our fixtures. Marcellin grounds currently have full grass cover whereas most club grounds have very little grass cover.

23 We are regularly approached by elite clubs looking to use our facilities due to the standard of our grounds.
24 A full time grounds person is employed by the College to maintain the sports facilities. Annually the College spends $150,000 on grounds and surrounds to maintain the standards of the sporting facilities.

**Impact on the sporting facilities**

25 Parts of Gartner Fields and Lyons Oval sit within the proposed construction compound.

26 I have reviewed the expert evidence prepared by Ms Dunstan, Mr Briggs and Mr Evans.

27 It is my understanding that:

- The Tunnel entry/exit portal and a Ventilation stack are located next to the school; and

- Details of the proposed use of the Construction compound have not been provided. Mr Briggs in his statement has listed the potential uses. Mr Briggs also notes that the Compound will be required for at least 7 years, possibly longer.

28 The potential detrimental impacts the Compound will have on the Sport Program includes:

- Half of the Lyons Oval will be unavailable for use. As a consequence, alternative venues will need to be arranged for Cricket, Football and Athletics. The balance of the oval cannot be utilised for these purposes.

- The Gartner fields comprise three playing fields. Approximately one and a half playing fields will be unavailable for use including the junior turf cricket oval, soccer and the full-sized Rugby field. Alternative venues will need to be arranged, however, there are no alternative full sized Rugby fields available in close proximity to the College.

- The sporting facilities are class rooms where students are taught skills and techniques associated with various sports. Noise emanating from the compound may have an impact on the ability to conduct classes in the vicinity...
of the compound. Mr Evans has been unable to assess whether noise from the compound will have an impact on the sporting facilities.

- The construction of a compound on the sporting facilities will result in permanent damage ie damage to underground irrigation, settlement of the playing fields (5-10 mm). The College has invested a significant amount of time and money in ensuring the high quality of the playing fields. At the conclusion of the project it may take a number of years for the playing fields to be rehabilitated and returned to the same standard. As a consequence, the playing fields may be unavailable for use for a number of years post completion of the project.

**Alternative venues**

I understand that the representatives of the North East Link Project have recently been in consultation with representatives of the College regarding the availability of alternative sporting facilities at Bulleen Park. I have the following concerns about the practicality of the alternatives facilities:

- How students are to access Bulleen Park. If students are to walk, a pedestrian bridge will need to be constructed. The walk time to Bulleen Park is approximately 10 minutes (one way). Health and Physical Education classes are 45 minutes duration. Approximately 20 minutes will be required to walk to/from Bulleen Park leaving 25 minutes for class time. If students are to be transported to Bulleen Park by bus a similar “travel time” will be required. Further, the College will incur additional costs associated with bus hire etc.

- It is unclear whether the Bulleen Park facilities will be available for exclusive use by Marcellin College. If not, this will cause problems for Marcellin College. This is because scheduling the use of the existing ovals is difficult, because of the extensive use of those ovals. Scheduling the use of alternative ovals in circumstances where there may be limits on the hours of use, will be very difficult, if not impossible. In 2019 the fixture saw 54 Home football matches scheduled by the AGSV. With Marcellin only being able to host 45 matches. Not having full rights to an oval in Bulleen Park will place us in a situation where games will need to be forfeited. Similar hosting pressure is seen with our main soccer field.

- There are no full size rugby ovals in close proximity to the College.
Benjamin Reynolds

Date: 26 July 2019