



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

MEDIA RELEASE

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OLMC Parramatta expands historic campus with Roseneath Cottage acquisition

In late January 2016, the keys to the historic **Roseneath Cottage** were handed over to Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta Principal, Stephen Walsh, as this local treasure became a part of the College's 127 year old campus in the heart of Parramatta.

Located on the corner of Ross Street and O'Connell Street, Roseneath Cottage is considered to be one of the best surviving examples of a colonial cottage exterior in the Parramatta/Cumberland area. The simple yet elegant sandstock brick cottage was built in 1837 for Janet Templeton who is believed to have been responsible for the introduction of the Merino Sheep to the colony of Victoria. The building has particular historical significance therefore due to its association with the early Australian wool industry. Roseneath's heritage significance was recognised early when it was proclaimed to be "a place of historic interest" under the *County of Cumberland Planning Scheme* in 1960. It was also amongst the first 50 places in NSW to be listed under the *Heritage Act 1977* (from Heritage Branch files).

Principal Stephen Walsh said the OLMC Parramatta community was very excited to be moving into a new phase of the College's long history: "OLMC has played a central role in Parramatta's history, educating local girls for over 126 years. This historic cottage brings not only its own history and community standing but also its beautiful nineteenth century aesthetics that will further enrich our campus which already features a range of heritage and brand new buildings."

The College plans to establish a *Centre for Mercy Excellence* at Roseneath Cottage: "A commitment to cultivating excellence is at the core of all our decision making and planning at OLMC. This new Centre will foster excellence with a focus on innovation and adaptability, creating new and different learning spaces. The acquisition is also an opportunity to reflect on best practices in creative and innovative twenty first century learning and professional development and then seek to purpose-build the necessary facilities. A detailed and thoughtful process of investigation, research and consultation will begin to consider restoration and renovations plans. We are constantly striving to deliver the absolute best in contemporary education for Mercy Girls," says Principal Stephen Walsh.

Established in 1889, OLMC Parramatta is a leading independent Catholic girls school which provides contemporary learning and academic excellence in the rich Mercy tradition.

The OLMC Parramatta Open Day is coming up on Sunday February 28, 2016 from 10am-2pm. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au to book into the Principal's Address.

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