

Launch of De La Salle Community Association Network (DLS-CAN)

The great genius of our Founder was not the creation of the Christian School, as it had already been invented. His great success was that each school should be animated by a community. "Together and by association" was the soul, the essential piece that ensured the success of those original communities.

Circular 475 – From Hope to Commitment

The impact of Lasallian schools and works has continued to proudly and significantly contribute to the education and welfare of millions of students across the world over the past 340 years. In the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea (ANZPPNG), tens of thousands of students and young adults receive a Lasallian education. The Australian story began nearly 120 years ago and continues today in twenty schools across the country or through a wide range of social service support at *yourtown* (formerly Boystown) every year.

This year marks the establishment of the De La Salle Community Association Network (DLS-CAN) intended to strengthen the vitality of association by sowing, encouraging and caring for those Lasallians who have a strong sense and commitment to the Lasallian mission. DLS-CAN was conceived with the aim of further developing opportunities for increased association and commitment by bringing together Brothers, Sisters, Affiliates, benefactors, alumni, staff, teachers, parents and community members and friends of the De La Salle Institute. DLS-CAN will enable closer connection to our works and ministries through spiritual retreats, promotion of student and adult Formation programs, and partnership opportunities and networking events.

The first network event will be held on **14 June 2024**, and will be hosted by old boy of St John's College, Lakemba (now Holy Spirit College, Lakemba), Paul Signorelli, owner of the award-winning events and conference facility, Doltone House. Distinguished Old Boy and former NSW Police Commissioner, Ken Moroney, AO, APM, will attend and provide a short keynote, while De La Salle Cronulla Old Boy Bishop Emeritus Terry Brady will also attend. Former PM Paul Keating (now 80 years of age) has sent his apologies.

Julie Alibrandi, Director of Operations at the Lasallian Mission Council, said that the network evening will be an opportunity for Lasallians, young and old, to engage and renew friendships and to hear about the contemporary Lasallian world in a wonderful setting. Julie commented, *"The evening will also showcase the extraordinary professional careers of former students who have made significant contributions to the Australian community and indeed across the world"*.

Welcomed also will be past and present Principals, teachers, Alumni and friends including a special live "cross-Tasman" connection with our schools in New Zealand which will round out the night. Colleagues from New Zealand are excited to 'virtually' join the gathering.

Tickets may be accessed at: [DLS-CAN LAUNCH EVENT](#). The DLS-CAN Committee looks forward to welcoming you to this exciting and significant inaugural event. More details contact juliealibrandi@delasalle.org.au