



FRANCISCAN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

REPORT #8 - May 2023

Date: 22 May 2023

Report from FSA Animator of Mission and Identity

Report to Order of the Friars Minor | Holy Spirit Province | Definitory Council

Report to Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Australia |

Direct Report Manager: Fr Stephen Bliss OFM | Executive Coordinator Franciscan Schools Australia

The Vision of Franciscan Schools Australia

As an organisation **FSA** offers formation and charism support, resources, and connection across a network of schools that are linked to the spirituality and charism of Saint Francis through their Franciscan foundation, and those schools bearing the names of Francis, Clare, Anthony of Padua, or any other Franciscan relationship.

The Animator Position - Franciscan Schools Australia

as of January 2022

The primary purpose of the Animator of Mission and Identity is to facilitate the promotion and deepening of the Franciscan charism within Catholic Schools aligned with the Franciscan Spirit and Charism. The position will seek to enliven a Franciscan mission and identity within and for all in the schools engaged with the FSA Network.

Sighted and signed: *Catherine White mfi.*

Stephen Bliss OFM

Fr Stephen Bliss OFM

National Executive Coordinator
Franciscan Schools Australia

agstone

Alison Stone

Animator of Mission and Identity
Franciscan Schools Australia

Animator Summary of Immediate Significance (March 2023)

- **FSA** has 37 paid memberships to date. This is 50% of known schools in Australia that carry the Franciscan tradition in some form. This follows the normal trend of past 5 years. Continued invitations are issued to schools who have not joined **FSA**.
- Fr Stephen and Alison - met with Assistant Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education, Diarmuid O’Riordan and newly appointed BCE Director of Identity, Sharon O’Keefe. A fruitful conversation was held and **FSA** tabled a draft agreement between BCE and **FSA** for schools in the Archdiocese who carry the Franciscan tradition.
- A letter of Offer / Contract has gone to Shelley Lyford as the successful applicant for the **FSA** Administration Services Officer position. Imminent start date.
- Staff Formation bookings continue for 2023 and January Staff Week 2024.
- Active member schools have received a beautiful hand crafted membership plaque for their reception and public spaces. Religious Sponsors have received one + Poor Clares Sisters.



Animator Summary since last Report #7 in March 2023

FSA is meeting its mission of resourcing, connecting and forming staff in schools that carry the Franciscan tradition.

- Strengthening wider connections with the Franciscan Family: Centenario Committee -Alison is a member of this group, as is Matthew Beckmann. Events over the next 4 years are being discussed and will be forwarded to Leaders of Franciscan communities in the near future.
- New BCE school @ Flagstone QLD (2025)- Bonaventure College. [Approved by Archbishop] **FSA** is on the working committee developing the identity and culture of new P-12 school.
- FSA Pilgrimage 2024 Easter-continues | 18people has registered Expressions of Interest. **FSA** is offering 4 x part scholarships worth \$2500 each.

Animator Summary of activities since last report as of 16 May 2023

<p>formation and charism support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FSA short course Women of the Streets</u> has 22 participants from 9 FSA member schools enrolled. R Rogusz and J Minorchino (FSA members are facilitating with Alison supporting with resources)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Padua Services Team Retreat</u> - St Clare and IWD - Padua College, QLD - Fr Joe McKay OFM and Michael O'Brien facilitated; FSA designed retreat and provided resources. • <u>5 schools</u> have booked staff formation with FSA in Term 2 & 3 - Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, & WA. Fr Stephen OFM & Fr Bernie Thomas OFM are assisting to facilitate. FSA provides connections with schools, programming and resource support. • <u>2024 FSA Pilgrimage</u>: Easter holidays - Thu Mar 28 - Sat 13 Apr 2024. Fr Stephen Bliss & Fr Paul Rout will lead with Alison Stone. 18 registrations to date. Need 20 to be viable. Continue to promote. • Continue to work, in limited capacity, with Mercy Partners, Brisbane on Book 3 of Leadership in Mission Charism Series - Franciscan spirituality. • Attending to <u>individual school requests</u> on a daily basis.
<p>resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website providing the resources - continue to build upon in 2023 • Published 2 x eNewsletter - T1 W8 22 Mar 2023 T2 W5 17 May 2023 - • <u>Centenario Article #1</u>: Paul Rout OFM - <i>The Basilica of St John Lateran in Rome</i>. Drop Wed 31 May 2023 {members area website} • Term 2 <u>Franciscan Voice</u> - W. Short OFM article - "Francis and Church of the Poor." Drop Wed 14 June 2023 Br Bill would be pleased if FSA chooses to donate to an organization helping local migrants, especially refugees instead of an author's fee. • <u>Andre Cirino OFM has written</u> Franciscan Voice #3 - drop August 2023
<p>connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA Fraternity Friday will continue fortnightly in 2023.