

# Centenary Snippets

## Multicultural community

The early 80s saw an increase in enrolments which peaked at 581 in 1982. This increase was due to the end of the war in Vietnam and many refugees arrived from Indo-China. They were followed by people from Latin America, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Chile and later from the former Yugoslavia. In addition, many people from the Pacific Islands, particularly Samoa, have found a welcome at our school.

Sr Maria Vu, a Sister of Mercy, is employed as a bilingual assistant for three hours each week. Sr Maria was herself a refugee and has often shared her own journey to Australia with the students at school.

Several years ago Sr Maria was responsible for setting up a section of the Convent building as a hostel/boarding school for at least ten Vietnamese boys who had no family. These boys did exceptionally well in their school days at St Peter Claver at Riverview.

Our school has been blessed with the presence of students from so many cultural backgrounds. We have appreciated the love for music, song, dance, work ethic and happiness that these students have brought to our school over the year.



*These are some of the students representing our multicultural community: Thuy Pham and Jakcie Nguyen (Vietnamese), Sarah Ha and Matthew Saengrat (Thia), Leremia Fangoloka and Mia Luafutu (Samoan), Jeremy Cruz and Antonela Cruz (Filipino), Winston Ly (Chinese)*