Chairman’s Report

Ladies, gentlemen and distinguished guests, it is with great pleasure and no small level of pride that I stand to address you this evening.

As a long standing member of the Mazenod Community I appreciate that the Community at large experiences mixed emotions this evening. While we celebrate the achievements, endeavors and success of these fine young men and wish them every success for the future, our celebrations are tinged with sadness as we say farewell. I say to you this evening celebrate with enthusiasm and always remember that once a Mazenodian always a Mazenodian – I am almost certain we will meet these young men again.

To the students graduating this evening, tonight is all about you and your achievement. But, it is timely to remember that you have not undertaken this journey alone. Could you please stand, face your family, friends and teachers and give them a resounding round of applause in thanks for their support, encouragement and care. Without them the journey would have been much more difficult and perhaps almost impossible.

I am understandably very proud of my academic and professional achievements as well as my role as Chairman of the Mazenod Board. However, like you I did not undertake this journey alone nor did I develop the skills, knowledge and understandings that have served me so well without the support of others. Although time separates us and it could be argued that we have gown up in different worlds I believe we share a common theme as members of the Mazenod Community. In my time as a member of this community I have learned three critical lessons:

The first is the capacity to think, research and reason. This I learned through the many hours of private and collective study undertaken in the classrooms of the College.

The second is the capacity to care, respect, value and feel. This I learned through Religious Education and the personal development programs implemented by Father McMahon.

The third is the capacity to strive with vigor to achieve my goals and to act with intention. This I learned through the countless laps I ran around the Mazenod oval to the sound of Mr Fernando encouraging me to ‘do one more lap’ when I was certain I could not run one more step.

Young men, in the tradition of Mazenod College I charge you with the responsibility to nurture these lessons:

- Continue the pursuit of knowledge in all that you do – seek to understand
- Maintain your care for self and others
- And above all take action and strive for achievement.

You have been well prepared and I wish you well with your endeavors. I look forward to when we meet again.