

CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Report to Synod, July 2006

In November 2005 School Council adopted *Strategy 2010* as Christ Church Grammar School's Strategic Plan to guide decision-making until the end of the decade. Of particular note is our Strategic Intent which builds on the strengths of the School's ethos, culture and programmes - *Enabling each boy to realise his potential* and *Leading boys to an awareness of self and others*. During an extensive consultation phase parents, teachers, students, old boys and eminent Australians articulated a desire for Christ Church to be recognised for its academic excellence, broad co-curricular programme and pastoral care as well as for its ethical and spiritual core. Parents sought intellectual rigour, individualised enrichment and support for their sons and programmes that reflect a clear knowledge and understanding of the developmental needs of boys. All stakeholders emphasised the importance of developing imaginative and creative young men who are confident, courageous and caring – young men who have a strong social conscience and global understanding and who are equipped to face the challenges of life. Opportunities for wider involvement in the community and more in-depth service learning experiences were highlighted. The upshot is that Christ Church will continue to develop as a pre-eminent boys' school renowned for its leadership in the development of excellent academic, co-curricular and pastoral programmes and for its ability to develop young men who have a deep sense of ethics and social justice and who are aware of their responsibilities as global citizens.

A report such as this cannot capture the essence of the School in one year in any detail. Rather, it is a means for presenting a few snapshots. The snapshots that I have chosen to present capture student achievements; best practice in boys' education; staff excellence and professional development; community engagement as encapsulated in the Strategic Plan; and Council matters.

ENROLMENTS

Total enrolments stand at 1250. There are 340 boys in the Preparatory School and 910 students in the Senior School. The number of boarders is 120. Demand for places, especially in the Preparatory School, is such that the School has decided to run an extra Year 1 and Year 4 class in 2007. Ultimately the LW Parry Preparatory School will have two classes at each Year level in Pre-Primary to Year 3; three classes at Year 4 level; and four classes in each Year level in Years 5 to 7.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Results of the Graduating Class

The school community is very proud of the achievements of its 2005 leavers. The boys' results were creditable and reflect their hard work and commitment to their studies and the hours and hours of collaboration that took place with their teachers. As a cohort they maintained the School's excellent academic standard. Ninety six percent of the Year group achieved secondary graduation.

Dux of the School, Fletcher Young, was awarded a General Exhibition and Mark Zuvela was awarded the Subject Exhibition in Metals Technology. Certificates of Distinction for being placed in the top 0.5% of candidates in particular subjects were awarded to Chris Scott and Simon Tee in Discrete Mathematics; Callum Addison in Human Biology; Mark Zuvela in Metals Technology; Michael Thomas in Physics; and Stephen Lundy and Simon Pearse in SWL Automotive.

In terms of Wholly School Assessed (WSA) subjects, 15 students obtained three or more grades in WSA subjects and three achieved one or more A grades in these subjects. Furthermore 10 students obtained at least one result in a Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) subject and four students obtained one or more A grades in a SWL subject.

State and National Competitions

Christ Church students continue to achieve exceptional results in state and national competitions. In the last 12 months Jason Kong (Year 8), Daren Tan (Year 9), Eugen Lim (Year 10) and James Rhodes (Year 10) were awarded Prizes in the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards and four

students achieved Distinctions in the highly selective Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad. At the primary level Christ Church was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award for the boys' performance in the Australian Primary Schools Mathematical Olympiads. Their team score was in the top 10 per cent of all teams in Australia.

Chemistry whiz, Andrew Tulloch (Year 10), was awarded a gold medal in the Australian Science Olympiads National Qualifying Examination in Chemistry and Patrick Dunne (Year 11) and Daren Tan (Year 9) achieved the highest marks in the State in the Australian Schools Science Competition. The School's students also performed outstandingly in the National Chemistry Quiz. High Distinctions were awarded to 38 per cent of the School's entrants and five boys received an Award of Excellence for the standard of their papers.

On the economics and commerce front, Year 12 students James Addison and Karrthik Srigandan won prizes in the Australian and New Zealand Economics Competition and Year 11 students, David Ogilvy, Michael Pendlebury, Jeremie Smith, Kay Mun Teo and Cory Watkins, were awarded national prizes in the Australian Business Studies Competition. Not to be outdone Eugen Lim (Year 10) scored the highest mark in the State in the Australian Financial Literacy Assessment and boarder Andrew De San Miguel (Year 10) showed he has real business flair when he took off second prize in the state section of CPA Australia's Plan Your Own Business Enterprise Competition.

Similarly, our language students also performed well in external competitions. The stand out performers were Geoffrey Chambon (Year 12) who came second in the advantaged section of the Alliance Française examination and Luke Clifton (Year 11) who came third in the Deutsch Australische Sprachverein examination. For Year 11 student Arthur Yau ANZAC Day will never be the same again. His award-winning essay in this year's annual Simpson Prize won him the chance to experience the ANZAC spirit first-hand in Gallipoli.

Creative Arts

The creative arts continue to be the focal point of much of the co-curricular life of the School. In the last 12 months our drama production unit, the Midnite Youth Theatre Company, has produced *Ruddigore*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Trial of Thomas Cranmer* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The Company is now focusing on bringing Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* to the stage. Proceeds from these major productions are donated to Anglicare.

New life has been breathed into the Music Department with the appointment of Mr Kevin Gillam as our Director of Music. Cameo performances by members of staff and boys have become a feature of assemblies and a series of winter recitals has been introduced. The traditional *All Groups Concert* with St Hilda's, the *Music Scholars' Recital*, *Concerto Night* with Methodist Ladies' College and the Prep School's *Night of the Arts* have been retained but the Department is forever on the look-out for opportunities for the boys to perform. Our jazz and rock groups perform at lunchtimes and for special school events and our string players give recitals at St George's Cathedral and community centres such as St Louis Estate. As part of the School's outreach programme *Voiceworks*, a local community choir, was invited to use Christ Church as its base. The School looks forward to working with Voiceworks on community music projects.

So too art has continued to go from strength to strength under the direction of Head of Art, Ms Pam Yordanoff. The highlights of the year's programme are always the student exhibitions. In the last 12 months parents, grandparents, staff, students and friends have been excited, moved, amazed and sometimes even a little confronted by the works on display in the annual exhibitions for the Anniversary Art Awards, the John Dowson Memorial Art Awards and the Prep School's Night of the Arts. For a group of senior students however, the high point was the art tour to New York, London and Paris. Ms Yordanoff wanted to inspire the boys by organising a tour that would "capture the hearts and minds of the boys". She wanted the boys to live the School's Mission through their exposure to art in the three most influential art hubs in the world and she wanted them to have the opportunity of working with professional artists who are leaders in the field.

Sport

Once again our students have been invincible on the River. The First VIII won the Head of the River and our sailors capped off a terrific season by winning not only the Western Australian but the Australian School Team Racing Championship. Other successes include winning the PSA surfing competition, coming second in hockey and tennis and third in cricket and swimming.

Tours

Each year Christ Church organises a number of tours during the school holidays for boys who wish to extend their experience in a given area. These tours, some of which have a service component, provide opportunities for students to experience new environments and meet and mix with people from other cultures. In January a group of boys joined the Pilgrimage of Hope to India to work with “the poorest of the poor” while others toured the United Kingdom performing in *The Trial of Thomas Cranmer*. In April the art students took off to explore the international art scene, while some of the French students spent time in the south of France, Belgium and Paris and a group of Japanese students went to Tokyo, Hiroshima and Kobe. Two months later a team of cricketers headed for the United Kingdom, while some of their friends went on a Social Science trip to Canberra or skiing in New Zealand. Shortly, a group of six Year 11 cadets will travel to England as part of a WA Army exchange programme with the Surrey Army Cadet Force. The boys will attend the annual camp with the UK cadets as well as visit battlefields in France and Belgium.

BEST PRACTICE IN BOYS' EDUCATION

Courses of Study/Outcomes Based Education

Christ Church supports the Curriculum Council's plan to implement the new Outcomes Based Courses of Study at Year 11 and Year 12 level over the next two years. Staff see positive aspects in the new philosophy. Teachers from all learning areas have attended Curriculum Council and 'in-house' professional development days to ensure that they are up to date with the current thinking. What has been most encouraging is the cross-pollination of ideas that is occurring across traditional departmental lines.

Gifted & Talented Programme

In March of this year Christ Church launched a Gifted & Talented programme code-named *The Enigma Project* for selected students in Years 8 and 9. The academic enrichment programme takes its name from the German World War II Enigma machine designed to formulate military and diplomatic ciphers. Enigma had been designed to develop specific skills; as well as to enable students to appreciate inter-disciplinary connections and, at the same time, learn about investigative and presentational processes. In Year 8 the boys explore ciphers, bar codes and genetic fingerprinting and in Year 9 they examine the development of humanist arts in the western world.

Individual Learning Profiles

At the beginning of this year as part of the process of developing Individual Learning Profiles for all boys in the Preparatory School, students in Year 2 to Year 7 sat a range of developmentally appropriate assessments 'normed' to Australian boys. The results have given teachers a clear understanding of the abilities of the boys in their classes compared to their age cohort throughout Australia. Furthermore, each boy now has a baseline from which staff can assess his development on a six month or 12 month basis.

Other significant changes in the Prep School this year have been the move to a 10-day timetable, an increased emphasis on the teaching of spelling and mathematics and the coordination of teaching teams, the implementation of a Virtues Programme and the production of Student Work Files instead of Student Portfolios.

Student Directed Forums

The Deputy Headmaster has been working with the Captain of School and Secretary to the Prefect Body to implement a new format for student directed forums. The idea is that the forums will replace the Student Senate. They are to be run by students for students. Two rounds of meetings will be held with

each Year group in the Senior School and the findings will be brought into a report to be presented to the Headmaster by the end of Term 3.

Indigenous Students

Our Indigenous students are working with Mr David Mander, the School's Indigenous Liaison Officer, and English teacher, Mrs Lorraine O'Brien, to create a DVD entitled *From Kimberley to Claremont* as part of a challenge to promote reconciliation. The boys are excited about sharing their lifestyle, culture, land and language with the other students at school and aim to highlight the similarities and differences between East and West Kimberley as well as demonstrating the contrast between their home and school. They were challenged to make the DVD by Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing (PALS), a joint initiative of the Department of Indigenous Affairs and BHP Billiton Iron Ore and supported by the Department of Education and Training. PALS enables indigenous students to express what they go through as they settle into school life. It is important that they retain their own identity and the PALS project gives them the opportunity to do this.

STAFF

NEiTA Award

It gives me immense pleasure to advise that Ms Karen Duffy, Coordinator of the Preparatory Education Support Unit, was awarded a NEiTA teaching excellence award. This award provides "the community with the opportunity to encourage, recognise, honour and reward the work of excellent, dedicated, talented, innovative and inspiring teachers". These awards are the only national awards for teachers in Australia based on nomination by parents and students.

We congratulate Karen on being awarded this significant and distinguished award and applaud her team for the outstanding job that they do. Karen's published article, *From Their Perspective*, is available on the School's Website: www.ccgswa.edu.au

Jean Rhodes Memorial Award for Excellence (2005)

Senior Librarian, Mr Greg Lindorff, was awarded the prestigious Jean Rhodes Memorial Award for Excellence (2005). The award is presented to those employed in a school library or resource centre who, in the estimation of their peers have fulfilled the following criteria: improved the services of the library; provided students with an environment which is conducive to learning and information gathering; improved communication within the school community; provided support to professional colleagues; and highlighted an image of the best professional service which should be received in all libraries.

Farewells

At the end of last year Christ Church farewelled a number of long-term members of staff who had decided it was time to leave the School to pursue other goals and interests. Though they each knew they would miss the School they were nevertheless looking forward to the challenges of testing themselves in new environments. We thanked Mr Bill Ranger (1976-2005), Mr John Bates (1984-2005), Mr John Norris (1985-2005), Dr Peter Lewis (1986-2005), Mr Ron Jensen (1986-2005), Mrs Sue Barstow (1987-2005), Dr Peter Whitmore (1989-2005), and Mr Dean Shadgett (1997-2005) for all that they had done for the boys and given to Christ Church.

Appointment

The appointment of Brother James, formerly School Counsellor at The Armidale School (NSW), as Director of Service Learning will have a huge impact on developments in this area. He will be involved with the development of service in its broadest sense. He will remain Coordinator of the annual Pilgrimage of Hope to India and will continue to coordinate an annual pilgrimage to St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji. The Pilgrimage of Hope will now come under the umbrella of Christ Church Grammar School. Brother James will also be responsible for initiating and developing a variety of local, national and international service projects that will cater for students from all Year groups. His work in this area will support the School's Mission and Vision through providing each student with the opportunity for

engagement in at least one major service project that challenges him deeply during his time at the School.

In addition, Brother James will be considered as Assistant to the Chaplain, working alongside Reverend Canon Frank Sheehan in his many and varied roles and being directed and supported by him.

Brother James will also be involved in the counselling services that the School offers with a particular focus on behavioural and family issues. He will work in close consultation with the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Roger Bayly, and the Headmaster of the Preparatory School, Mr Clark Wight.

Professional Development

One of the outcomes of the Strategic Plan is that the School will “support staff initiatives to work collaboratively, share knowledge and reflect on their practice”. As a direct result a Pastoral Forum comprising the Deputy Headmaster, Director of Planning & Co-Curricular, Heads of Houses, Director of the Residential Community, Nurse Manager and Senior School Counsellors has been established to facilitate the sharing of information about pastoral practice.

The Forum provides an opportunity for examining the effectiveness of the School’s support structures and identifying professional development needs. It is envisaged that the group will meet at least once a term.

The Strategic Plan also details that the School is committed to enhancing the role of the Staff Professional Development Committees in leading best practice in professional development for Teaching and Support Staff. Again as a direct result of the Strategic Plan, the Teaching Staff Professional Development Committee has established a sub-committee to investigate the notion of Senior Teacher 3 and suggested that space be set aside for a professional development area in the staffroom. The members were also instrumental in ensuring that sessions on health and wellbeing were and will be included in the programme on Staff Professional Development Days.

To further support staff to take up opportunities for professional development the School has agreed to support teachers developing further professional qualifications by assisting with the costs of a full degree or course above the basic requirements of WACOT. The agreed level of support is one-third the cost of a unit on completion of that unit. The course should be specifically related to the teacher’s role at the School and relevant to the professional development of the staff member.

Likewise the Support Staff Professional Development Committee has been looking at ways to recognise exceptional contribution and service. The Committee has instigated an award, the Remarkable Award, for recognising “an individual or Department who has made a remarkable contribution to the organisation or to the wellbeing of a colleague”. The honour is to be awarded twice a year.

Staff continue to benefit immeasurably from the programme of short-term exchanges the Headmaster instigated in 2003. Mr Garth Wynne wanted to give staff the opportunity of testing themselves in new environments. He wanted staff “to develop new ideas and initiatives ... to engage and be re-engaged”. To this end in the last 12 months exchanges have been organised to St John’s in Johannesburg and its outreach school Masibambane at Orange Farm, King’s College in Auckland, The Southport School on the Gold Coast and the Tanglin Trust School and Christ Church Secondary School in Singapore. Later in the year three members of staff will go on exchange to the United Kingdom, Canada and Thailand.

COMMUNITY

A key aim of the Strategic Plan is for “well-informed parents, constructively involved in the education of their boys and believing in and enjoying the Christ Church experience”. To this end the Headmaster and Headmaster of the Preparatory School have run Parent Information Forums to explain our programmes and reporting processes and emphasise the necessity for open communication between the home and the School. At every opportunity they have stressed how important it is that the boys feel supported in all that they do.

Given the heated and somewhat confusing public debate over the implementation of Courses of Study/OBE the Headmaster organised a special information evening to highlight the issues and discuss

the implications for students.

Another way in which the School is keeping the parents informed about what is happening at Christ Church is through the weekly e-Newsletter that was launched in February.

At the other end of the spectrum the Parents' Association and Old Boys' Association are aware of the importance of appealing to their stakeholders. If they are to engage parents and old boys in proactive projects aligned to the School's Strategic Intent then they have to be able to demonstrate their relevance to their constituents. The members of the Parents' Association Committee have set themselves the task of liaising with parents to come to an understanding of what it is that the parent community would like the Association to achieve and the Old Boys' Association Committee has hired a marketing consultant to recommend recruitment strategies and help develop a suite of services for members. That being said this year the Parents' Association has run a series of very successful Year Group Sundowners and a Parent Seminar on Youth Drug & Alcohol Use. Similarly the Old Boys' Association has been particularly active. Reunions, sports days, dinners and lunches have been regular features on their calendar. The Association has also developed an e-Newsletter which has been well received.

CENTRE FOR ETHICS

The Centre for Ethics and the work of its Director, Reverend Canon Frank Sheehan, were highlighted by all groups of participants in the consultative phase of the Strategic Planning process as one of the most distinguishing and highly valued aspects of Christ Church.

Staff emphasised the way in which the Centre for Ethics "nourishes the spiritual life of the School" and parents cited it is a reason for choosing Christ Church as the school for their sons. Members of the community who access the Centre's outreach programmes said it has added a new dimension to their lives and the eminent Australians who were interviewed identified it as contributing significantly to the School's high profile.

Most importantly our students believe it is fundamental to the quality of education they receive. In his speech to the School at the final assembly for Year 12 2005 Captain of School, Yannick Spencer said:

"The Centre organises and sponsors a variety of events from talks by visiting authors and public figures to this year's Pilgrimage of Hope. The Centre also runs Philosophy, Literature and Ethics classes for students in the Middle School. The focus on culture and a range of religious and secular values is something that I believe adds enormously to the quality and diversity of education at Christ Church."

The outcome of these strategic conversations is that over the next five years the role of the Centre for Ethics within the School will be extended and the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion programme will be developed and strengthened. We can also look forward to an enhanced public lecture programme.

Highlights of the Centre's programme over the last 12 months included visits by Jung Chang and her husband Jon Halliday, Dr Tony Jarvis, Eoin Cameron, Alexander McCall-Smith, The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd, Salley Vickers and Dr Norman Swan.

COUNCIL

One of the most important and exciting privileges of being a member of School Council is working with others to determine Christ Church Grammar School's strategic direction so that the School is well positioned to meet the educational, organisational and social challenges of the immediate and longer-term future. This task has been especially rewarding for the current Council because the Strategic Plan we have set will guide the governance of the School and the priorities of Christ Church from 2006 until 2010, the year in which the School celebrates its centenary. This is a period of immense historical significance to the School, indeed to everyone who has strong connections with Christ Church.

From the outset Council was mindful of the importance of Christ Church as an Anglican school and of the values and responsibilities that flow from being a member of the Anglican community. At the same time Council was anxious to give effect to the School's Mission which encapsulates the energy, diversity and rigour of the School's programme whilst highlighting the importance of community and the spiritual side of humanity. A summary of the main outcomes from the Strategic Plan process is set out in the first paragraph of this Report.

In terms of our Master Plan, the School has received approval to proceed with its Design Technology and Visual Arts building on the site of the original school complex. It is anticipated that construction work will begin in Term 4. Also on our agenda is the development of a Performing Arts Centre overlooking the Swan River. We hope to realise this goal during the centenary year.

Finally Council extends its thanks to the Headmaster, Mr Garth Wynne for his outstanding leadership of the School and to all members of staff for their significant contributions throughout the last year.

David Craig
Chairman of Council
Christ Church Grammar School