



CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT TO SYNOD, JULY 2007

Mr Garth Wynne, Headmaster of Christ Church Grammar School, set the School's educational agenda for the next decade when he wrote about *Minds for the Future* in **Chronicle** in December 2006.¹ At the outset he noted that: "The reality of the future for our boys is that almost everything we do will be automated. So much of how we live will be done for us - not by us - and the capacity of individuals to contribute to this NEXT world in a way that still enables people to feel, understand and appreciate things of beauty and real value, is the challenge." Formal education as it currently stands was seen to be preparing students for a world of the past rather than for the possible worlds of the future. Mr Wynne drew heavily on internationally renowned educationist Professor Howard Gardner's most recent work, **Five Minds For The Future**,² when he wrote about the types of minds that will have currency in the 21st century. These minds were identified as the Disciplined, the Creating, the Synthesizing, the Respectful and the Ethical. He said "the challenge for Christ Church is to implement practices in our classrooms that truly 'engage' our students across the five mindsets. ... We must be demanding of ourselves if we are to best prepare our boys for their futures. New approaches to education - 'what' is done and 'how' it is done - must always be our key consideration."

The Headmaster advises that answering such demands in recent years has led to a greater emphasis on the integration of IT into teaching and learning and to a focus on the quality of the Christ Church classroom. New courses concentrating on intellectual interest and personal development have been introduced in all areas of the School. He says that over the next few months staff will investigate how they can incorporate the latest research in neurological development – with particular emphasis being given to the characteristics which impact on the learning and behaviour of boys – into their teaching programs so that they can optimise the educational outcomes for their students. A review of the School's pastoral processes will also be undertaken to ensure that the offerings accord with 'best practice' at a national and international level. The Headmaster's aim is that when boys leave the School "we want to be able to say that they have been encouraged to achieve across the five mindsets and that they have the capacity to make a contribution, no matter how big or small, to the development of a just and sustainable world for all".

ENROLMENTS

Total enrolments stand at 1310. There are 380 boys in the LW Parry Preparatory School and 930 students in the Senior School. The number of boarders is 110. Demand for places, especially in the Preparatory School, shows no sign of abating. This year the School put on an extra class in Year 1 and Year 4 and in 2008 will run another class at Year 7 level. Ultimately the LW Parry Preparatory School will have two classes at each Year level in the Early Learning Centre (Pre-Primary to Year 3) and four classes at each Year level in Years 4 to 6. From 2010 Year 7 will be incorporated in the Senior School.

A number of factors have prompted the School to decide to increase the number of classes in the Preparatory School. They include recent and relevant research about the needs of boys at particular phases of development (Pre-Primary - Year 3 and Year 4 - Year 6) and the view that multiple classes within a Year level create optimal learning environments, enhance the sharing of resources and the ability to co-program units of work, and provide opportunities to mix classes within Year levels into developmental learning groups. Benefits for programming, professional development and the provision of consistent pedagogy have also been identified.

2006 TEE & WSA RESULTS

The School's 2006 TEE results were excellent. Of the 147 students who obtained a Tertiary Entrance Score 56 boys (38% of the qualifying cohort) achieved a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) equal to or above 95 and 83 students a TER greater than 90. Eighteen students obtained a TER in the '99 plus'

¹ Wynne, G.E. (2006) *Minds for the Future*. Christ Church Grammar School Chronicle, No 39, p. 2-3.

² Gardner, Howard. *Five Minds For The Future*. Harvard University Press, Spring 2007.

range which is outstanding. Seventy seven students achieved one or more scaled marks of 75 or above, 10 achieved Certificates of Distinction and eight were awarded Certificates of Excellence.

In terms of Wholly School Assessed (WSA) subjects, 25 students obtained three or more grades in WSA subjects and nine achieved one or more A grades in these subjects. Furthermore, 21 students obtained at least one result in a Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) subject and 11 obtained one or more A grades in a SWL subject.

Dux of the School, Kieran Kusel, was the stand out performer. He was awarded a General Exhibition for exceptional all-round academic achievement in Year 12, a Certificate of Distinction in Chemistry and in Physics and a Certificate of Excellence.

Another student to excel at State level was Fu Wei Pang. He was awarded a Special Subject Award for Biology and a Special Certificate of Distinction for Biology.

Others to achieve Certificates of Distinction were Nicholas van Bockxmeer (Chemistry), Timothy Brine (Discrete Mathematics), Timothy Drok (Discrete Mathematics), Colin Thomson (Discrete Mathematics), Simon Vidovich (Discrete Mathematics), Hugh Mackenzie (Geography) and James Woods (Geography).

Recipients of Certificates of Excellence alongside Kieran were Regan Bleechmore, Adrian Chong, Ian Chu, Patrick Dunne, Bryan Poon, Nicholas van Bockxmeer and Peter Wojturski.

Congratulations to the students who achieved awards on their excellent results and to the whole Year group for having brought such credit to the School. When their results were compared with those of all students in the State, Christ Church was singled out as the best performing boys' school. This was an outstanding achievement and is testament to the hard work and commitment of the boys and their teachers. Director of Studies, Mr Bruce Ruthven, deserves special commendation on the tremendous job he did during his first year leading the academic team.

STATE AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Science

Christ Church students continue to achieve exceptional results in state and national competitions. At the most elite level Andrew Tulloch (Year 12) was invited as one of twenty students to attend a training school in Canberra for the selection of the 2007 Australian Chemistry Olympiad Team. His performance at the summer school was such that he was chosen as one of four students to represent Australia at the 39th International Chemistry Olympiad in Moscow in July.

"Amazing" was how Graham Chandler, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Western Australia, described the School's performance in the 2006 Australian National Chemistry Quiz when he attended an Assembly to present plaques to eight students who were ranked in the top 800 entrants in the competition. Christ Church entered 150 students from Years 8 to 12 in the quiz. Fifty six gained high distinctions and 51 distinctions. Those awarded plaques were Hugh Mackenzie (Year 12), Charles Qui and Andrew Tulloch (Year 11), Daren Tan (Year 10), Robert Holt, Oscar Morlet and Jason Kong (Year 9) and Michael Cassie (Year 8).

Thirty two Year 10 students deserve special praise. They were the state winners in the Science and Engineering Challenge which is organised by the University of Newcastle on behalf of Engineers Australia. The Minister for Energy, Resource Industry and Enterprise, Mr Fran Logan, congratulated the boys "on showing what they are made of" in competing against 1200 students from 41 local schools and in bringing "great credit to Christ Church." The team's score is the second highest on record.

Others to do well on the science front were Ashley O'Keeffe (Year 11) and Bo An Lu (Year 9) who were recognised as being in the top one per cent of Australian science students by the University of New South Wales and James Spivulis (Year 10) who won a state-wide essay writing competition on the ethical issues associated with the study of human genetics.

Mathematics

In mathematics Jason Kong and Bo An Lu of Year 9; Julian Chung, Robert Buttner and Sebastian Ewing of Year 8; Harry Breidahl of Year 7; and Alexander Chua of Year 5 were awarded Prizes in the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards. Harry's score was especially noteworthy. He was one of 12 Year 7 students from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the Pacific Islands to full-score the paper. A number of our senior school students also shone in the very challenging Australian Intermediate Mathematics Competition. Daren Tan (Year 10) achieved a high distinction and distinctions were awarded to Sandip Mukhopadyay (Year 10) and Jason Kong. For the third successive year Christ Church won the Students Mathematics Game Competition. This is the first time any school has achieved a hat trick in this competition.

A number of students who attended last year's after school maths extension program received awards and accolades for their results in a 20-week series of national competitions run by the Australian Mathematics Olympiad committee. At Year 8 level high distinctions were awarded to Robert Buttner, Jonathon Chiam, Riley Skevington and Victor Yau. The Year 9 results were equally outstanding. Nationally there were 148 candidates and of these three Christ Church boys – Kaledas Flintoff, Jason Kong and Bo An Lu - gained high distinctions. The Year 10 students undertook the difficult Polya Series. Of the 184 candidates Australia-wide, only 24 earned a high distinction and two of these were from Christ Church. Congratulations to Sandip Mukhopadhyay and Daren Tan.

Once again our mathematicians scored highly in the Have Sum Fun challenge. The Junior teams performed especially well with combined Year group members coming first and fourth out of 39 teams from 26 schools. The first-placed junior team comprised Jason Kong and Bo An Lu of Year 10, Ben McAllister and Jonathon Chiam of Year 9 and Harry Breidahl and Guy Coleman of Year 8. This year our seniors were placed second. Congratulations to James Rhodes, Tom Elliott and Andrew Tulloch of Year 12 and Daren Tan, Sandip Mukhopadhyay and David Cullingford of Year 11.

Computing

Matthew Didcoe (Year 11) was selected to attend the national Computer and Science School at the University of Sydney in January. The course is geared to students entering Year 12 so it was a tremendous honour for someone as young as Matthew to be invited to attend. Matthew was selected as the project leader for his group and was the winner of the design award for which he received a prize.

Economics & Commerce

Eight students from Years 9 to 12 demonstrated that their knowledge of economics and commerce is equal to that of the best of their peers on the national, and in some cases, the international stage. Jeremy Rogers (Year 9) won a medal in the 2006 Australian Financial Literacy Awards run by the University of New South Wales and the Commonwealth Bank Foundation; Matthew Didcoe and Conly Manolas of Year 10 were in the top five per cent of entrants in the Australian Business Studies competition; and Ian Chua, Eugen Lim, Thomas Liu, David Ogilvie, Luke Pratt, Andrew Tulloch and Alex Turner were among the top five per cent of candidates in the Australian and New Zealand Economics Competition for Year 11 and 12 students.

Geography

Two of our young geographers have recently won state awards. Patrick Mackenzie topped the state in the Year 10 division of the Australian Geography Competition and Lawrence Ward did likewise in the Year 11 division of the competition. Lawrence has been invited to represent Western Australia at a training camp in Noosa in December. The Queensland event, the focus of which will be fieldwork, will form part of the selection process for the team to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad in Tunisia in 2008.

Animated Film

Year 9 students Jack LeMessurier and Oliver Marshall won first prize at state level in the inaugural Scitech Animation Film Festival. The boys' short film, *A Viking's Saga*, was voted top effort in the Years 8 to 10 category. They each received a \$200 voucher to Fremantle's Film and Television Institute to participate in workshops to further hone their skills and a book which has been presented to the Art Department resource library.

SCRAM

Others to achieve success on the state-stage were a group of Year 10 mediators who won the Schools Conflict Resolution and Mediation competition by defeating a team from Great Southern Grammar in a keenly contested Grand Final at Edith Cowan University. The boys' clever mediation tactics and acting abilities held sway. Congratulations to Lachie Bisset, Andrew Burns, Daniel Bourke, Daniel Johnson, Jonathan Lau, Lawrence Ward and Michael Wilson.

Public Speaking

A six-minute prepared speech on the topic of fantasy, and an impromptu three-minute speech on the question "Are children smarter?" saw Year 10 student Richard O'Halloran take out second place in junior division of the Rostrum Public Speaking state final.

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 *The Canterbury Tales*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Troilus & Cressida*. 2007 is a special year for Midnite as it marks the 20th year the company has been in operation. Heartiest congratulations to Artistic Director Mr Anthony Howes and his outstanding team.

Similarly the Music Department continues to showcase the boys' talents at assemblies and lunchtime concerts as well as at the Prep School's Night of the Arts, the *All Groups Concert* with St Hilda's and *Concerto Night* with Methodist Ladies' College. Periodically our Senior School and Preparatory School jazz and string groups are called upon to perform at special school events such as Founder's Day and the opening of art exhibitions. Selected students are also invited to give recitals at St George's Cathedral and community centres such as St Louis Estate.

As always the highlights of the School's art program have been the numerous exhibitions of student work.

SPORT

Once again our sailors have been the toast of Christ Church. Last year they won the state and national Teams Racing Sailing championships and came fourth in the internationals in New Zealand. This year David Gilmour (Year 11), Zac Riccelli-Evangelisti (Year 9), Mitchell Barns (Year 11), Lucas Dunbar-Tapp (Year 10), Sam Gilmour (Year 9), Kevin Punselie (Year 9) and Luke Parkinson (Year 12) won the state championship and are currently representing Western Australia at the nationals in Hobart. Other successes include winning the much-coveted 'Pop' Agnew Memorial Cup at the Schools and Colleges' Relays competition (swimming) for the second year in a row and coming second in Basketball and third in swimming in this year's PSA competitions. Congratulations to Tommaso D'Orsogna (Year 12), Hamish Rose (Year 12), Tom Swift (Year 12), Stefan Tomasich (Year 12) and Michael Palleros (Year 10) who broke the record for the 'Pop' Agnew Memorial Cup by 2.3 seconds.

Each year a number of boys are selected to represent Western Australia in their selected sport. Some of those who have been accorded this honour in the last 12 months are Matthew Rawlinson (Year 10, football); Conly Manolas (Year 11, ice hockey); Adam Froese (Year 11, hockey); Matthew Goonatillake (Year 11, gymnastics); Kane Della Vedova (Year 12, rugby); and Ben Purser (Year 12, basketball).

Others are selected to represent their country. Congratulations to Richard Stevenson (Year 12) who represented Australia in the under-17 national hockey team in China; Tommaso D'Orsogna (Year 12, swimming) who represented Australia in the Trans-Tasman Swimming Challenge in New South Wales; and William Gower (Year 9, downhill mountain bike) who competed against the world's best at the biggest Down Hill Bike event in Whistler, Vancouver.

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

In January a group of boys joined the Pilgrimage of Hope to India led by Brother James, our Director of Service Learning. They joined staff and students from nine other Australian schools to work with the Missionaries of Charity to serve 'the poorest of the poor'. The Pilgrims worked in orphanages, in the streets, at the Loreto School, Sealdah that enrolls half of its students from the slums and at the renowned Home for the Destitute and the Dying which was established by Mother Teresa.

In April a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students from Christ Church, Peter Moyes Anglican Community School and St Hilda's Anglican School For Girls took part in the Pilgrimage of Hope to Fiji, also led by Brother James. Here they worked at St Christopher's orphanage in Suva, which is run by the Community of the Sacred Name order, an order of Anglican nuns. They also spent 'buddy' time with the orphans playing chaisey, soccer and rugby.

"The main value of the Pilgrimage," according to the Christ Church Chaplain, Reverend Canon Frank Sheehan, who accompanied the group, "was that we were taken into different worlds. We were taken into the world of children in an orphanage, into the world of the Community of the Sacred Names sisters and into the world of a drastically under-resourced school."

In the lead up to the Pilgrimage the students raised over \$12,000 for the orphanage. Brother James said that the money will be put to good use. It will be used to buy new shoes for the children and pay school fees and water and electricity rates.

The success of the Pilgrimage of Hope program is such that next year Brother James is hoping to incorporate another two pilgrimages into the schedule. One will be to an indigenous community out of Alice Springs and the other to Nepal.

SERVICE LEARNING

Christ Church has always placed significant emphasis on Service Learning. We hope that by the time the boys leave Christ Church they will have developed a genuine sense of altruism.

For a number of years now the boys in the Prep School have raised money for children in Africa whose parents have died from the AIDS virus. Each year the boys set themselves the challenge of raising \$5,000 to build a house and school for the children. At the local level their main charity is Anglicare but they also raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation by shaving their heads and for the children in Princess Margaret Hospital by selling bears. This year the Prep School boys also raised money for St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji. They did so through a swim-a-thon.

Collections for various charities – especially Anglicare - are also a priority in the Senior School. Heads are shaved for Leukaemia research and donations are sought for charities and research institutes such as Red Cross, Legacy, the Heart Foundation and Multiple Sclerosis.

At another level, the School's Environment and Community Cadets program (ENCOMM) for Year 10 students which aims at developing a sense of service and understanding as to what volunteering means in our community is in its third year of operation. Eighty five boys devote their Friday afternoons to community service – and in the process they learn a lot about the wider world and themselves. The boys offer support in a variety of areas, including working in nursing homes, at childcare centres, with the disabled and on environmental projects.

Director of Planning & Co-Curricular, Mr Mark Morrissy says the program gives boys the opportunity "to devote themselves to a task and deliver a meaningful service to the broader community. We know they will be challenged but we also know they will come away 'all the better' for having experienced these challenges."

And, at yet another level, a number of Year 12 students from Christ Church and St Hilda's gave up a weekend after their TEE exams to look after a group of disabled children so that their parents could have a well-deserved break. The leavers said they got as much out of the Sony Camp as the children for whom they were responsible.

CENTRE FOR ETHICS

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

The appointment of Dominic Hodnett as Head of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion has been an exciting development for the School. Dominic is passionate about philosophy, ethics and religion and considers it "imperative that students learn about, and more importantly, learn from a plurality of religious beliefs and practices, including Christianity." He says: "Students need to wrestle with the enduring questions raised by philosophy, ethics and religion. This should be done in a forum that challenges assumptions, stimulates discussion and inspires students to think for themselves. If

students are to grow and flourish into rounded human beings then they must arrive at their own informed decisions, born out of deep personal reflection.”

Dominic is looking forward to introducing the Year 11 Philosophy and Ethics course next year. He said his goal is simple. He would like “Philosophy, Ethics and Religion to be a vibrant and respected academic leaning area that engages each boy at Christ Church.” Dominic’s interest in and enthusiasm for the area is already starting to have an impact. Indeed it is largely through his connections that the Centre for Ethics has been able to secure the services of renowned ethicist, author and broadcaster Dr Peter Vardy and prominent educationalist Julie Arliss who together will present a seminar on *Science, Ethics and Religion* at Christ Church in August.

Inspirational Speakers

The Centre for Ethics continues to draw exceptional speakers to its midst. During the last 12 months we have heard from people of the calibre of Professor David Suzuki, Reverend Tim Costello, Hugh Mackay, the Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd and Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. We have also heard from the Chief Justice, the Honourable Wayne Martin QC, Father Laurence Freeman, Rabbi Bradley Bleefield, Ali Readhead, Paul Dillon and Dr Norman Swan. We have learnt about social justice and respect; multiculturalism and conservation; the judicial system; and the importance of parent/child relationships. We have also heard about demystifying the ‘click & go’ generation and how to build a resilient teenager.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the beginning of the year the Headmaster invited former members of staff, past parents and friends of the School to join the Queenslea Club. Membership is free and entitles those who choose to join to receive *Chronicle*, the *e-Newsletter*, invitations to significant school events and a membership badge. Current parents and members of staff will be invited to join the Club as they ‘leave’ the School. The aim is to retain relationships with interested members of our community – especially in the lead up to the School’s Centenary, which we will all celebrate in 2010. The Club was launched at a function at the School in June.

The name ‘Queenslea’ has been synonymous with Christ Church since its establishment in 1910. It evokes memories of Queenslea Drive, Queenslea House and the Queenslea Boarding House, now known as Walters.

The formation of the Queenslea Club builds on the work of the support groups within the School. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of the Parents’ Association and its associated bodies the Parents’ Auxiliary and the CCGS Uniform Shop; as well as the Friends of the Libraries & Archives, the Friends of Midnite and the Friends of Music; the Don Fraser Club; and the Boarding Parents for all that they do to engender interest in and enthusiasm for Christ Church. What has been particularly impressive this year has been the way in which the Parents’ Association and the Centre for Ethics have joined forces to bring noted national and international speakers to the School. We have all been enriched by what they have had to say.

So too I would like to acknowledge the work and support of the Old Boys’ Association which is currently undergoing a resurgence under the direction of President, Dr Peter Stransky who is ably supported by a dedicated committee and the School’s Alumni & Special Projects Officer, Mr Andrew Baird. In the last year the Association has signed an agreement with the Claremont Yacht Club whereby all life members are eligible to become social members of the club. The upshot is that the Claremont Yacht Club has become the OBA’s clubrooms, which has in turn been one of the keys to reinvigorating the Association. Other initiatives have been the launch of an *e-Newsletter* and the engagement of Year Group Representatives to promote the Association. There are also plans to develop a new website.

COUNCIL

Strategic Planning

During the last 12 months Council has devoted considerable time to working with the Headmaster and the School Executive to establish the projects and reporting structures to give effect to the Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010. This work has included reviewing Project Plans for each of the Key Result Areas, determining the style and structure of Executive Reports to Council, considering the scope and content of the Christ Church Grammar School Online Community Survey and examining the results of

the survey. The survey was designed to give the School feedback in an honest, open and anonymous way. The survey is considered to be such a vital tool for measuring the School's progress against the Strategic Plan that it will be implemented on an annual basis for the duration of the Strategic Plan.

Design, Technology & Visual Arts Building

At its October meeting School Council approved the execution of the formal contract for the construction of the Design, Technology & Visual Arts Building on the corner of Queenslea Drive and Stirling Highway. This exciting project will provide our boys with state-of-the-art facilities and technologies and its location has allowed the School to redevelop an under-utilised but high profile section of the campus. Work is well underway and the building is scheduled for completion by the beginning of the 2008 school year.

Council Retirement and Appointment

Mr Ching Howe-Chan retired from Council at the end of 2006 after three years of outstanding service representing the Parents' Association. During his time on Council Ching-Howe applied his skills and experience learnt from business, community involvement and as an old boy to the formation of our new Strategic Plan and many other important issues considered by Council. He had particular impact in the area of building project management. Council thanks him for his special involvement with Christ Church as a member of Council, parent, old boy and as a particularly active and effective member of the Parents' Association.

The Parents' Association has chosen David Rose as Ching-Howe Chan's replacement. David is Managing Director of Argyle Diamond Mines. After graduating from the University of Queensland with an Honours Degree in Engineering (Mining) David was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. He was also a champion oarsman, representing Australia in the early 1980s.

David has extensive operations and project management experience in the Australian mining industry. Indeed he and his family have lived in a mix of regional and remote mining locations throughout Australia. David brings to Council considerable expertise in business and project development. He has also served as Vice-President and President of the Don Fraser Club, the School's rowing support group, and is on the board of Leadership WA and Jirrawun Health.

David has two sons at Christ Church.

School History

It gives me immense pleasure to advise that Council has engaged Dr Peter Edwards AM, who was recently awarded the 2006 Queensland Premier's History Book Award, to oversee the writing of the School's History which will be co-authored by Wendy Hillman, our Director of Community Relations. Both have a passion for history and an intense interest in Christ Church. Peter was Dux of the School in 1961, Captain of School in 1962 and the first Christ Church old boy to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship (1967). Having established the School's Archives in 1992, Wendy has a detailed knowledge of the history of Christ Church. She has had articles published in historical journals and social science texts and has researched and written numerous articles on the School's history and its personalities. The launch of the history on Founder's Day, 2010 will be one of the key events in our centenary.

Appreciation

It is very affirming for me, and my fellow Members of Council, that the School's leadership team is so focused on the future. We continue to be encouraged and impressed by the quality and breadth of the School's academic and co-curricular achievements and look forward to continuing to work with the Headmaster and Executive to ensure that the School achieves its strategic goals. Council appreciates the contribution that staff, parents, old boys and members of the community make to the life of the School. We look forward to working alongside these groups during the next two years as we plan our centennial celebrations.

David Craig
Chairman of Council
Christ Church Grammar School