



Christ Church  
Grammar School

## **Headmaster's Report**

**June 2015**

**Old Boys' Association  
Parents' Association**

## FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Given that we are concluding our consideration of elements of the strategic intent 2016 – 2020, I thought it may be of interest to Council to reflect on the past three strategic plans in this context. Aspects of each plan can be found attached. It is unsurprising to note the very strong themes that focus on the character and capabilities of the boy as the central focus of each of these strategies.

I am very pleased to let you know that I have secured **Ms Di Laycock**, the Head of Library Services at The King's School in Sydney and coordinator of the international action research programme of the IBSC to conduct an audit and review of our Library Services and provision.

For some time now we have been considering where we are at and I am of the view that Di will be an excellent set of different and understanding eyes as a 'critical friend' who can help us with that thinking as we consider our strategic direction for Library Services in the 'new' digital age. Di is in fact doing exactly the same process within King's at the moment so her 'state of professional mind' is perfectly suited for this task.

Di will visit the school for the week 21-25 September engaging with staff and students from both within and beyond the library. The school will do some work in collating programmes and views prior to that to share with Di. Di will complete a report and make associated recommendations.

I know you will welcome this initiative as we seek to establish the best of outcomes for our students from our library services in this '21st C' and see our service as an integrated part of the schools next phase of strategy.

For your information feedback from parents regarding the recent Garnduwa trip below:

Hi Chris and Brendan

Just a short note to thank you both for looking after our boys so well throughout the recent Garnduwa trip.

██████ had a really fantastic time, and I truly believe that the experience has allowed him to appreciate the deep sense of personal fulfilment that can be gained from crossing cultural barriers and finding friendship, particularly in a pristine natural environment and, furthermore, without any modern technology. It seems that the format of the camp removes our boys from their typical 'comfort zone' and extends them to think more about the needs of other people, whilst they are fully engaged in practical and physical activities, and with a sense of responsibility that comes with the role of leadership.

The Garnduwa trip is certainly a once in a lifetime experience for the CCGS boys, and I know that ██████ appreciates having had the opportunity to join you on this occasion. He rates it as the best trip he has ever done with the school (and he has managed to do a few!!)

I hope you both enjoyed the Camp as much as the boys, and that they all lived up to the expectations set by their predecessors!

Thanks again for all your time and of course the effort that goes into organising a trip of this kind.

Regards

Sarah (& Steve) ██████

PS. Mothers' Day was spent removing the last traces of red earth from our laundry!!!

## STUDENTS

### THE LW PARRY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

#### Academic

The annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) has taken place. The Preparatory School's approach to assessments focuses on preparing the boys to be used to the format of the test. The program is not compromised by NAPLAN and the boys still have a rich range of experiences across the curriculum.

The Preparatory School hosted our first session for prospective parents focusing on the importance of oral language from 0 to 4 years and what parents can do to assist the development.

**Mr Richard Wright** led the parents on a tour of the Pre-Primary classes and discussed the programs in the early years. **Megan Walsh**, who has commenced a PhD in this field, presented the pertinent information to the assembled parents. Admissions received some very positive feedback, including:

"I have had some feedback from the [REDACTED] family (with son James) that attended the tour and talk this morning. They thoroughly enjoyed Meg's presentation and it has cemented their decision that CCGS is the place for their son." From Kylie O'Connor, Admissions.

#### Pastoral Care, Planning and Co-curricular

The Year 6 Knight's Quest panel has held its first meeting to discuss the Year 6 boy's achievement of the Knightly Virtues. The boys will receive their feedback so they can continue working toward achieving a Knightly Virtue badge.

A team of eight boys attended the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) Chess Day at Kingsway Christian College. The boys performed admirably including **Jeremiah Wang** from Year 3. The Term 1 and 2 House leaders and School Captains attended the IPSHA Ecumenical Service at St Mary's. The boys participated in the service led by the St Mary's Chaplain. Twenty independent Primary Schools from the metropolitan area and Bunbury were in attendance.

The annual Artist in Residence program, funded through the Parents' Association has commenced. Renowned Perth artist, **Stormie Mills**, is working with the Year 6 boys to create a mural on the Preparatory School office wall. **Mrs Claire Donald** and **Mrs Abi Callow** co-ordinated this program.

## SENIOR SCHOOL

#### Academic

OLNA results were released last week and have been communicated to parents. All Year 11 boys have now passed the writing component but five Year 11 boys still are yet to demonstrate the minimum standard in reading and/or numeracy. They have three more opportunities to do so in order to be eligible for the WACE. In Year 10, 35 students did not reach the minimum standard in all three tests (an increase on 2014, when we had 27). We also have a few Category 1 students in Year 10, which we did not have last year. The English and Mathematics teachers will continue to work with all of these boys, both during class and in additional tutoring sessions held outside school time.

NAPLAN testing was also completed across the School. It went very smoothly with no issues having to be reported. Year 7 parents turned out in force for their first set of parent/teacher/student interviews in the Senior School and feedback was very positive.

Year 10 boys have now started the process of considering their subject selection for Year 11 2016. Parents have been invited to attend an individual interview with their son, his Head of House and the Careers Counsellor in Weeks 9 and 10. We are in the process of finalising our offerings with particular consideration of the General (non-ATAR) pathway and its appeal to the boys.

Year 11 and 12 examination have begun; the task of timetabling these examinations becomes ever more complex, with the MLC relationship and PSA sport posing considerable restraints. We are considering some options to ease this situation. Heads of Department were very appreciative of the opportunity to hear Dr Fiona Kerr on her recent visit and considered that much of what she said in regard to the importance of relationships, trust and empathy re-affirms our current practices.

### **Pastoral**

A further four School Prefects have been appointed at a Prefect Induction assembly held Thursday, 21 May. They are **Ollie Stockwell, William Hidajat, Monte Nathan** and **Kuberan Muir**. These appointments conclude the three phases of leadership selection that occur for the 2015 Year 12 cohort. During the current Year 11 and 12 exam period, tutors have been asked to focus on student iPad use in order to understand common issues or concerns. They will also use this time to gauge a student's level of co-curricular engagement in both compulsory and voluntary activities.

The school psychologists have completed and submitted the special consideration applications to SCASA on behalf of Year 12 students requesting extra examination time. They have also been working closely with the Heads of House to provide guidance for students experiencing difficulties with organisation, study or homework routines and family relationship issues. These meetings are held every fortnight and serve as an invaluable screening process to monitor the mental health of all students.

### **Planning and Co-curricular**

The recent school social season for boys from Year 10 - 12 has been a great success.

The Year 12 ball week started with the Headmasters Dinner on 6 May, Old boys Haaron Bokhari (1995) and Ned Brophy-Williams (2005) shared their insights with the boys, 20 and 10 years after school respectively. The opportunity for Council, Executive, Senior staff and Year 12 boys to mix together in a formal dinner provides a great lead into the forthcoming mid-year exams and the need take seriously the challenges ahead.

The Year 12 cohort has been congratulated for their respectful and mature behaviour on the Ball night. From the numerous gatherings prior to the Ball to the main event at the Hyatt and after the boys and their partners for the evening, seem to have had a really enjoyable experience. Parental support of their son's and the school throughout the Ball and associated events has been greatly appreciated.

The Year 11 Dance on the Friday 15 May and was themed 'OP Shop Glamour' and some of the boys and their partners took the opportunity to engage with the theme. Once again the Year 11 mothers decorated the old gym to turn it into a ballroom and with old boy Novak Jol on the DJ desk with his massive lights set and huge speakers success was guaranteed. Likewise on the next night, Saturday 16 May, the venue underwent a transformation into a beach theme for the Year 10 Social and as you can imagine the Hawaiian shirts were out in force and the vibe was somewhat different from the formalities of the previous night.

On Thursday 14 and Friday 15 May all members of the school were photographed to be included in the 2015 whole school. This is the photograph taken every 5 years as a memento and snapshot of the school population.

### **Tours**

The SIA Looma is in its final stages of planning and Mark Tait will lead this as the new Director of Service in Action. SIA Marble Bar and SAI Cambodia trips are also well into their planning phase for later in the year.

The annual ski trip to New Zealand and a fishing trip to the Montebello's are also planned for the coming July holiday period

Currently we are scoping possible expansion of the SIA program into Borneo and or Malaysia with a Malaysia reconnoiter trip planned for late September.

### **Sport**

The PSA winter sports season has started successfully for Christ Church teams. Soccer and Hockey have been performing well and badminton too has had some success. On paper soccer and badminton are predicted to be near the top of the table the rugby players have been tremendous but will face a big challenge after the mid-term break as numbers of fit players are diminishing.

There is generally a very positive feeling around the CCGS sports teams at this stage of the winter season.

### **Arts**

Year 9/10 play 'TEACHERS' directed by Nicky Garside came to the stage last month in the Drama Centre to rave reviews. This humorous portrayal of a school and its staff had a few staff considering their mannerisms but audiences were enthralled and engaged throughout each performance.

Rehearsals are well advanced for the senior play Cloud Street under the direction of Greg Jones and the current season of Assassins at the Subiaco Arts Centre has also been sold out. With an older cast of mainly former Midnite and youth actors, Assassins examines the characters that have assassinated America Presidents. It has proved to be a very entertaining musical, with extra shows scheduled because of demand.

The House Arts program is progressing with the competition in public speaking, chess and debating up to the final in Week 8. The House Shout, drama and visual art competitions are all ready for launch at various times over the next term and a half.

### **Outdoor Education**

This week sees the final Leeuwin trip for 2015 return. It has been a busy half term for the Koorinal staff and Year 8 boys with 5 back-to-back voyages out of Shark Bay for approx. 40 boys at a time on STS Leeuwin. The weather has been mixed, from windy and choppy to near glass seas, akin to a tropical paradise, but that nature of the weather, always a bit unpredictable. Also during this period all Year 6 boys have attended 3 day camps at Koorinal. The timing for this is new and it is hoped that the challenges earlier in the year will benefit the Year 6 boys as they conclude their Prep School experience.

The program will quickly move in to the Year 9 camp phase after mid-term as it returns to the Koorinal property for the next 5 months.

## **STAFF**

### **TEACHING STAFF**

#### **Appointments:**

**Miss Jasmine Jeffs** returns to the LW Preparatory School as a Year 5 Teacher covering a leave of absence for Semester 2. Jasmine has previously worked in the Preparatory School as a Music Teacher.

**Mrs Vita Mews** has joined the English Department on a short-term contract covering a leave of absence. Vita is highly experienced having held Deputy Principal and Head of department positions.

### **SUPPORT STAFF**

#### **Appointments:**

**Mr Liam Strike** joins the residential Community as the next non-residential duty master. Liam is an Old Boy (2012).

## COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

### Student Achievements

News stories for May 2015 include:

- *Assassins* opens to a full house
- Pre School boys spoil their love ones
- Year 8 coding camp a great success
- Year 9 boys celebrate eastern and western culture
- The class of 2015 celebrate at the Year 12 Ball
- Old boys talk about life after CCGS
- Postcards from Saint-Jean et La Croix
- Winter sport captains announced
- Year 1 boys take a step back in time
- Year 11 boys are Code Master Champions
- Season launch sees return of old boy Eric Mckenzie
- *Teechers* opens in a roll of laughter
- Pilgrimage to St Christopher's, Fiji
- Music Students' annual Christ Church / St Hilda's Concert
- Cadets support local services and veterans' groups
- Pre Primary boys investigate the wetlands of Herdsman lake
- Year 10 boys thrive beyond Queenslea Drive
- Hockey players take back the Tregonning Trophy
- New School Prefects announced
- French students study immigration issues

### Enrolments

Christ Church received thirty-seven new applications in May 2015.

This month, two tours each for the Prep School (20 & 26 May) and Senior School (14 & 27 May) were conducted.

The Prep School tour on 20 May was followed by a presentation on Early Learning literacy by Year 4 teacher, Meg Walsh. This initiative received positive feedback from attending parents. It is the first time we have offered a presentation at the time of the tour. The decision was made to create another point of difference for parents deciding between CCGS and Scotch (as PP, 2018 offers for Scotch are already out).

- Prep School tour – 20/5 – five families, 26/5 – four families
- Senior School tour – 14/5 – seven families, 27/5 – eleven families

A decision was made to bring forward the date for EOI's (Expressions of Interest) to be mailed to parents for PP, 2018 – due to offers from Scotch having already been mailed. This was in response to parents contacting us to ask if their son would receive a CCGS offer. The decision to expedite our process, which in previous years has not taken place until July/August, has resulted in a number of enquiries.

'Launchpad into Year 4' invitations were mailed for our second Year 4 Launchpad event – the first event was extremely popular with great feedback from boys, parents and staff. The next get together is scheduled for 20 July.

Mini Launchpad invitations for Pre Primary 2016 boys have been mailed week commencing 25 May.

## **Parents Association and Auxiliary**

The Parents' Association, together with the Old Boy's Association held the annual Cocktail Party on Saturday, 23 May. More than two hundred and forty people attended.

Our parent Sundowners have all been well attended in Term 2. (Year 9, 3 May and Year 12, 6 May).

Members of the Year 13 Mothers Group have successfully been amalgamated into the Queenslea Club. It was determined that as separate groups they had similar interests in Christ Church and that distinct communications were not necessary.

## **Old Boys' Association**

It has been another busy month for the Old Boys' Association.

### Recent Events / Reunions

- 1 May 2015 OBA Golf Day (49 players)
- 3 May 2015 College Cup (23 participants)
- 15 May 2015 Class of 1962 – annual lunch (20 old boys)
- 22 May 2015 OBA Sydney reunion (35 guests)
- 23 May 2015 OBA / PA Cocktail Party – Op Shop Chic (270 guests)

### Reunions

Arrangements are currently made for all remaining reunions in the Calendar for 2015. All year group reunions in 2016 are to be held before 30 June 2016 to allow a clear twelve months before the OBA Centenary dinner on 1 July 2017. Andrew Baird will be contacting all relevant year group representatives shortly to commence discussions regarding the 2016 arrangements.

## **Centre for Ethics**

The Centre has a full schedule Term 2 with some outstanding speakers. To date the following talks have occurred:

May – Claire Eaton , Resilience

19 May – Frank Sheehan and Miles Protter, spoke on embracing Fatherhood

26 May – Professor Assen Jablensky, Director of the Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry

## **Other projects**

### **Evening with parents of three or more boys**

In April an evening with parents of three or more boys in the Christ Church community was held at the Headmaster's residence. More than thirty parents were in attendance and invited to respond to three questions:

1. What does Christ Church do well?
2. What could Christ Church change or do better?
3. What could Christ Church consider introducing?

Overall, the feedback was incredibly positive.



The following is a sample of the responses per question:

*Question 1 – What does Christ Church do well?*

- The Peter Moyes Centre
- Inclusivity
- Quality teachers
- Garth is very visible
- There is something for all types of boys

*Question 2 – What could Christ Church change or do better?*

- Assistance with how to manage ipads (at home)
- Transport to the northern suburbs (Floreat, City Beach, Whitfords)
- Lots of homework for Year 4 students – look at a reduction
- Promote the Study Lab

*Question 3 – What could Christ Church consider introducing?*

- Home economics for boys
- Health for boys
- Facilitate a better transition for boys moving into Year 7
- Air Conditioning in the boarding house
- Practising of philanthropy

In response to the above, we have:

- Planned n evening for all parents is scheduled for June for a discussion about ipad usage. A panel of five will attend on the night, including representatives from the Prep and Senior School, ICT, Psychology and Communication and Engagement
- Issued two articles on homework through CCGS World for Prep School boys
- Promoted The Centre for Boy's Health and Wellbeing through CCGS World on two occasions and Director, Liam Casson is now the author of a communication every second week
- Created and distributed a poster on stress management
- Identified the Peter Moyes Centre as a recipient for Annual Giving 2015
- Continued to see the Headmaster at almost ALL School events, sporting, academic, social, pastoral, parent committee meetings etc

### **Enhancing communication to Boarding families**

A project is currently underway to review and expand communications to new boarding families. A 'road map' is being prepared and all supporting documentation checked against the map to ensure the steps are clear from orientation to the first night of boarding and that parents feel connected and comfortable about all aspects of the boarding environment.

The goal is to ensure boarding at Christ Church provides our boys with the best of both worlds - access to endless opportunities and facilities and being part of a tight knit, supportive community on campus.

## **PHILANTHROPY**

Annual Giving is at Week 3 of the campaign with a priority on donor retention and acquisition.

Key messages that have been communicated to all staff are:

1. There is only one 'giving' campaign this year (only one School campaign requesting donations in 2015)
2. The campaign consists of five specific projects
3. Each project will be delivered in the short term for the benefit of current students

### **Project details:**

#### *Koorungal 'High Ropes Course'*

Existing ropes course needs replacing and will benefit all CCGS boys who attend Koorungal.

#### *Prep School Peter Moyes Centre Sensory Library*

The PMC is a very special part of our School and a sensory resource library will provide boys with specialised equipment which helps with skills development.

#### *Mt Claremont Playing Fields Electronic Scoreboard*

Donors keen on winter and summer sport will see this enhancement to the grounds up and running for the 2016 season.

#### *Scholarship Trust*

This scholarship is a significant part of the School's history and currently provides 11 boys with the gift of a CCGS education. We want to extend this gift to two more boys by 2017.

#### *Indigenous Scholarships*

An important ongoing program offering young Indigenous boys with leadership potential the chance to be their best.

Director of Philanthropy attended the Old Boys reunion in Sydney and is currently following up with a few members.

## **ICT**

ICT Services engaged in a several fix, tweak and evaluation activities leading on from week 1 of Term 2. The following is a summary of some of these activities.

### **Synergetic**

Synergetic engineers iterated through several patches to version 66R1 in attempts to address the many bugs that this version introduced especially within the student module. The release of these new bugs occurred as a result of a complete user interface rewrite to this web interface module. At present, the patches have addressed nearly all of the important bugs bar one. This particular bug prevents teachers from accessing the "docman" tab (a document store for student documents) within the student module on the web interface. The windows client works without issue however.

A new fix was released last week which attempted to fix the issue with the "docman" tab. The fix was first applied to our test servers in order to minimise interference to the production system while testing. Unfortunately another issue was discovered, also relating to the "Docman" tab. Synergetic have been advised of this issue and a request for urgency has been communicated to them also.

## **FACILITIES**

The final draft of the Traffic Management Plan is now with the school. The proposed changes to the Stirling Highway and Stirling Road intersection have been clarified by Main Roads.

The Chapel project is taking shape and continuing to progress well. **Mr Coslani** and the architect remain happy with the progress and quality of the work completed by the builder, Western Projects.

The Building & Development working group has directed **Mr Coslani** to significantly reduce the scope of the new pathway to the Boatshed. **Messrs Price & Coslani** are meeting with their counterparts at MLC this week to discuss progress.