



Christ Church
Grammar School

Headmaster's Report

September 2015

Attachments

- Media clips

**Old Boys' Association
Parents' Association**

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

During the period since the last Council meeting I attended the ABSA conference in Alice Springs along with the Director of Residential Community, **Mr Brad Downing**. This was a conference that focussed on dealing with boarders - indigenous, isolated and international. It was very affirming to consider the school's position in these three areas given that which was presented to us. As we look to consider strategically where the future might lie for boarding at Christ Church we can be confident that we are currently very well placed.

Later in the report there is mention of the final PA Sundowner for the year. (Year 10) This was the final official occasion of the current President of the Parents' Association, Mrs Susan Montanari prior to the AGM next week. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Susan's wonderful contribution as President for the last two years and as a committee member for six. Members of Council are reminded that Susan is unique in that she had boys start in both Year 7 and Year 8 in our centenary year so she has very much lived the *new shape for a new century* of our Senior School.

One of Susan's final acts will be to see through the purchase of a new piano for our renovated Chapel. This very significant purchase by the Parents' Association is enabled by the prudent management of funds over Susan's presidency and by a willingness of the Association to be led by the Headmaster of the day toward appropriate capital expenditure on 'programmes' that influence many boys. This year the PA has also supported requests for paddle boards for our Physical Education and Boarding programmes and mountain bikes at Koorinal.

STUDENTS

THE LW PARRY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Academic

An initial review of 2015 NAPLAN data demonstrates the effectiveness of program implementations and the focus of consistency and continuity across the curriculum. The data demonstrates the effects of programs such as Jolly Phonics, Jolly Grammar, Sound Waves, STARS and the Big Write/VCOP.

Pastoral Care, Planning and Co-curricular

The Preparatory School JPSSA Sports teams played against or joined with their fathers in the Annual Father Son Sporting Fixtures. Over 130 fathers played football, soccer, hockey and rugby in either combined teams or fathers versus sons. This event continues to be a celebration of the strength of our community and parent engagement in Preparatory School events.

Forrest House conducted their annual fundraiser for the Cambodian Children's Fund. All boys in the Preparatory School ran a Lapathon and did so with great energy and enthusiasm. It is expected the boys would have raised a considerable amount for CCF.

Ms Li Liu hosted the Year 5 Dumpling Day during Week 4. All boys in Year 5 made Dumplings in the Sandover Kitchen as part of their Mandarin Program. A number of parents assisted Ms Liu and the boys on the day and the boys enjoyed and appreciated the event, particularly eating the fruits of their labour!

The Parents' Association funded Pre-Primary – Year 2 Artist in Residence program has commenced with the boys engaging in Hip-Hop Dancing lessons. The boys are enjoying this energetic residency and look forward to performing as part of the Preparatory School, Week of the Arts.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Academic

The subject selection process has largely concluded and planning for classes, timetabling and staffing in 2016 is advancing. **Mrs Margaret Brophy** has been visiting the classes of all Year 12 subjects with a practical component, emphasising the seriousness of the SCSA rules in the practical examinations.

In line with to our strategic intent, subjects like Mathematics have introduced a unit that is project-based and thus teaches and instils collaborative learning. The group projects and investigations run successfully so far this year are as follows:

- Year 7 "Using maths to design a theme park"
- Year 8 "Using maths to design a swimming pool" and "Exploring reaction times"
- Year 10 "Mining real world data for links between indicators such as infant mortality and literacy rates across a number of countries".

An iPad review committee has begun meeting as part of a due diligence process. The Committee is looking at concerns and issues associated with the device, both at school and at home; the strengths of the program, particularly given the resources being created by the digital curators; and evaluation of alternative devices, although it is not envisaged that there will be a shift any time soon. The Committee is being co-chaired by **Mr Geoffrey Alagoda** and **Mrs Margaret Brophy** and representatives from a range of departments are representing a range of views.

Mr Matthew Kameron continues to work on data tracking and in early September **Mr Brad Hilliard** and **Mrs Margaret Brophy** will attend a Go7 meeting in Brisbane to present our initiatives and to learn from the other schools attending. Meanwhile, we are going to trial a service for translating school reports for full-fee paying overseas students, where requested.

NAPLAN results have recently been released.

Pastoral

On Monday 17 August parents and boys had the opportunity to meet with their tutor to discuss last semester's report and to revisit the goals set at the beginning of the year. These meetings were an important opportunity for parents, sons and tutors to meet, provide clarity and understanding about each other's expectations and work requirements for the ensuing semester. They were very well attended with several Houses reporting over 80% attendance on the evening.

House activities have dominated the school calendar in recent weeks seeing the House Teams carnival, House Shout and House Mural completed. The final inter House competition, the athletics carnival will determine the winner of the 2015 Beatty Cup competition.

Year 12 boys are in their final phase for all courses, most of which will be completed in the week prior to mock exams. It is an important time for boys in terms of final assessment, review and consolidation for the Mock exam. It is also a time when there are potentially

greater stress levels and ensuring a consistent and measured approach with Year 12s by academic and pastoral staff is a significant focus.

Planning and Co-curricular

Tours

SIA Marble Bar is in the final stages of planning with Director of Service in Action **Mr Mark Tait** and residential Year coordinator **Mr Jason Lamb** is also attending. SIA Yakanarra has returned successfully after three students and **Mr Mark Morrissy** spent the week in this isolated Kimberley indigenous community. This is our third trip with students to Yakanarra and we have established good rapport with this community and they are keen for us to return in 2016. The second SIA Garnduwa trip, scheduled in mid October, to the East Kimberley is also ready to depart on time.

The SIA Cambodia trip is fully subscribed and the tour party is engaged in fundraising and preparations for the third Cambodian experience.

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

Sport

The PSA winter sports season has concluded for Christ Church teams. Soccer is the only code to win a championship, which they shared with Trinity College. Badminton was placed third and Hockey, a very young team with a Year 8 and two Year 9 boys finished a credible fourth. Rugby who played without a significant group of players for the first half of the season a solid fourth, cross-country sixth and football unable to win a game finished in seventh.

Athletics preseason is underway for some aspects of the program and there is a determination to improve on the sixth place result last year. The House Athletics took place on Friday 28 August at AK Stadium followed by the Quads and PSA Inters Athletics in consecutive week before we start summer training towards the end of term.

Arts

The annual House Shout is certainly becoming a highlight in the Senior School calendar as well as a great source of enjoyment and entertainment for both boys and staff. On Thursday, 21 August we were witness to Noake winning the competition with their performance of Summer of 69 (Bryan Adams). Queenslea's rendition of Turn the Beat Around (Gloria Estefan) and early favourites Wolsey set the standard with the Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson/Bruno Mars). The atmosphere and engagement of all boys was fantastic. Many hours of hard work by House staff and the Music Department have gone in to making this House Shout another memorable event. Similarly, the exhibition of the House Kites displayed the creative talents of many boys who chose to get involved. Each House design team created a positive image and message that incorporates their House logo as part of their design for their totem. In a very close contest, Romsey was judged as narrow winners.

The CloudStreet season came to The Heath Ledger Theatre under the direction of **Mr Greg Jones** last week. It proved to be a brilliant success over the four performances with amazing costumes and innovative set. Stella performances by lead cast member and senior boys **Kael McGrechan, Jack Moursounidis, Monty Natham** and **Sam Elias** reflected the real talent that has been nurtured over the past 5 years in Drama. The Preparatory School Year 6 play 'Dirty Beasts' is progress well for its season in the final week of Term 3 and the Year 7/8 play 'Jungle Book' have also started rehearsals.

Outdoor Education

The final Year 9 Camps starts next week to round out the program of eight camps over the last term and a half. The Venture staff met for breakfast to begin the preparations for Venture. This was quickly followed by Wilderness First Aid training leading in to the mid-term break. Year 10 parents have also been informed of the Venture experience in detail at the Year 10 PA sundowner on the Monday of mid-term.

STAFF

TEACHING STAFF

Appointments:

Mrs Julie Bosnich has extended her contract in the Science Department and will remain with the School for the remainder of the year.

Internal Appointments:

N/A

Resignations

Mr Geoff McGillivray has resigned from his position of Head of Design & Technology effective at the end of 2015. He will remain working in the D & T Department and continue in his role as Director of Sailing. Geoff started at CCGS in 1996 and was appointed to Head of Department in 2001.

Miss Una Alagic has resigned from her position as a teacher in our Humanities Department. Una joined us two years ago after completing a practicum at the School. She will be moving to Melbourne to gain further experience professionally and look to complete her Masters.

Mr Joseph Sterlini will complete a fixed term contract in the Physical Education Department at the end of this term. Jo has been heavily involved in our coaching program and will return in Term 4 to be part of Venture

SUPPORT STAFF

Appointments:

N/A

Digital Content Creator and Enabler's (DCCE)

iBooks are currently being prepared to be launched on the Apple bookstore. We expect to publish the first books on Monday 7 September.

Head of Department Professional Development

Members of the Academic Committee commenced the first module of our Leadership Program run by the Visitor to the Centre for Pedagogy, **Ms Keren Caple**. This module will focus on classroom observation and form one of a six part program that will be rolled out over the next eighteen months.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Student Achievements

News stories for August include:

- A philosophy that wins – respect for all
- Noake rocks the House
- The Big Science Quiz
- Paralympian inspires our Year 10 boys
- Rock vs Science
- Year 6 boys set a fine example at assembly
- First Aid and weapons training for our Army Cadet
- Unit Pre-Primary boys celebrate Upside Down
- Day CCGS Footballers named as best on ground at
- National Championships Award-winning cartoonist visits CCGS and encourages drawing
- How to raise a modern man
- Preparatory boys practice hip-hop moves
- Boys explore the Montebello Islands
- Physical Education classes projected on the big screen
- Scitech's explosive incursion
- Father and friends show off their sporting prowess
- Christ Church boys set for WA State Surfing Titles
- Guest speaker brings props to Year 12 Mathematics class
- Combined CCGS/St Hilda's Symphony Orchestra
- Hotoku Gakuen students immersed in CCGS life

Parents Association

Parents' Association are seeking new members and have a number of interested parties who will attend and consider becoming involved in 2016.

Events in August include

- Year 10 Mother / Friend and Son Breakfast - Thursday 20 August
- Year 10 Sundowner and Venture information evening - Monday 24 August
- Dowerin Field Days - 26 and 27 August
- Parents' Auxiliary meeting - Thursday 27 August

Old Boys' Association

Planning has commenced for the 2016 calendar and planning for the Centenary in 2017 is still progressing.

Reunions and events this month include:

- 7 Aug -35 year reunion Class of 1980 (31)
- 9 Aug -OBA Vs OSC Festival of the Boot (150)

On Sunday 9 August the CCGS Old Boys competed against the Old Scotch Collegians. It was the first time an event like this has been conducted and it was very successful with more than 150 participants and 300 spectators. OSC won all four codes in the competition.

This term the School welcomed **Mr Bill Nott** (1973) from Adelaide. Bill has been in South Australia since 1988, and was keen to view the Captains' Honour Board as he was Captain of Cricket in 1973. He was most impressed with the campus.

OBA Scholarship Trustees have produced a final draft of a new Trust Deed for management of the old scholarship fund.

Centre for Ethics

During this Term the School will host many events and speakers including **Mr David Tacey** who is launching his book *Beyond Literal Belief* and the Resilience Optimism Confidence (ROC) teen workshop. Embracing fatherhood continues throughout August and September with **Mr Miles Protter** and **Frank Sheehan** facilitating.

Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing

Christ Church Grammar school has been invited by The University of Notre Dame Australia to collaborate in a research project that will deliver a greater understanding of students self perceptions, identity formation and motor competence. Two classes of Year 9 PSD students will complete the surveys in class and parents are required to supplement the survey information by also completing surveys on their sons. The survey results will provide the School with baseline information.

Parents of Year 10 boys received information about the *Keys for Life* program. Which is a workshop designed for parents and boys with practical advice on:

- teaching a young person to drive and the licensing system
- how to handle stressful situations and avoid common crashes
- the benefits of extensive driving practice for learner drivers

New Projects

Planning has commenced to identify CCGS publications that can move to being delivered online removing the need for hard copy production. This will deliver a financial savings that can then be redirected to improving the online experience for prospective and current boys, parents and members of the Christ Church community.

GOVERNANCE/FINANCE/FACILITIES

Council

The school has forwarded the changes to the constitution to the Diocesan Office for inclusion into the Synod papers for October. The covering motion includes our nominees at this meeting, being myself and the Chairman.

The school has just received another amended version of the traffic management plan required by the Town of Claremont. This process has been particularly long and arduous as numerous drafts have now been completed and this will be the third occasion that the plan has been formally submitted to the ToC for approval.

Finance

The school is part way through the production of a draft annual budget for 2016. The initial collation of departmental requests has been completed and is being consolidated.

The Somerset financial benchmarking survey for 2014 has just been completed. The survey had 575 independent schools around Australia participate. The information in the survey will form the basis of a more formal presentation to Council from the Director of Finance following appropriate instruction by the School Council.

Facilities

The Chapel project is continuing to progress well and is on time. The school has recently approved a minor variation which has significantly improved the sight lines from the mezzanine floor.

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Christ Church Grammar School students get into the spirit rehearsing *Cloudstreet*. Photo: Paul McGovern

Boys drink in Winton drama

Claremont schoolboys are in the Pickles.

Christ Church Grammar School students are rehearsing for *Cloudstreet*, the stage version of Tim Winton's 1991 novel.

Director Greg Jones said the play, which tells the story of the Pickles and Lamb families, was a great vehicle for 23 actors.

"As the story spans two decades, from 1943 to 1963,

the cast is stretched to embody multiple characters throughout the 100 scenes of the play," Mr Jones said.

Cast member Monte Nathan, who is the school's captain of drama, said performing *Cloudstreet* was an honour.

"It feels great to be able to bring justice to a Tim Winton classic," he said.

"To have the opportunity to perform at the State Theatre

Centre of WA is something many student actors don't get. We're all really looking forward to the performances."

Students from Methodist Ladies' College, Presbyterian Ladies' College, and St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls will also perform in the *Midnite Youth Theatre Company* production.

Tickets for the August 20 to 22 show are via ticketek.

Brother's illness a catalyst for study

By RHIANNON SHINE

When Cyndi Shannon Weickert's twin brother was diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was 17, it was the first time she had heard the word.

She grew up in the US along-side him, shared teachers and friends, played baseball and went on holidays. She said they had both been intelligent children, but once the teenage years hit, something changed.

"I remember that while I was socialising and partying, my brother was starting to withdraw," Professor Shannon Weickert said.

"We were both very academic over-achievers and competed

for the top grades in school, but then I noticed his grades were slipping.

"He got worse. He withdrew more into his room.

"He would listen to Beatles records and play them backwards and think they had special messages for him."

When a psychiatrist diagnosed schizophrenia, Professor Shannon Weickert decided, "I gotta learn this biology stuff, because I gotta find out what's wrong with his brain."

"I knew I wanted to help my brother, because the medicines that were available to him at the time were terrible."

Now a world-leading neurologist, Professor Shannon Weickert moved to Australia from the US

eight years ago when she was invited to lead a top schizophrenia program in Sydney.

Last week, she gave a public lecture at Christ Church Grammar School, in Claremont, about her latest research and her personal experience with schizophrenia.

"My aim is to discover biological subsets of schizophrenia so that we can target novel therapeutics by re-purposing available drugs that are already known to be safe for other diseases," she said.

"My aim is to apply what we know, or what we have learnt so far, and just test if it's going to be of benefit."

She said a range of people attended her lectures, from

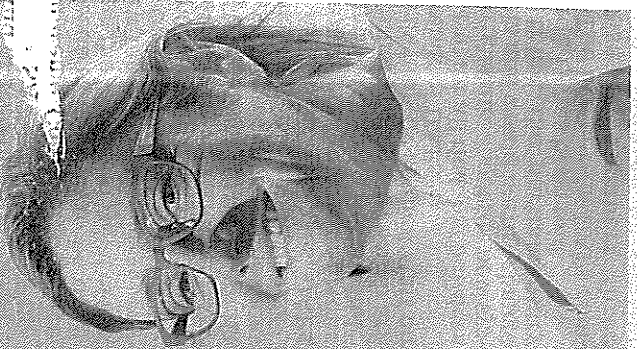
those personally affected by schizophrenia to those who were simply interested in the human brain.

"There is a lot of intrigue in the human brain," she said. "If you think about it, it may be one of the most complex organs on the planet."

Professor Shannon Weickert's lecture was organised by mental health awareness group Meeting for Minds.

Details about the group's events can be found at meetingforminds.com.

RIGHT: Professor Shannon Weickert made it her life mission to uncover the root cause of schizophrenia.



Post
Ave
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ICEA Foundation has given Lockie Cooke a much deeper connection to his place in Australia. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

www.communitypix.com.au d441589

THE ESSENTIALS

The ICEA Foundation Calendar Friday, August 14 - Marja Series at the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club from 4pm Sunday, August 30 - City to Surf with a 3000-person ICEA team Saturday, September 12 - ICEA Classic at Cottesloe Cove

Cultural platform created

REPRESENTING WA at the 2015 Australian EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in Sydney in October will allow Cottesloe resident Lockie Cooke to spread his reconciliation message.

The 25-year-old founder of the ICEA Foundation won the WA Social Entrepreneur category at the annual Ernst and Young Awards last month.

"This award creates an awesome platform for our message to get heard to a large base," Mr Cooke said. He said EY's due diligence showed people that as well as being competent in reconciliation and leadership, ICEA was a leader in finance and governance "so

it shows our value for social investment".

Personally, Mr Cooke said the award made him feel "good in my liyarn (heart and soul)".

"Knowing that over the eight years I've been doing this work we are on the right track and what lies ahead of us can only get better because we have such a complete structure," he said.

The ICEA Foundation is a youth-run not-for-profit organisation that brings indigenous and non-indigenous people together to promote reconciliation.

Mr Cooke spends part of his time in remote communities and the other in Perth.

Other award winners include Matthew Allen, Subcon Technologies Pty Ltd (Emerging), Torsten Ketelsen, GMA Garnet Group (Industry), Russell Baskerville, Empired Limited (Services), Professor Tim St Pierre and Peter Botten.

spreading his message. He said he had learned to live in two worlds.

"I genuinely feel that when I'm in Australia I have a place... over the years of connecting with Aboriginal people I've developed an understanding and connection to country."

For more information, visit www.iceafoundation.com.au.

getting behind
arguably the
biggest derby
in history in
the form of
Dockers and



The West Australian
Monday 17 August.

GRAND SLAM

On the topic of sporting rivalries, former students from Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School went head to head on Sunday in the inaugural Festival of the Boot.

The event saw teams from each school compete across four sports — football, rugby, soccer and hockey.

On hand to call games were



Crowing: Adrian Barich.

Seven Perth's Adrian Barich, an Old Scotch Collegian, and Network Ten's Tim Gossage, a Christ Church alumnus.

Your trusty IC correspondent sits across a partition from Barra, and the former West Coast player took a great deal of pleasure in revealing Scotch were victorious in all four sports.

"I suggested next year they take on Scotch in four other pastimes — Rubik's cube, Scrabble, Pictionary and chess," Barra quipped.

RADIO APPEAL

Did you know RTRFM, in its various guises, was Perth's first FM radio station?

From humble beginnings in 1977, the community station has become the go-to spot on the dial for those who love their music local and a little left of centre.

But its existence relies on financial support from the general public, especially during its annual, 10-day fundraiser Radiothon.

Radiothon starts tomorrow on the Breakfast with Caitlin show at 6am and people who donate have a chance at some great prizes, including a trip to the WOMA Delaide Festival in South Australia, complete with flights, accommodation and backstage passes.

And if you're looking for something to do on Saturday, don't miss the Radiothon Party,

western

 Community

suburbs weekly

AUGUST 18-24, 2015

RESIDENTIAL
Alan Bond's
Cottesloe
home for sale



Schools in harmony

By SOPHIE GABRIELLE

A MUSICAL collaboration between Christ Church Grammar School and Methodist Ladies' College has students hitting all the right notes.

The two schools' best musicians will perform at a joint concerto night at Hadley Hall on September 11.

CCGS Year 12 student Henry Loudon will play trombone at the concerto and has been playing the instrument for seven years.

"It's a versatile instrument; you can play classical and jazz," Henry said.

"We've been performing with all of the other concerto musicians throughout the year and it will be good to play concerto with them (MLC).

"It's really good being part of a full orchestra with a massive sound and they are really good instrumentalists."

MLC Year 11 student Ciara Sudlow, who is a violin soloist, said she wanted to learn the violin after she watched a classmate play.

"I really love the piece I'm playing; the Dvorak *Violin Concerto*," Ciara said.

"The most challenging aspect of it is probably sticking with the orchestra because it's quite a challenging orchestral part as well."



Ciara Sudlow and Henry Loudon are looking forward to their musical collaboration.
Picture: Andrew Ritchie
www.communitypix.com.au d442194