



**Schools and Residential Colleges Commission**  
The Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod

## Reports from Schools and Colleges

**May 2016**



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## **Reports from Schools to Schools and Residential Colleges Commission**

In addition to providing its formal report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Synod, the Schools and Residential Colleges Commission is pleased to provide the following document. It is hoped that it will provide an insight into various aspects of school life relating to 2020 vision.

Schools for which the UCA provides board members were asked to respond to the following four questions:

- 1) *In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?***
- 2) *What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)***
- 3) *What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?***
- 4) *What is being undertaken in the school/college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?***

**Schools included are:**

### **Property Trust**

- The Lakes College (Principal: Mr Simon Armstrong)
- The SCOTS PGC College (Principal: Mr Simon Shepherd)
- Calvary Christian College (Principal: Mr Steven Coote)
- Shalom Christian College (Principal: Mr Chris England)

### **Separately Incorporated**

- Moreton Bay College (Principal: Mr James Sloman)
- Moreton Bay Boys College (Principal: Mr James Sloman)

### **PMSA**

- Brisbane Boys College (Principal: Mr Graeme McDonald)
- Clayfield College (Principal: Mrs Kathy Bishop)
- Somerville House (Principal: Mrs Florence Kearney)
- Sunshine Coast Grammar School (Principal: Ms Maria Woods)

### **Residential Colleges**

- Cromwell College (Principal: Mr Ross Switzer)
- The John Flynn College (Principal: Mr Michael Bongers)
- Kings College (Principal: Mr Greg Eddy)
- Raymont Lodge Residential College



## Calvary Christian College

### 1) In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?

- As a ministry of Logan Uniting Church, the mission of the College is closely aligned to the vision of LUC: **Purpose:** “Draw people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus.” **Vision:** Calvary Christian College is a school of influence, embracing communities in the love of God, transforming lives and empowering people to live out their potential in Christ. **Slogan:** In the love of God: Influencing, Embracing, Transforming, Empowering students and staff.
- We have reformed our behaviour management practices intentionally to align closer with the missional vision of Logan Uniting Church. Our Chaplains and Year Level Coordinators coach students how to establish and maintain positive, influential relationships which demonstrate care and concern for others as well as themselves. Students are empowered to resolve conflict constructively, recognising and minimising negative influences, working cooperatively in a team, participating in service to others and accessing support from a caring community. Our behavioural management practices focus on what could be done to fix things instead of trying to determine who could be blamed.
- Our Chapel Band occasionally leads praise and worship on Sundays at Logan Uniting Church.
- Staff members attend the ACS Biennial Christian Teachers Conference.
- Parent surveys indicate that two of the most appreciated aspects of the College are our distinctiveness as a Christian College with our emphasis on discipleship and our Christian character development.
- We review and develop the scope and sequence of our Christian education curriculum.
- Our two Junior Schools implement PYP with a focus on service into the world.
- Springwood Junior School holds weekly assembly in Logan Uniting Church; making use of the Ministry Team, interns and other staff.
- Praise Connect Club at our Springwood campus links the church and the school.
- Logan Uniting’s Jump Start holiday program is supported.
- A College Chaplain is employed in Outside School Hours Care at our Springwood campus to establish a closer link between school and church.
- Professional Development sessions are held for new staff to learn more about the vision and mission of the wider Uniting Church and Logan Uniting Church in particular.
- The College competes in the Brisbane Christian Schools Competition in a number of sports.
- Students play soccer under the banner of the Logan Uniting Church Soccer Club.
- We run a Daughters of Promise program for teenage girls.

### 2) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?

- We offer Certificate III in Ministry and Theology for Years 11 and 12 students.
- We develop influential educators who embrace the different strengths and challenges of students. We intentionally aim to transform students from consumers into confident, competent, collaborators who create safe, positive environments where people are empowered to use their God-given strengths in diverse ministries.
- The Chapel program encourages student involvement and participation through preaching, leading the praise and worship, and in the planning of chapel services.

- The annual GROW (God Rocks Our World) conference encourages student leaders to be involved in the planning of this Middle School conference and in leading discipleship related workshops.
- A Tim-Tam Bible Study Club is run for Middle School students.
- The Chaplaincy Team runs Christian fellowship clubs across the College.
- Students of all ages are encouraged to initiate and pursue faith-in-action programs to support Christian organisations and College families in need.
- Year 12 students have the option of participating in a Youth Alpha Christian discipleship course as an alternative to their Christian Studies program.
- Students are encouraged to participate in the planning and organisation of the annual Amnesty International Candle Day Service.
- Staff members are encouraged to lead staff devotions and are responsible for leading student devotions with their respective pastoral care classes.
- A biennial staff retreat is organised for all staff members to enhance their faith and refresh their faith journey. Staff members are involved in the planning committee.
- The College hosts an annual Prayer and Mission Week special event. Staff members collaborate to plan the program.
- Our Chaplaincy Team encourage staff to support a Family Compassion Fund which offers support for College families who are in need.
- We have introduced professional development to empower staff to provide coaching for students with the GROW (Goal, Reality, Options, Will) model.
- Our Junior School on the Springwood campus has created a Missions to Serve Club. It conducts weekly fundraising through selling ice-blocks. Funds raised go towards supporting Compassion Child, Fishers of Men (serving the homeless in Brisbane), and emergency responses such as supporting communities ravished by a cyclone in Vanuatu.
- Students run the Happy Hens Café at our Springwood campus.

**3) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)**

- We pursue international links with schools and students in Vanuatu. After ten years of annual mission trips to Tonga (2005 – 2015), we have established links with schools that had been devastated by a cyclone in Vanuatu. The Calvary community raises funds to provide books and other resources for libraries. A team of students and staff visit Vanuatu annually with the aim to place a library in every Junior School in Vanuatu. Students, parents and families in the Logan Uniting congregation assemble age appropriate gift boxes for children in Vanuatu. The boxes are shipped with the books that have been collected for the library project.
- We maintain links with a Christian school in Mozambique. In 2015, the Year 12 cohort has supported two students in the Christian school in Mozambique. We have hosted the school's principal in two occasions and provided opportunities for him to address our staff and students to raise awareness of the needs of students in Mozambique. Calvary students have developed a unique relationship with their two sponsored students. When in Year 10, the Calvary students adopted two Year 10 Mozambican students and decided that they would be a meaningful part of the Calvary cohort for three years. During this time Calvary students have emailed the Mozambican students to develop the friendship and relationship. To emphasise that relationship, the Calvary Year 12 class has decided that their Mozambican friends will be part of their Graduation Service. They have purchased Calvary Year 12 jerseys and Bibles for the students which have been sent to Mozambique. A photo of the Mozambican student wearing the Calvary Jersey was included in the photos of the Year 12 cohort at the Graduation Service.
- Our current Year 11 students have been involved in two main projects over the last year and a bit. Firstly, Year 11 students are sponsoring another two students in Mozambique from Year 10 through to Year 12. We are undertaking fundraising for them as well as engaging in correspondence with them so that both we and the sponsored students can develop a mutual understanding of each other's lives. The two Mozambique students will graduate at the same time as our Year 11 cohort where we intend on sending them a Calvary Year 12 jersey as a gift. Secondly, the 2015, Year 10 students were involved in a significant fundraising effort for the Cancer Council and one of our students who had been affected by

Leukaemia. This was an orange and yellow day; orange for the colour in support of Leukaemia and yellow being the colour in support of cancer treatment in general. The day involved students getting dressed up in these colours as well as fundraising activities across the day.

- We organise Faith-in-action student programs which focus on social responsibility and the financial support for mission agencies and individuals in need (e.g. World Vision, Christian Blind Mission, Operation Christmas Child, and Compassion Child).
- Community partnerships are established with businesses, organisations and welfare agencies. These partnerships aim to enhance student vocational opportunities through traineeships, enrich learning opportunities for students and provide crucial social-emotional and family support for students in need.
- We offer opportunities to lead the Mission to Serve Club at our Springwood campus.

**4) What is being undertaken in the school/college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

- The Chapel program fosters students' faith through developing an understanding and appreciation of an authentic and relevant Christian faith. The Chapel Team leads worship during chapel services, occasional services at Logan Uniting Church and other special events.
- Both our Junior Schools hold weekly assemblies which involve prayer, Bible reading, praise and worship and a Christian message. Many of the activities are student led and well-attended by parents.
- Devotions are an integral part of the College of the College culture. Prior to the commencement of the school day, all staff members meet for devotions. Students then have devotions in their pastoral care groups prior to the commencement of the school day.
- At the start and conclusion of the school year, special staff communion services are facilitated. Communion is also organised a number of times during the year, usually at the end of each term.





## Shalom Christian College

Shalom Christian College is the Uniting Church's Indigenous School in Townsville. It takes students from Townsville and surrounds, and also from many communities in the Northern parts of Australia. It is primarily, but not exclusively Indigenous. Present enrolments from Prep to Year 12 is 350 students.

### 1) In what ways has the School sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader Church?

- Developed a "way" - the "Shalom way". This way encompasses Respect, Rights, and Responsibilities and applies to all staff and students equally.
- We have prayers at all assemblies.
- We have prayer at Pastoral Care classes.
- We have prayer at staff meetings and briefings as well as at Governance meetings.
- We have, at times, prayers at School reconciliation meetings.
- We have Christian education classes in Primary School and cultural development in Secondary School which include prayer.
- Boarders have church weekly and we have guest speakers at some of these services who are from other churches.
- We have guest speakers at selected school assemblies who promote the Christian way.
- All meals for Boarders are started with prayer.
- Students from Year 11 read to the Elders.
- We have an Indigenous dance group who has developed dances to gospel songs.
- Support for Daniel Morcombe Foundation promoting safety to the families as well as schools.
- We accept enrolments and charge no additional fees to parents.
- We accept enrolments from students who need a second chance at an education.
- We provide all Day students with a free bus service to pick up students and taken them home after school.
- We provide all Day students with breakfast at no cost.
- Christmas and Easter pageants are held each year in the Primary School. These tell the story of Christ.
- Moves have commenced to secure the essential services of a School Chaplain.
- The Principal comments on aspects of Christian life in the Newsletter.
- The School does not charge boarding or tuition fees as a means of supporting out parents.

### 2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance the partnerships with local and wider communities?

- Shalom has, through the goodwill of the staff at Geelong College, Melbourne, developed an excellent student exchange programme. Students from Geelong come and stay for a week in September and students from Shalom visit Geelong in April/May. This is an excellent cultural exchange.
- Students attend the annual local Business Women's breakfast.
- Students attend the Buranga Indigenous Festival.
- Shalom invites other schools to its NAIDOC celebration where they may perform a cultural item.
- Students visit patients at the Elders Retirement Village on campus.
- Staff participation in the annual Movember challenge raising awareness of men's health.
- Pink Ribbon Day and Blue Jeans Day are celebrated at the School.
- Students from Shalom Christian College provide coaching to local primary students sports teams.
- We have developed links with the Police Community Liaison Officers and James Cook University.

- We have a Memorandum of Understanding with an outside provider for our VET Indigenous Health course.
- Selected staff visit communities to develop communication and engagement.
- Yearly clean-up of the beach by Boarding students.

**3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?**

**Students**

- Visits to the Elders Village on campus.
- Students participate in Men's business ceremony.
- Torres Strait "Rights of Passage" ceremony for relevant Year 12 graduating students.
- Year 6 students attend Halogen Leadership Program.
- Year level camps.
- Some Year 12 students attend university induction programs both in term time and in the holidays.
- At the opening Church Service, students play a vital role and student leaders are commissioned.
- Year 12 students work with Primary students.

**Staff**

- Prayer at all staff meetings (staff are on a roster)
- Weekly values theme.
- Staff attend religious education workshops.
- The local Uniting Church newsletters are sent out to all staff as is the recently published Uniting Church of Australia newsletter "Uniting News".

**4) What is being undertaken in the School to enhance the worship and prayer life of our School?**

- We hope to be able to appoint a Chaplain soon with the possibility of a weekly service for all students and staff.
- We are slowly improving the quality of the Boarders weekly church service with variety and interest.
- We have had contact with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and hope that this gives opportunity for our students to serve.
- Staff are encouraged to go on the weekly morning briefing roster.
- Introduction of a "Welcome to Country" at the commencement of each term for all students.





# The Lakes College



## The Lakes College

### **1) *In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?***

- Chaplain worships regularly with The Lakes Uniting Church congregation
- Chaplain meets fortnightly with The Lakes UCA Congregation Minister Rev Mark Cornford
- Chaplain attends Presbytery meetings
- The Lakes College and The Lakes Uniting Church Combined family services including chapel leader's and principal's involvement twice a year
- Yr 12 giving back week involving community service with Wesley Mission Brisbane
- Yr 6 'Community Immersion' visit to Nazarene and Girraween, Blue Care Residential Aged Care Facility at Rothwell.
- Yr 7 'Community Immersion' visit to Wesley Mission Brisbane
- Invitations to the Moderator and other church officials at end of year celebrations and awards nights
- Christmas food hamper appeal to support Auntie Jean's indigenous ministry

### **2) *What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)***

#### ***International Partnerships***

- One of our missions is to prepare students to live in the globally connected world. Our language, teaching and learning philosophy is to provide students with an authentic language and cultural learning experience. Chinese is a compulsory subject for all students at The College from prep through to year 8 and becomes an elective subject in year 9. We also provide opportunities for students to engage in learning and service with young people in other countries through our student exchange program. The Lakes college has established a student exchange program with Beijing Primary School in China and is committed to academic excellence, collaboration and dedication to fostering international mindedness within our students.
- Dr Ken Henry clothes for Africa appeal part of our Christmas 2015 giving back initiatives.
- Uniting world Christmas catalogue appeal (TLC Student Connor Kickkert featured in the UCA Journey article March 2016)

#### ***Community Service Activities***

- Each year staff and students at The Lakes College undertake a number of community service and fundraising activities.
- Yr 12 'Giving Back Week' - a community service opportunity with the Red Cross business services in Fortitude Valley. This exposes our students to working with people who are differently abled.
- Community Service group 'Winter wonderland' movie night fundraising for 'The Space' North Lakes community centre. Funds raised for the youth work that is carried out by the youth centre.
- St Francis blessing of the animal's service with North Lakes Anglican church, raising money for the RSPCA.
- Making a Difference (MAD group) fundraising for the work of the Peninsular Pet refuge.
- Development of inter-school connections through sporting and cultural events.
- Hosting of gifted and talented workshops and competitions conducted by our learning enhancement staff

- Pink day walk around the lake. Fundraising for cancer awareness and the starlight children's organisation.
- Cupcake fundraiser for 'Chilout' – children in detention asylum seeker organisation
- Indigenous Culture Week – raising awareness of indigenous issues across the college curriculum. This included numerous indigenous guests, art displays, indigenous games, indigenous writing competition and indigenous mathematics skills. Within the 'Faith and Values Education Curriculum' reconciliation was the focus.
- ANZAC Day Service were approximately 200 students and staff from the college community march in the Kallangur parade.
- ANZAC Day college service on the common with student cadets playing a major ceremonial role.
- Lions Club of Kallangur award 'Children of Courage' hosted at the Lakes College.
- Zonta birthing kits for Africa, enabling rural women to give birth with greater hygiene.
- Aunty Jean Christmas Hampers food appeal.

### ***Partnerships with local and Wider community***

- The Lakes college has established a Community Partnerships Program, which provides our suppliers, family businesses and local community partners with opportunities to advertise their organisation to our growing, engaged community. There are three levels of sponsorship available each with varying inclusions such as advertising in our printed calendar, website and college App, in newsletters and our annual Magazine.

### ***3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?***

- The Lakes College Spiritual Development Policy has been fully implemented after a period of discernment concerning the use of appropriate curriculum.
- Primary and secondary chapel leaders play an integral part in the student leadership program.
- Religious Education and Faith and Values Education lessons being conducted by staff other than the chaplain.
- Employment of a full time chaplain, Rev Ben Webb in June 2014.
- Chaplain is a member of the Senior Executive.
- Commissioning services for the College leaders are another testament to the focus on spiritual leadership at The Lakes college. The liturgies have included commissioning and blessings of the students who form the college leadership team. The school community is asked to respond supportively as well. Along with College captains, House, Music, Sporting Captains, Chapel and primary library leaders are recognised.
- Assessment in Secondary School Faith and Values Education (FaVE) has included presentations on what is the Uniting church?
- Staff Eucharist services at the beginning of each Semester involving staff leadership
- Staff Bible study series on 1 Peter during lent
- Staff PD on what it means to work for the Uniting church
- Staff PD on Children of diverse religious backgrounds
- Our Lunch time group 'Making a Difference' (MAD) has been involved in fundraising for various local community organisations.
- Student lead weekly chapel services
- Chapel leader workshop on writing prayers for chapel
- Student lead lunch time invitation to faith
- Weekly chapel leaders meeting and prayer time
- Chaplain meets weekly with the College Principal
- Chaplains fortnightly meetings with heads of sub schools
- Staff worship singing leadership during staff communion
- GOD group primary school choir leading chapel singing with actions
- Staff wellbeing program implementation
- Weekly meetings of the Student Service Committee. Designed to create greater awareness and communication of the pastoral issues facing the students and their families.
- Christian Ethos of the college explicitly defined in the Staff, student and Parent handbooks
- Christian Ethos of the college explicitly defined in the employment application process.

#### **4) What is being undertaken in the school/college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

- First Term year level communion services inviting families to come together in worship
- Weekly Chapel services are held for the Primary and Secondary School. Staff and Parents attend these worship services.
- Chapel service bible readings are based on the lectionary readings for the upcoming week, so that students who attend worship will have those reading reinforced.
- Special Chapel Services occur on Mother's day, Father's day, Grandparents day and ANZAC Day.
- Weekly Religious Education Lessons are conducted in Primary School from Prep to year 6
- Weekly Faith and Values Education (FaVE) lessons are conducted in years 7-10
- Staff briefing weekly prayer time
- Devotions are conducted every day in Primary classrooms and Secondary homerooms.
- College prayers used in every community gatherings
- Assembly prayers
- Weekly prayer request exchanges with the Lakes Uniting church.

**Note:** the references after each subheading (eg 1/B/A) refer to the Synod Strategic plan document 'Uniting in Christ, acting with love, living with hope, witnessing in faith, working for justice'.

#### **Compiled by**

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Principal

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## Scots PGC College

### ***1) In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?***

SCOTS PGC has integrated the ethos of the Uniting Church into the Strategic Plan of the College. We have reviewed our student leadership models within the College and established systems that provide the opportunity for servant student leadership.

Our boarders continue to participate in local Uniting Church services as invited. This has been further encouraged by our Chaplain whose wife is the local Uniting Church Minister. She has forged some strong relationships with students in our community.

### ***2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)***

As a College we have been active participants in local charity and fund raising events. This has included activities such as river clean ups, and appeals.

We are also active with Riding for the Disabled and becoming more actively involved in other service opportunities in the community.

In 2015 we hosted our first Sony Camp and this is something that we will be continuing in 2016. These camps are opportunities for the children with high care needs to partake in school camp activities.

We have a number of indigenous students attending the College, some are through our Yalari partnership, others through the College and other supporting agencies. 2016 is the first year of our partnership with Yalari and we hope this will continue.

We have also been active in fundraising for charities such as CanTeen.

### ***3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?***

The College has a very active Chaplain now and with the new Prefect model we now have a Spiritual Life Prefect, they with the Chaplain lead the portfolio team. This team is made of up students from the Junior, Middle and Senior School and it has been designed to try and provide the students with more opportunities for spiritual leadership with the College. It is also striving to create a situation where we are leading spiritual life in the College through actions not words.

### ***4) What is being undertaken in the school/college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?***

The College has been rocked by a number of tragic incidents over the course of the first term. We had a senior staff member lose a child and then we had a boarder in our care pass away. Throughout these incidents prayer groups were encouraged and the Chapel and the Chaplain provided the opportunity for prayer and reflection. These actions provided, quiet gentle and real support for the community and greatly enhanced worship and prayer.



## Moreton Bay College

### **1) In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?**

#### **PRIMARY**

- Students attend a weekly RE lesson, where each year level has a Central idea, within an inquiry based curriculum. For example, students in Year 3, as part of their Central Idea (Faith brings together a community of people) have explored the Bayside Uniting Church website, to investigate it's outreach within the community. Students have also been able to explore website of other churches that they are familiar with.
- Year 3-6 students Chapel at Bayside Uniting Church, for a weekly Chapel Service.
- Prep – Year 2 students attend a weekly chapel service in the Old Girls Chapel.

#### **SECONDARY**

- The Christian ethos is part of what we do at all levels of the College life. We are seeking to make these more transparent by way of incorporating our College virtues /values into Assembly, Chapel and Assemblies.
- The Christian ethos is being discussed and implemented at staff meetings where the Staff are being encouraged to know and understand who the UCA is and the relationship between the two. Over the past year or two, a number of staff meetings have been dedicated to providing the staff with historical information, insights into the RE program and access to UCA online training.
- In RE classes, we are explicitly making connections between “what Christians believe and what Christians do.” This is obviously age appropriate and linked to whatever topic is being covered. An example in Year 11/12 (2015) was having students reflect on being a change in the world, looking at the “attitudes of the Beatitudes” and how they can apply these in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- The introduction of “Service Learning” in Year 11/12 is enabling us to explore the concept of what the broader church means and looking at the ethics of living in a community.
- The College ISCF group provides opportunities for students to fellowship with students from other Uniting Church schools through a range of fellowship evenings and activities and an annual discipleship camp.
- The College participates in Uniting World's Won Tok service learning day, which provides an opportunity for students to learn about global social justice issues.

### **2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)**

#### **PRIMARY**

- The Eggs for Others Project – Outreach into local nursing homes with eggs donated by families and cards made by the students. Year 6 students visit the Aged Care facilities to speak to residents and wish them a Happy Easter.
- Empty Christmas Tree – Supporting the Redlands Community Centre, which provides support to struggling families in the area. Families donate presents/gift cards to be given to the families in need.

- The Lent Event – Uniting Church Initiative. Students have reflected on self-denial during Lent and brought in small change donations which have been as a result of giving something up. A biscuit stall, selling the Zimbabwean style biscuits, as suggested on the Lent Event website,

was held. Parents donated their time to make the biscuits and Year 6 leaders conducted a stall. Our focus was on support the Uniting Church partnership with Medra, to raise funds for the provision of chickens to families living in Zimbabwe.

- Fundraising Leaders in Year 6 are organising a baking sale to support Breast Cancer research.
- World Vision Sponsor Children – two children are supported by MBC primary, with students given the option to donate some money around the time of their birthday, in lieu of bring a cake or treats for friends.

#### SECONDARY

- Community Service Activities in Secondary this year has seen us take the leap to incorporate the Pastoral Service Program with RE. That means we are learning about the services we support and looking at the broader decisions and actions that accompany these, such as looking into the idea of where the health dollar is spent etc.
- This year, we are supporting the Golden Octopus Foundation and childhood cancer research through our relationship with Keely Johnson; strengthening our ties with Wesley Mission and in particular, the residents at Balmoral through the work of Wesley House (this has been going on for several years); exploring a deeper relationship with Yalari and looking closely at Indigenous issues in our community and developing closer links with Rosie's Street Mission and broadening our understanding of those in the community who are disempowered through homelessness or prison.
- This year we aim to develop closer links between the Leos and Amnesty service groups in the College to work under the same Service Learning Umbrella to work towards a shared vision that is underpinned by our Christian foundation and the messages of the Gospel.

### **3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?**

#### PRIMARY

- All staff have/are undertaking the 2-hour professional development with Trinity College, Queensland -An Introduction to the Uniting Church.
- Each Year 6 class takes turn assisting with Chapel, and students are able to be involved in prayer, bible readings and other aspects of worship.
- Prep –Year 2 students can volunteer for assisting with prayers, technology and other aspects of the Chapel Service.
- For special Chapel Services i.e. Easter, Palm Sunday, students can volunteer to take part in drama, liturgy and dance.
- Morning Prayer begins the day in each classroom.

#### SECONDARY

- This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that the role of HOD of RE has been running as a role that sits in the academic realm of the College. This role provides a voice in the academic field and offers an opportunity to build a bridge between the pastoral, academic and spiritual domains of the College
- RE staff participate in school funded PD as needed.
- The college offers opportunities for students to take on leadership roles as Worship Captains (Year 12) and Chapel Leaders (Year 9). These important roles offer spiritual leadership during weekly Chapel services and also help to organise the various college service projects.

**4) What is being undertaken in the school/college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

*PRIMARY*

- Staff Prayer – Staff are able to join the Chaplains for prayer each week in the Old Girls Chapel.
- Parents are free to attend various Chapel Services and assemblies each week.
- A professional development session in Term 2 will focus on enhancing Morning Prayer sessions within each year level.

*SECONDARY*

- Staff and students participate in weekly Chapel Services that seek to integrate the lectionary and liturgical year with the daily routine of the school calendar.
- Each week at college assemblies, students lead the college in an opening prayer.
- Senior Leadership Team meetings and College staff meetings begin with prayer as a spiritual discipline within the life of the college.
- There is an ISCF group that meets weekly that provides opportunity for Christian Fellowship and seeks to encourage the spiritual growth of the students involved.
- The staff Wellbeing Committee has had a number of initiatives involving mental and physical health; however, it remains an untapped area of potential for spiritual development.
- Staff are welcome to come and pray in the O.G. Chapel on Monday mornings.

Yours sincerely



**Mr James Sloman**  
Executive Principal  
Moreton Bay College | Moreton Bay Boys' College





## Moreton Bay Boys' College

### 1) In what ways has the school sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?

- The College conducts Communion services for secondary boys and staff at the conclusion of each semester. These are led by the College Chaplain with occasional invitations for guest preachers including Rev Lui Sentuli from the Bayside Uniting Church.
- The College has an articulated strategic goal of broadening our service culture through the development of a Community and Service Learning program. This program has a stated aim of developing closer links with Uniting Church agencies including Uniting Care, Lifeline and Blue Care.
- The College commissioned the construction and installation of a large cross which has been erected at the centre of the main round about in the College grounds. The cross was dedicated by The Moderator Mr David Baker on 13 October 2015. The cross is a symbol of our faith and every person who visits the College is reminded of our connection and belief.
- Our Religious Education program is delivered to every boy in weekly lessons taught by the Chaplain.
- There are regular worship services through weekly Chapel for every student in age appropriate groupings (P-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12) led by the College Chaplain or the Head of College.
- The Chaplain leads prayer at whole staff meetings.
- We are of the view that Christian values are caught not taught and as such our College values of Care, Character, Engagement and Teamwork are underpinned by the Christian values. They govern how we deal with one another and how relationships between student, teachers and parents are marked by the respect for the dignity of each individual.
- The College, together with our sister school, Moreton Bay College, holds annual commencement and concluding services at Bayside Uniting Church where every member of staff attends.
- Visit every year by the Gideon Bible Society to distribute Gideon New Testament Bibles to all Year 7 students.
- Invitation of special guest speakers and groups that have been bought in by local churches to present the gospel message and advertise for youth events. (Reggie Dabbs, Nubian Gents Dance Group; Az Hamilton; Peter Janetski)

### 2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with local and wider community. (e.g. community service activities ether local or overseas)

- The College has developed a comprehensive Community and Service Learning program. It is an expectation of every boy that they are active in the performance of some form of service. While the College embarks on a number of successful fund raising activities we believe that greater learning occurs through active service where boys "roll their sleeves up" and take part in service.
- To this end, boys have participated in activities such as Clean Up Australia Day, the Salvation Army Door Knock Appeal, the Bridge to Brisbane run, assisting with the Soup Kitchen at West End, the Daniel Morecombe Foundation.
- Each year the College holds our Carnival Day where every class runs stall to raise money for important charities such as Camp Quality and Young Care.
- The College is developing partnerships with Uniting Church services including Lifeline Peer Skills, Blue Care and Uniting Care Qld
- We have raised money for Yalari, the organisation that helps Indigenous children from regional, rural and remote communities and towns across Australia the opportunity for a first-class secondary education.

Our students donate clothing, mobile phones, toiletries and other items that are then passed on to recipients of Yalari scholarships, as a means of helping them adjust to life away from home.

- Our annual Easter Eggs for Others is a collection of Easter eggs and non-perishable foodstuffs for distribution to local hospitals and service organisations.
- The College is involved in local ANZAC DAY service at Manly and supports the Brisbane service for school children at Anzac Square.
- Our Leos Club (Junior Lions International), is one of the largest in Brisbane and fundraises for a range of charities and undertake a number of community service activities.
- The College provides an opportunity for boys to participate on a biennial trip to Africa where they undertake a significant service activity to assist a local school and community e.g. fund and construct a playground, paint part of the school.
- The Empty Christmas Tree collection involves gifts being given to the Redland Community Centre.
- Meetings between the MBC, MBBC chaplains and Rev Lu Sentuli from Bayside Uniting Church.
- Involvement in the Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) network and attendance at various chapels and social events held by various schools from the Uniting Church family of schools.
- Financial support for Mizpah Home, an orphanage in Southern India.

**3) What initiatives are being undertaken to enhance the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students.**

- Beginning and end of year staff Chapel services led by the MBC and MBBC Chaplains.
- The College values are being embedded in Chapel services to use the Christian narrative to illustrate the values of care, character, engagement and teamwork.
- Prayer at the start of Staff meetings.
- Students play a major role in weekly Chapel services and Assemblies. They read the Bible passage and deliver prayers.
- There is a regular meeting between the Chaplain and Head of College. This is an important opportunity to talk about faith, Christian approaches, College and personal goals and how to support people in need.
- The Chaplain and Head of College lead weekly chapel.
- Weekly Chapel service is held for all boys, in age appropriate groups. Students do the prayers and Bible readings each week.
- House Captains playing a role in leading special services alongside the Chaplain.

**4) What is being undertaken in your school to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community.**

- Student leaders attend the annual World Day of Prayer Service.
- Each fortnight in the newsletter the Chaplain writes an article addressing particular concerns or issues.
- Religious Education lessons every week.
- The College conducts Easter and Christmas Services for the whole community. They are very well attended by parents.
- Visual elements are used in Chapel, including material, paintings, props, puppets, etc
- Students are regularly involved in worship time.
- There is 3-year lectionary rotation of Chapel services and responsibilities.
- A roster of Bible readings is published for both Chapel and weekly Assemblies. These align with the significant theme which is also published in the School Diary for boys to reflect upon.
- A chosen Bible reading is given at all significant College services such as Celebration of Excellence, Anzac Day, Foundation Day Service and Scholars Assembly.
- Chaplain leads prayers at commencement of whole staff meetings.

Yours sincerely



**Mr James Sloman**  
Executive Principal  
Moreton Bay College | Moreton Bay Boys' College



## Brisbane Boys' College

### 1) Activities being undertaken to enhance partnerships with local and wider community including but not limited to community service activities, links with overseas partners and indigenous communities.

- Each year BBC Junior and Middle School students participate in our Wesley Mission Christmas Gift Appeal. Students bring in gifts for children and Wesley Mission Emergency Relief representatives come to our final Junior School Chapel service.
- This year our Junior School students have also supported the Uniting World Fiji Emergency Relief Appeal.
- Two of our staff who were travelling to Fiji established an appeal for funds and goods which they were able to distribute with assistance of others in the BBC community.
- For many years we have been in partnership with the salvation Army to support them with the facilitation of the Red Shield Appeal.
- BBC also has key links with World Vision through the 40 Hour Famine where students learn what it means to go without and therefore empathize with the realities of 3<sup>rd</sup> world life.
- Year 10 students have also been involved in Country Community Service through our links with the Uniting Church at St George. This relationship has enabled us give our students an understanding of what challenges country communities face.
- i) BBC has an ongoing relationship with Australian Indigenous Education Foundation and Cape York Leadership program where we provide opportunities to educate indigenous students funded by those bodies. We normally have 15-20 students involved.
- ii) Year 12 Christian Fellowship students are involved with Access Outreach Street Vans and many within the BBC community contribute milo, tea and coffee to this cause.
- Our Mana men program is passionate about assisting young Pacific Island men to achieve their dreams and fulfil their potential. The pressures and expectations of their families, their communities, the school and themselves can sometimes prove too much for a young man. We are committed to providing these young Pacific men with the tools to handle the expectation and pressure.
- BBC also facilitates community sports clinics in areas such as Biloela, Roma, Moree and Pt Moresby. These are mostly conducted in holiday periods.
- We are also in partnership with Harvest Cambodia in running a Cambodian school and providing building and technological infrastructure for the school as well as teacher training. This is done through funds raised by students and staff at BBC who provide barista coffee 3 mornings a week.

### 2) Initiatives being undertaken to enhance the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students.

- Students in Years 10 to 12 are given the opportunity to register for the Scripture Union Training Week camp during the June holidays. This whole week camp seeks to train Christian leaders in a secondary school context.
- Another very helpful seminar that our students attend is the Bible Society Masterclass
- Masterclass is a one-day event aimed to build biblical confidence and leadership in Christians in years 10 and 11 at school. Bible Society has chosen three highly engaging speakers and topics to encourage and equip students to trust and engage with the Bible, enabling them to live out their Christian faith in the world they live in.

- *Students also participate in a Leadership Retreat in Year 11 as well as having outstanding presenters from Red Frogs Chaplaincy and the Hopefull Institute. Each of these has a Christlike focus that encourages students to see the value of servant leadership.*
- *Staff have the opportunity to be involved in the leadership of prayer at Staff briefing meetings as well as being a part of PMSA Professional development days. Recently we have had an elective available to staff that has involved a thoughtful consideration of Worldviews. Some staff have also*
- *Been a part of the “Christianity Explored” course conducted by the College Chaplain.*
- *There are also many opportunities that staff have to serve in leadership roles within our service clubs and house system.*

### **3) Initiatives being undertaken to enhance the worship and prayer life in your community.**

- *We have found it helpful to provide a range of services that allow for diverse expressions of worship. Some services such as our Ash Wednesday service are traditional and reflective in nature.*
- *Others like the Passover meal are highly symbolic. Some services which would involve the Chapel Band are quite contemporary in style. Boarding students have thoroughly appreciated having a meditation night each Term and have realized that meditation is something that does spring from our Christian tradition.*
- *Family services such as Mothers’ Day service and House services involve elements such as a solo or duet from a student and a play that focusses on the theme of the service.*
- *Hymn singing practice for Middle school students is something that encourages singing in worship to be robust and thoughtful. This also gives opportunity for new songs and hymns to be learned as well as revisiting well known hymns.*
- *Prayer is encouraged at the beginning of Christian Education classes and prayer will be led by students and staff other than the Chaplains on a number of occasions throughout the year*
- *Our approach to Christian worship and prayer has therefore been to embrace a number of styles as well as involving a variety of appropriate students and staff. This has been the key to enhancing*
- *Worship and prayer life within the College.*

Compiled by

Rev. Graham Cole





## Clayfield College

The College currently has a total of 675 students from Pre-prep to Year 12; co-educational until Year 6 and girls only from Years 7-12. The Boarding House currently has 94 girls in residence who come from throughout Queensland and around the world including China, Papua New Guinea, Japan and other South East Asian countries.

We employ 216 full-time, part-time and casual staff including 99 teachers.

The College has recently rebuilt a new Learning Resource Centre to replace the old library and has just completed a significant renovation and refurbishment of classrooms for students in Years 6-9. As part of these capital projects the oval has been expanded to provide more space for physical education and sport.

### **1) In what ways has the school sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?**

The Christian foundations of the college underpin our direction and are reflected in the values which shape the college community. Compassion, service, respect and humility are values we seek to practise as we endeavour to demonstrate the way of Christ. While acknowledging that many of our students and staff are not Christians, we uphold Christian values and practices and seek to introduce students to the Christian faith through our Christian education program and encourage them to consider their response to Christ in our times of worship.

In maintaining links to the wider church, the College Chaplain is part of the Ecumenical School chaplains network which meets twice each year for support and professional development. One of the college music ensembles performs each year at the BlueCare Annual Luncheon, St Paul's Presbyterian Church and at the local Anglican Church.

Guest preachers from various churches and Christian organisations are invited to speak at chapel services regularly and both the Uniting Church and Presbyterian Church Moderators bring a greeting at the annual Speech Night. Both Moderators have also visited the college in the last year and spoken at assemblies.

### **2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community?**

Giving back to the community is one of the keys to ensuring social and emotional wellbeing. It is also a way of building relationships within and beyond the College in a local, national and global network.

Locally, the College has established relationships with a number of charities. Students involved in ISCF (Interschool Christian Fellowship) and members of Campbell and Youngman Houses have assisted the Helping Hands food van for homeless people in the Ipswich area. Campbell House provides pillows with hand-decorated pillowslips for the Glenhaven refuge for displaced mothers and families, and Youngman House decorates and fills tote bags for the Starlight Foundation at Lady Cilento Hospital. Henderson House has for several years supported the cancer research work of the Wesley Hospital and students from the House have been able to visit the facility. Each year, Community Service members donate their time to tend a water station for the Brisbane Marathon and use the resultant donation to bolster fundraising efforts.

Active service is also provided locally for various organisations. Within the College, students volunteer to provide peer tutoring for younger students needing help in various subjects. Further, the Community Service Group has a weekly roster of students in Homework Help for the children of refugees at Nundah Library, and has set up an annual blood donation drive involving both students and staff at Chermside Red Cross. Class and Year level groups have also developed a relationship with Zion Aged Care at Nundah and there has been a combined choir performance by Year 6 students and Zion residents. Further service by Year 9 students at Zion is under discussion. Finally, the College is active in environmental sustainability. There is a primary school Green Team which particularly supports the work of the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre. In the secondary school, we have representatives on the Brisbane City Council's Student Environmental Leadership Network and in the University of Southern Queensland's Change Makers Program.

Nationally, a number of Houses have raised significant funds for Drought Angels, and students in Year 10 have participated in a skype interview with members of The Big Issue organisation. The College also has a strong connection with Give It and has liaised with that charity to help support local and national campaigns.

Internationally, the College has relationships with a range of organisations. Ashburn House supports a network of orphanages in Sri Lanka (and an Ashburn family has made this their business's charity), Gibson House sponsors a child through World Vision, Radcliffe House donates to Destiny Rescue and recently helped set up a home for 20 girls in Thailand, and the whole College recently supported ISCF's efforts to raise funds for those affected by Cyclone Winston in Fiji. The College has also developed a relationship with Amar Seva Sangam, an institution in southern India which provides K-12 and tertiary education and employment for the physically and intellectually challenged. Senior students travel with College staff to the Sangam in December to provide a week of active service, taking donations of resources and cash with them.

### **3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?**

The college has two Chapel Captains as formal positions which are part of the key student leadership team.

The student Christian group also has a small group of students from the secondary school who are appointed as leaders. These girls are responsible for the organising and running of weekly group activities and are mentored by two Christian teachers.

Senior girls are encouraged to attend the Scripture Union Training Week camp held in the June-July school holidays. While only three or four attend this is something which the ISCF group values and offers some financial support for the registration fee of those who participate.

In January 2016, we sponsored two leaders of the ISCF group to participate in a Christian Student Leadership camp run for Year 12 leaders. In future years this is something to which we will send our Chapel Captains.

The Chaplain works with the Head of Pastoral Development to conduct the Year 11 Leadership Retreat at the beginning of term 4 which prepares the 24 captains chosen to lead in Year 12.

Year 11 students are offered the opportunity to attend the annual Student Leadership Masterclass conducted by the Bible Society.

Year 11 girls have the option of completing a Certificate III in Christian Ministry as part of their academic program.

Christian Education classes are taught by several teachers, not just the Chaplains. This provides opportunities for Christian teachers to be involved in this ministry. Twice each year all Christian Education teachers are involved in professional development sessions organised by the PMSA.

Worship services are held for all staff at the beginning and each of the school year.

**4) What is being undertaken in the school to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

Fortnightly chapel services for secondary girls actively involve students in leadership of all aspects of the liturgy. Opportunities are regularly provided for appropriate students to share a testimony or preach. Primary students attend chapel services weekly with a small group of Year 6 students rostered each term as Chapel Monitors to assist in leading various aspects of worship.

Boarders attend a weekly evening chapel service and once per term also worship at Clayfield Uniting Church which conducts a youth service. Younger boarders in Years 5-8 also attend the Sunday School during term time.

Prayer is always offered at our weekly staff briefing and this is led by various teachers. A small group of staff meet weekly before school to pray for our College and community needs.

Assemblies include a short devotional time which includes the singing of a hymn, a prayer, bible reading and a short message from the Chaplain.

A family service for the students, teachers and families of each of our six Houses is conducted annually.

In 2015 we held our first 'Chapel Week', at the initiative of our Chapel Captains, designed to celebrate the spiritual life of individuals and the place of the gospel in our community life.





## Somerville House



Somerville House has a strong Christian culture. Our Christian Foundations are the centre-piece of our Strategic Plan, and articulated in both our stated Mission and Values, which align directly with the Values of the PMSA. The School is strongly committed to the ongoing strengthening of our Christian ethos in line with the PMSA Strategic Plan.

### 1) **Activities being undertaken to enhance partnerships with local and wider community including but not limited to community service activities, links with overseas partners and indigenous communities.**

This report focuses on the Christian outreach the School undertakes to enhance partnerships with local and wider communities. Somerville House enjoys partnerships with a vast number of external communities and agencies, with levels of involvement that vary in length and over time.

- Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation: Somerville House Kiribati trip: successfully renovated a block of classrooms at Taaken Bairiki Primary School. We have established links with this school. A group of students accompanied by two staff participate in this project every two years, with the intention to continue renovating the school with each visit.
- Antipodeans: A group of students and staff embark on an Antipodeans community service trip every second year.
- Zonta: a large number of members of the school community, along with the wider community, gather each year over two mornings to pack birthing kits for developing countries.
- Mater Foundation: students and staff knit and sew scarfs and dolls for children at the Mater Children's hospital. There are also visits at Easter to deliver large quantities of Easter eggs collected from the students and at Christmas a choir entertains with carols.
- Wesley Mission Brisbane Youngcare: a significant annual fund-raising project is undertaken each year through the Somerville House Ball.
- Wesley Mission Homeless Connect: students and staff assist in providing meals on a fortnightly basis.
- Samaritan's Purse: major Junior School project collects items and fills shoe-boxes to be distributed to children overseas at Christmas.
- Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (significant population of indigenous students): three times a year a team of Year 12 students go the Centre to play sport with the girls in detention.
- Longreach Uniting Church: The School undertakes regular fund-raising for the local drought program, with funds distributed through the church.
- UnitingWorld: occasional fundraising support is provided for their overseas projects.
- Gideon's Society: There is an annual distribution of New Testaments to Year 7 students
- Old uniform items are distributed to developing countries – most recently to a village in Fiji.
- The Junior School has a partnership with a school in rural Thailand, fundraising for educational resources and supporting professional learning for local teachers.

- The School has sister schools in Japan, France, Germany and China, with regular exchanges taking place.
- The School provides ongoing fund-raising support of many other charities: Heart Foundation, Cancer Council, Leukaemia Foundation, McGrath Foundation, Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation, YES Arusha (sponsor child), Wesley Mission Brisbane, Hope Foundation, Bible Society.
- There are regular responses to national and international crises by raising funds or collecting goods eg Vanuatu cyclone, Nepal earthquake.
- The Boarders community visits Uniting and Presbyterian churches annually.
- Music groups visit local Uniting churches several times each year.
- The Senior Chaplain preaches in various Uniting Churches occasionally.
- The Senior Chaplain has presented to both the UCA Synod and the Presbyterian State Assembly.
- The Senior Chaplain works with various churches to assist in preparing students for Confirmation.

## **2) Initiatives being undertaken to enhance the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students.**

- Students participate in general leadership programs, some internally some through external providers working with multiple schools in Years 5, 9, 11 and 12. These programs have a values and character component, with a focus on servant leadership at Somerville House.
- Both the Junior School and Middle/Senior School Christian Fellowship groups have official student leadership positions. Students work with and are mentored by staff who facilitate those groups.
- Years 10, 11 and 12 students from the Christian Fellowship groups are encouraged to attend Scripture Union Training Week Camp which focuses on Christian leadership at school. The School subsidises this attendance as an investment in spiritual leadership.
- Most years, a group of Years 10 & 11 students attend the Bible Society's Bible Masterclass day, meeting with students from other schools in Brisbane, hearing from excellent speakers and engaging in workshop activities to encourage spiritual growth and leadership.
- Students have a weekly student-led prayer meeting where matters for prayer are called for from the general School community.
- Those Year 12 students who are able are invited to present an assembly devotion at Senior School assemblies and Middle School students prepare and present engaging devotions on Middle School assemblies under the guidance of the Associate Chaplain.
- Staff are able to attend staff prayer meetings held weekly in the Senior/Middle School and occasionally in the Junior School.
- Occasional Lenten or Advent preparation courses are offered to staff.
- Christianity Explored and Towards Belief are offered to staff as part of the Professional Learning program of the School to enhance spiritual understanding and leadership.
- Staff participate in Staff Chapel services through readings and prayers, and, as appropriate, provide reflections around themes such as Christmas.  
At PMSA Professional Development days there are workshops with a specific spiritual focus which staff may choose to attend.

## **3) Initiatives being undertaken to enhance the worship and prayer life in your community.**

- Chapel Services
- Weekly for the Boarders
- Monthly for Day Students
- Staff Chapel services six times a year
- Annual Family Chapel services for each sub-school
- Special occasions eg ANZAC Day, Valedictory service, Last Supper re-enactment, Mothers of Past Students service, Old Girl reunions generally include Chapel services on occasion

### *Devotions*

- Delivered each week on assembly, includes a hymn/song, a Bible reading, a homily and a prayer, also at sub-school assemblies several times each term
- Delivered at every staff meeting, both for academic and corporate staff, homily, Bible reading & prayer
- Special occasions: Blessing of the Boats, Openings of Buildings, on School camps & leadership conference
- A weekly column by the Chaplain in the school newsletter on a Biblical theme applied to the contemporary world.

### *Prayer*

- Grace before meals in the Boarding House and at any formal functions
- Prayer on assemblies and in Chapel services
- Prayer with individuals as requested
- Weekly prayer meeting for staff
- Weekly prayer meeting for students led by a student team
- Public prayer at times of significant need
- Chapel left open for individuals to pray during school hours

### *Parents*

- As well as the family worship services and other special occasions to which parents are invited, the School hold a "Blessing of the New School Year" at the commencement of the academic year to which staff, parents and students are invited, as well as a special breakfast during the celebration of "Chapel Week". A parent provides the address as well as prayers, along with other input from staff and students.





SUNSHINE COAST  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## Sunshine Coast Grammar School

### 1) Ways Christian ethos and links with the broader church developed

- In 2015, the School entered a formal partnership with the Presbyterian Church Maroochydore building a 150 place Early Learning Centre on Church land that the School has leased. Working in collaboration with the Church, the School has continued to forge connections with the Church. There is certainly the opportunity to build the congregation as a direct result of the families at Alexandra Headlands Early Learning Centre. The Centre officially opened on January 4 2016.
- In 2015, the School has sourced speakers and resources through the Churches to enhance programs at Sunshine Coast Grammar School.

### 2) Activities undertaken to enhance partnerships with Local and Wider Communities

#### Community

- Each term Grammar Helping Hands (GHH) backyard blitzes. Examples include Noosa Beach and National Park clean up partnering with the Surfrider Foundation, The Shack Community Centre, Nambour with a makeover, care packs for families at Ronald McDonald House, Operation Christmas Child through the shoebox charity, as well as Riding for the Disabled with our annual Carwash for a Cause.
- SCGS Interact Club supported a range of overseas charities (Bali Orphanage). The Interact students continued to work closely with the Alex Heads Rotary Club in support of a number of key local community events.
- Annual breakfasts were held to build both family and community. These included father-Daughter; Father Son; Mother Daughter and Mother Son.
- Through donation drives, bake sales and stalls our students across the school raised much needed funds and awareness for The Daniel Morcombe Foundation, The Leukaemia Foundation, Smart Pups Qld, The Children's Medical Research Foundation, The Shack Nambour, Red Cross Blood Bank and Team Adem.
- Community Kitchen led by SCGS staff.

#### International

- International - Language tour to Japan, Hosting students from Aurillac, France + Student exchanges to Aurillac, France for 6 – 8 weeks, Community tour to Timor Leste

- Global Awareness Trip to Timor, September 18-26 these students have shared their experiences in Assembly and Chapel, and several Alumni returned to Timor of their own initiative at the end of 2015.

### **3) Initiatives undertaken to enhance spiritual leadership opportunities for staff and students**

- Volunteers Assembly - run by our Service Prefects outlining all that we do as a school to serve others and why we do it.
- Five students from Grades 11 and 12 attended the annual Bible Society Masterclass day in Brisbane late in term 3. This was a combined schools event with many wonderful speakers, clearly explaining the Christian Gospel message and how it can be applied to their lives. It was a very successful day and students were both encouraged and inspired in their personal faith journey.
- Christianity Explored Course – Twelve staff participated in this Course over a seven week period during Semester Two
- Prefects Initiative - Encouragement Term 3: It has been wonderful to see this initiative driven by 2015 School Captains suggesting that all students undertake random acts of kindness towards their fellow students.
- Year 12 Christian Devotion – A tradition at SCGS whereby Year 12 present a story from the Bible as their final assembly for the whole school.
- Through the School's performance and development program all staff include a goal that supports our Christian mission and values.

### **4) Enhancing the worship and prayer life of our community?**

- Secondary School gratitude journal - Students were encouraged to direct their gratitude to God.
- Chapel Services were held for students and staff attending International Tours.
- The JOLT (Jesus Over Lunch Time) groups in both the Primary and Secondary have seen growth this year. It has been a great place for students to meet, read the Bible, pray, listen to Worship music and learn more as they move forward in their spiritual journey.
- Grades P-3 Romp in the Forest – Our primary Christian Studies teacher ran an engaging activity based on Jesus' miraculous catch of fish.
- P-9 Christmas Assembly – This was a wonderful celebration of all things Christmas as we followed the theme of 'Love Came Down'. All students in Grades Prep to Year 3 were involved in presenting a musical item, and we had several bands, choirs and individuals performing.
- Year 6 Celebration Chapel – The service was heavily reliant on our student's involvement as they lead us in our time of Worship and celebration.
- Primary and Secondary Family Services, Year Level Services
- Prep – Year 3 Father's and Special Friends and Mother's and Special Friends Chapel Services
- Lunchtime Prayer in the Primary Eating Area – lunchtime grace is said each day by a Year 6 student.

- At our Prefect induction Assembly all Prefects were presented with a new Bible. There was a follow up Bible study to explain further how the Bible can be read and understood.





## **Cromwell College**

Cromwell is a home away from home for 251 students, generally ranging in age from 17 to 21. Despite demand for places at Cromwell exceeding supply each year, the College is deliberately capped as one of the smaller residential colleges within the University. It is the smallest coeducational College. This is to ensure that the unique blend of adult freedom and necessary academic and pastoral support structures blend in a small, values based community environment. Cromwell College has six resident staff who live at the College to provide 24/7 support for the students. My wife Jenny and I reside in the Principal's Residence and the Deputy Principal, Mr Michael Crome and his wife Jenny, live in Steele-Craik Lodge. Our three Student Advisors, Ms Ella Carstensen, Mr Dominic Retschlag and Mr Glen Thorpe live on site, as does Mr Fred Deckers (Maintenance Manager) and his wife Elizabeth. All resident staff are available at any time (day or night) to assist students. In addition, seventeen employed Resident Assistants (RA's) live in each corridor of every Cromwell building, providing valuable pastoral care, friendship and advice to the students.

### ***1) In what ways has the college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?***

Cromwell has appointed 2 students as Spiritual Inquiry representatives with responsibility to help students make appropriate links in terms of Christian groups and other spiritual questions. There is a strong presence of the student outreach group Uni Impact in the college. There are a number of past students involved and some solid connections have been established. Uni Impact runs various activities and connects with some college activities as well. In addition, Rev Peter Lockhart has maintained a weekly presence as a UQ Chaplain, associated with Active Faith and the local St Lucia Uniting Church congregation. Peter has also run discussion sessions within the college.

### ***2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)***

In the last few years students from Cromwell have engaged in a Zambia mission trip mid-year to support a mission project. This project has had a significant impact on students who have been able to go and offer their support to the village, school and clinic associated. It is a good introduction to overseas mission and is hopefully occurring again in 2016.

### ***3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?***

As noted above the appointment of the Spiritual Inquiry representatives has been a significant initiative as far as the students are concerned. Some key members of the leadership team continue to practice their own faith and this is encouraged.

### ***4) What is being undertaken in the college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?***

The students involved with Spiritual Inquiry have prayer groups and there have been activities occurring across the colleges and opportunities for inter college worship. There has also been the opportunity provided for shared worship with St Lucia Uniting Church, both in the local church and at the college chapel.

**Ross A. Switzer**  
**PRINCIPAL**



## The John Flynn College

### 1) In what ways has the college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?

- The John Flynn College's governing body (the College Council) includes representatives from the Uniting Church. Two Ministers of the Uniting Church are on the Executive Committee, for example, and the broader church is also represented by other Council members.
- Local Uniting Churches have links with the college through aptly named 'care' packs. When end of semester exams are close, two or three local uniting churches organise gift items (generally comfort-food items) to disperse throughout the College. The 'care' packs are topped up (using College resources) and distributed via the Residential Assistants (RAs). Students, in turn, make thank you cards to distribute back to the churches and the members linked to the scheme from those churches.
- The Christian ethos is found within the college's culture in words (e.g. in prayer, in statements such as our mission statement, and so on) and in action (e.g. pastoral support and the 'things we do'). For several years now the College has stood by six specific 'College Values'. The values appear on noticeboards, within newsletters and in handbooks and are specifically expressed this way: *Safe environment; Respect for the individual; Caring community; Sense of belonging; Trust; and Excellence in all things.*
- Public prayer occurs from time to time in the college (e.g. at the start and end of formal occasions/dinners and at the start and end of meetings).
- Pastoral and academic support people are defining features of a residential college. Staff might be fulltime or part-time in the college. Student residents (whether designated formally as leaders or not) are support people too within the College - in both pastoral and academic ways.
- The College has employed a Chaplain for many years. The custom has been for the Chaplain to live on site within the residential community (a dual role exists for this person; that of being Chaplain and an 'After Hours Support'). The Chaplaincy role averages out to about 8 - 12 hours a week with much of the role linked to 'presence' in the community. The Chaplain has fulltime work (outside of the college) during the day.
- The College has a wonderful tradition whereby the Chaplain organises a regular get-together on Monday evenings (it is like a late night supper and is called "Monday Munchies"). Food is an element of it all but so too is community spirit, support and a very Christian ethos.
- The Chaplain does give regular advice about church services through word of mouth and through avenues such as facebook (e.g buses are available to get people off in different directions at times and the catholic mass is available in a neighbouring college each week).
- The University Chaplaincy Centre is located adjacent to the College. It is a multi-faith abode.
- A bible study group meets weekly within the College. This tradition has been going on for many years. Students come from other colleges as well; but most involved live at Flynn.

### 2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas).

- The Pyjama Foundation is chosen this year as the Student Association's primary charity
- In recent years a venture called *Run to Better Days* has been organised (primarily) by current or past John Flynn College students. It is a two-week long charity program in Queensland and New

South Wales which aims to generate action and awareness to end *global poverty*. In 2015 it occurred in July with over \$20,000 raised for particular causes/ charities (John Flynn College was a sponsor). The running and support teams spoke to thousands of people at schools, universities and community organisations along the running routes. During the two weeks members ran relay style in one of two directions (almost 1000 kms in both cases) – either from Mackay to Brisbane or from Sydney to Brisbane.

- Numbers of students are involved in personal (and/ or collective) arrangements of service learning. Tutoring initiatives and ‘presence’ activities involving refugee families are examples of such activities.

### **3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?**

- Staff and students experience a variety of personal and professional development opportunities each year. Prior to O Week each year, for example, five days of activities aim to prepare students for the year ahead (and some of the sessions have spiritual dimensions). Student and staff leadership is valued in the College. Staff members join in some student sessions at the start of the year and regular opportunities are also planned for staff during the year. Staff travel too - to in-service opportunities within Townsville and beyond (e.g. the Principal is attending one day-session of this year’s 32<sup>nd</sup> Synod in Session).
- Students learn a lot about pastoral support and service through their leadership roles (e.g. RAs and Student Association Executive members meet and interact with fellow students in their everyday activities).
- This year (for the first time) the College closed down our small in-house gym and replaced that facility with a scheme whereby residents access the University state-of-the-art gym and pool (the gym is across the road from our front gate and the pool is close to our back gate). Residential staff (including the Chaplain) have access to the gym – along with all students. The scheme has proved to be extremely popular. Whilst perhaps 10 – 20% of our community used the in-house gym during 2015, more than 60 % have used the uni gym across the road this year (precisely 147 students used the Uni gym during the month of March this year). As exercise is beneficial to body, mind and spirit the College was proud to fund this initiative in 2016 and beyond (we did so this year without altering fees). We actively seek to promote the health and wellbeing of our students in this way. The college believes personal interactions involving residential staff, student leaders (RAs and Student Association Executive team members) and student residents generally - during gym visiting times – may enhance spiritual leadership capacity in staff and students.

### **4) What is being undertaken in the college to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

- The Chaplain’s presence is important. There may be small numbers (only) in a college environment who may be seeking out options in regard to communal worship and prayer (and the Chaplain is there for those who are seeking something in that regard).
- The new dining space (multi-purpose space) provides opportunities for the community to come together and pray. Starting or finishing a formal meal with prayer or starting or finishing a welcome-to-college assembly with prayer are examples that come to mind. The John Flynn College has an air conditioned space big enough now to do both.

This report has been prepared by Michael Bongers (College Principal)



## King's College

King's College is a Residential College of the Uniting Church in Australia within The University of Queensland at St Lucia.

The College is a thriving community of 324 resident students and staff. Along with several refurbishments, the College opened the doors in December 2015 to the new 'Wensley Wing', providing an additional 38 state of the art residential rooms and living spaces. His Excellency General the Honourable , Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) the Governor General of Australia officially opened the building in March 2016.

The College is governed by King's College Council, which includes the Master, the President of the King's Old Collegians Association, the President and Secretary of the King's College Students Club, as well as representatives from the Uniting Church Synod, the King's Old Collegians Association, the Board of Fellows and the University Senate.

### **1) In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?**

The college encourages spiritual development and the following is an excerpt from the College Handbook; "The College imposes no religious tests on members, but encourages you to explore the Christian way and to develop a faith that is your personal truth for life. There are special Chapel Services (eg: Orientation, Enrolment and Valedictory) where attendance is strongly encouraged. The Chapel programme is announced periodically during the Semester. Bible Studies occur throughout the year for interested residents."

These Chapel Services are led by Reverend Peter Lockhart of the St Lucia Uniting Church and are well attended by staff and students. Staff and Students participate in these worship services as required.

Reverend Lockhart and St Lucia Uniting Church takes a keen interest in Kings College and on occasion has used the College Chapel for Sunday worship. Reverend Lockhart is a regular visitor to the college and makes himself available to students in an informal setting.

The College also encourages Bible Study for those interested and publicises and encourages "Active Faith".

### **2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)**

The College Student leadership places an emphasis on the need to serve others and encourages student participation in a wide variety of cultural, sporting and community events.

2015 saw the inaugural Kings College/St Leos Indian Immersion trip. Three Kingsmen and five Leonians spent a month in India in November/December 2015 serving the poor.

Two weeks were spent in Calcutta working with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. It was planned to spend a week in Chennai, working with severely disabled children from the slums of Madras however a severe flood and state of emergency did not allow this to be completed. Each student has paid his own fare.

The trip organiser says "this four-week experience always has a profound impact on every participant. Spending four weeks in a strange culture, being deprived of home comforts and familiar food, surrounded by a frenzy of colour, noise and smells, tests everyone is a challenge for everyone. But this journey of self-discovery; this test of one's patience and generosity, teaches every volunteer real truths about himself. And the whole experience offers the possibility for personal transformation. In their willingness to give of themselves so generously, these volunteers demonstrate their desire to build a better world." It is anticipated that this will become an annual event.

The Old Collegians' Learning Centre underpins the drive to achieve academic success and to promote the social and emotional growth for residents and also encourages linkages with community and business groups and provides a mentoring environment.

Key activities that enhance the partnership with the local and wider community include;

- \* ANZAC Day Service
- \* Annual Thoelogs' Lunch
- \* Competing at the Royal Henley Regatta
- \* Kings in Pink
- \* Conquer Cancer Ride
- \* Riding for Smiddy
- \* Kadoka Challenge
- \* Travelling scholarships





## **Raymont Lodge Residential Colleges**

### **1) In what ways has the school/college sought to develop the Christian ethos and maintain links with the broader church?**

Raymont has two part time Chaplains.

As Raymont is an inter-denominational and inter-faith community the chaplains who are both employed by the Uniting Church, do have opportunity to share their faith. Their main role is to get along-side students and support when needed. Building relationships, especially with the student leadership team, has had a continuing benefit through to the whole student body in growing a community of respect and trust with each other.

### **2) What activities are being undertaken to enhance partnerships with the local and wider community? (e.g. community service activities local and overseas)**

At the Orientation Camp each year we have a 30 mins worship service that is unapologetically Christian, but all are encouraged to attend and mostly all do come.

A gathering of interested students in spiritual matters is held at the start of the year where info about what churches or places of worship in the area is shared.

Often, as in this year, out of this gathering a Christian Bible study/prayer support group is formed. As chaplains we have given some direction to this and we attend when we can, but it is primarily a student led group.

### **3) What initiatives have been undertaken to enhance and develop the spiritual leadership capacity of staff and students?**

A weekly newsletter is prepared by one of the Chaplains (The Chaplain Chat; now in it's 12th year) and is taken around to each unit and placed under doors. This is an opportunity to actually chat with students on the way 'round too.

A sample of this Newsletter is included. Sometimes there are reflective suggestions or prayer for peace included. At critical times of sadness or disaster we set up a quiet space for reflection. Recently after the Earthquake in Ecuador, having 3 Ecuadorian students at present, a candle lighting space was set up in the chapel. After dinner students could come in, light a candle in the silence and remember the country, and her [people]. The three Ecuadorian students really appreciated the solidarity displayed. 50+ lit candles made a moving sight. It was a thin space between the sacred and the soul.

In short: build relationships; be available; be real.

### **4) What is being undertaken in the school to enhance the worship and prayer life of your community?**

The chaplains deliberately do not hold worship services on site as we encourage students to attend local churches. We help them find a church or worship place the suits their need or faith.

If a student asks for prayer, then of course we would pray with and for them.

Report compiled by Julie Price



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