

THE Oracle

Incorporating the Collegian Communicator

Term 4 2015

Give them every
opportunity



p05
and
p09 **Student
Achievements**

p06 **Strategic
Planning**



ORMISTON COLLEGE



THE Oracle Ormiston College

Ormiston College reflects the individual spirit, integrity and values of a co-educational, independent, non-denominational Christian school, catering for students from Prep through to Year 12.

The Early Learning Centre, Puggle's Burrow, offers a quality Kindergarten program that is aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and care for children from 15 months to five years, in a safe, nurturing and caring environment.

Enrolment applications for all year levels are accepted from birth. Parents are advised to make an application for enrolment well in advance of the required year of entry.

Scholarship information and enrolment application forms may be obtained from the Registrar.

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The image on the **front cover** is part of the new Ormiston College Marketing Campaign, capturing the passion, aspiration and focus that embodies an Ormiston College education.

From the Headmaster

Term 4 is the product of many months of effort, development and endeavour. It is a time when we see the true results of our year's work.

Teachers from the Early Learning Centre and Prep observe the growth of confidence and knowledge in their young learners. Year 6 staff recognise leadership skills developing in their students, a result of experience gained through the added responsibilities of the Junior School top year level.



Secondary teachers notice the maturity in the Year 7s who are now totally immersed in their role as Secondary students. Moreover we realise that our Senior graduates have become competent young adults, eager and capable of pursuing their tertiary courses and life goals. All are signs of a successful year of growth, achievement and accomplishment.

These positive revelations are the direct result of our community teamwork. It is the fusion of staff, students and parents working together that make us a great school.

Hence, as covered in the following pages, as we began this semester to develop the Strategic Plan for the future of our College, we continued to work together as equal partners, resulting in a shared vision for the coming years and the very best decisions for the future education of our children.

Brett Webster
Headmaster

From the Editor

Normally we have three editions of The Oracle, followed by The Achiever in Term 4. It appeared we were missing the opportunity to share several celebrations that highlight important achievement that occur at the end of each year.

In order that we can bring you Speech Night, Sports Awards Night and Year 12 Graduation, plus share Hansel and Gretel, Remembrance Day and progress on the current Strategic Planning, we decided to produce an additional, shortened version of The Oracle. I hope you enjoy sharing our end of year achievements.

Valerie Warwick
Editor

Ormiston College staff receive worldwide leadership status

Earlier in the year, Microsoft in Education Worldwide announced the inclusion of Ormiston College as an Associate Showcase School.

In October the College gained fully-fledged leadership status as a Microsoft World Showcase School, officially recognised as a mentor to other schools on a global level.

College Dean of E-Learning, Tamara Sullivan, a Microsoft Innovation Education Expert, was one of only six educators selected to represent the College and Australia at the Microsoft Global Educator Exchange (E2) held in Seattle in April this year. Furthermore, in November it was announced that three additional members of Ormiston College staff have been recognised as Educator Experts: Acting Head of Junior School, Travis Goulter, Head of Mathematics, Dr Ian Thomson and Science Teacher, Annette McArthur, making Ormiston College the only Microsoft Showcase School in Australia to have four Innovation Educator Experts.

In the past two years the College has received recognition both nationally and internationally through its presentations

at various seminars and conferences. Being regarded as a global leader among this elite group of leading-edge schools from around the world is indeed an honour for the College.

Also, leading the way in education

The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL), Queensland, has conferred an ACEL Queensland Branch Fellowship on the Headmaster, Mr Brett Webster.

The award recognises *Queensland educational leaders who have made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of student and organisational achievement through their leadership.*

Mr Webster has served as Headmaster of Ormiston College for almost a decade, over that time his focus has been the introduction of meaningful technology that would transform the curriculum and culture of the school, ensuring Ormiston College become a true leader in innovation.

A Spectacular Music Gala Night

It is quite obvious that Gala Night is one of the most popular events in the College calendar as it is always extremely well patronised. After parents dropped their children off, families gathered in the Courtyard of the Lingo Lin Performing Arts Theatre to enjoy pre-performance drinks. The social get-together certainly created a very happy atmosphere.

This year's event concentrated on combining the various ensembles which was a wonderful way of uniting students of all ages, enabling them to share the enjoyment of music. It created an opportunity for younger members of our music program to work alongside the more experienced vocalists and instrumentalists. It also enabled them to experience the sound and awe of being a member of a mass choir.



One such item captured the emotions of the entire audience as it enveloped choirs from Year 1 to Year 12. The piece entitled 'Hope for Resolution' by Paul Caldwell, was dedicated to both Nelson Mandela and F W de Klerk, signifying

the bringing together of different ideas that can exist in peace and harmony.

Paul Caldwell used the ancient Christmas carol 'Of the Father's Love Begotten' which was sung by Kinder

Chorus and Pochino Choir. The OC Singers used the same tune in three-part canon. The combined Secondary School choirs consisting of OC Voices, OC Chorus, Redback Chorus and Chamber Singers, sang the same text in Xhosa (Mandela's first language) with an African flavour. The elements were combined to symbolise how music can bring different groups together, by working to create something even better. Three conductors and the combined choirs of over 300 voices sang from onstage, spilling out into the auditorium.

The emotion was felt throughout the entire theatre, it was a momentous event that both singers and audience will not forget.

Sports Awards Night

Celebrating the sporting achievements of 2015

The annual Ormiston College Sports Awards Night, organised and presented by Mr Jack Pincott, Dean of Activities, was held in the Lingo Lin Performing Arts Theatre on Wednesday 28 October.

This night was a celebration of Ormiston College sport played in 2015. While we all recognise that team sports are not won or lost by one player, those who are most valuable players do deserve recognition and the Sports Awards Night is a chance to highlight and celebrate outstanding contributions of our Redbacks, their teams and Ormiston College.

The night consisted of visual presentations of photographs taken during each trimester of sport to the sounds of a live band. The band consisted of students Chenaya Aston, Reilly Hawke, Michael Poole, Rowan Van Der Veen, Sarah Naulls and Kyle Bryant and professional musician Andy Schrav. The band was a massive hit with the audience and made a perfect accompaniment to the presentations. Most valuable players and premiership winning teams were awarded trophies and pennants respectively by sports coordinators and the coordinator's efforts acknowledged with a gift.

Following the Trimester 3 Awards, Brisbane Lions superstar and special guest, Daniel Rich, was invited on stage to be involved in a Questions and Answers session, which revolved around transitioning from a talented junior to established senior sports person. Daniel was an excellent special guest and a great addition to the night's entertainment.

The night concluded with the announcements of the Major Award Winners. The winners were:

- Most Improved Team of the Year: Second XV Rugby
- Champion Team Award: Swimming
- Most Improved Sport of the Year: Boys Volleyball
- Most Successful Sport of the Year: Girls Volleyball
- Coach of the Year: Matej Cerni
- Most Outstanding Sporting Performance: Shayna Jack and Emily Meaney
- Sportswoman of the Year: Jade Dunsmuir
- Sportsman of the Year: James Copperthwaite

Fifteener's Award

Awarded to students who played a team sport in each trimester from Year 8 through to Year 12

- Lauren Kritzingner
- Kevin Penney
- Michaela Mulder

Redback Spirit Award

(Donated by Ms Sandra Bown and awarded to a male and female student who have been selected in the most amount of Redback teams)

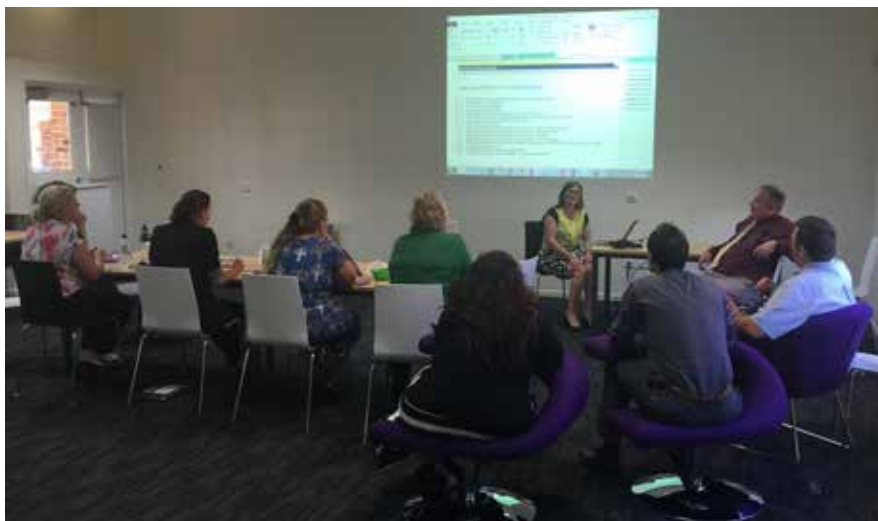
- Lauren Kritzingner - 27 Teams (Plus 10 Premierships)
- Aiden Elliott - 27 Teams (and four Premierships)

The 2015 sporting year was extremely enjoyable and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities next year will present.



Ormiston College Strategic Planning

As a school, it has always been our intention to include, involve and welcome all members of the Ormiston College community in our major planning and decision making. This year sees the conclusion of our Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2015, therefore it is of the utmost importance that we again work together to prepare a document that expresses our vision and goals for the next four years. The new Strategic Plan that will be launched in 2016, will be the collective vision of the Headmaster, the Board of Directors, Staff, Parents, Old Collegians and Students.



for 2016 - 2019

In Term 3 the process commenced with a staff, parent and student opinion survey followed by various face to face sessions in the Centre for Learning and Innovation (CLI), plus continuing online Yammer conversations for our staff.

A highlight of the process was the Student Leaders' Forum when groups of students from Year 6 to Year 12 joined together to discuss the future of the College in a mature, carefully contemplated manner.

Sessions have been well attended and have provided an opportunity for all key stakeholders to contribute to the plan. The CLI provided opportunities for the various groups to

make use of the technology for sharing ideas and recording information. Tamara Sullivan, Dean of E-Learning was instrumental in making the process run smoothly.

We are proud of our record of accomplishment over the past four years and of the fact that we achieved our intended goals. As we work towards the conclusion of this process, we can feel satisfied that we have worked together as a caring and interested community. Ormiston College continues to do its very best for current students and future students and will ensure the reputation of its good name will remain strong in the pride of our past students.



Families volunteer over ten thousand hours to commemorate our lost Australians



Many school support groups come under the umbrella of the Ormiston College Parents and Friends Association (P&F). One that is known for its outstanding creative input is the MOCCHA Club (Members of the Creative College Handiwork Alliance) which is coordinated by Samantha Allen. This year they took on their biggest project to date.

Due to personal family involvement, Samantha Allen approached the P&F and the MOCCHA Club to ask if they would assist in the making of 7,000 poppies that could be sent off to France, for the 100 Year Anniversary of the Battle of Pozières on 23 July, 2016, honouring the sacrifice of each of the Australian soldiers who lost their lives there.

An amazing response was received from volunteer parents, grandparents and members of the local community, many of whom had never before handled a knitting needle. Unperturbed, the majority of knitters took over two hours to fully finish the outer poppy petals, make the knitted black centre, sew them all together, then plait the tails for attaching to the crosses. Well over 10,000 hours of knitting was completed by the end of the project.

At Ormiston College on Wednesday 11 November, the entire staff and student body, plus parents and friends, attended a special Remembrance Day commemoration, with guest speaker, Barry Gracey, President of the Pozières Remembrance Association. The day before the event students placed poppies in a special display surrounding the circular stage in the Southern Courtyard. The display was designed to represent the rays of the rising sun from the Armed Forces emblem and the words 'Lest We Forget'. On the day of the service, those who knitted poppies were invited to lay the remaining red poppies on the three words.

After Remembrance Day the poppies were collected ready for shipping to France. It was a very moving event for all concerned: a magnificent effort

from the MOCCHA Club and their many supporters and a wonderful experience for the students of Ormiston College who now have a better knowledge and understanding of the annual event and a greater respect for those Australians who lost their lives in the Battle of Pozières.

This commemoration has created immense community support. The Pozières Remembrance Association is building a Memorial Park in Pozières to be opened at the Centenary in 2016. You and your friends may wish to consider buying a brick for \$50. Ormiston College and the MOCCHA Club are to have their bricks placed to ensure a lasting memory of those who sacrificed their lives. Please visit www.pozieresremembered.com.au.





Speech Night

Acknowledging a year of student accomplishments

On 11 November, the Chandler Theatre at the Sleeman Sports Complex was taken over by Ormiston College students, staff and parents who came together to celebrate a year of achievement by students from Years 4 to 12.

Our families arrived to the sound of the Symphonic Band which provided an enjoyable pre-entertainment prior to the processional music that heralded the entry of the Headmaster, Members of the Board of Directors and the entire teaching staff. Following the Headmaster's welcome, the audience were treated to a colourful scene from this year's musical 'Crazy for You'.

The students from Junior, Middle and Senior School were awarded their individual academic awards to the applause of the audience. Parents and staff also enjoyed performances by the OC Singers and the Chamber Singers prior to a multimedia presentation of the 2015 Year in Review.

Special acknowledgement was given to the Year 6 students who are to graduate from Junior to Middle School, plus the Year 12 students who will be graduating from Ormiston College and taking on their lifelong title of 'Old Collegians'.

Traditional for Speech Night, the College Dux from the previous year is invited back to receive an award of acknowledgement. Last year two of our graduates, Georgina Dawson and Kieran Armstrong qualified for this award.

The Chamber Orchestra entertained the gathering prior to the College Captains presenting their heartfelt personal addresses.

This was followed by a Vote of Thanks from the Chairman of the Board, Mr John Miller, prior to the school prayer and the recessional by the Symphonic Band.

Yet another year of celebration and proud acknowledgement of the many achievements accomplished by our students. Congratulations to all our prize winners.



Redland City Mayor, Councillor Karen Williams, congratulating Oliver Collins, with Dean of Studies Mr Chris Challen



Chairman of the Board, Mr John Miller, congratulating one of the 2014 Dux of College, Kieran Armstrong, along with Dean of Studies, Mr Chris Challen and Deputy Head of Senior School, Mr Craig Askin



Headmaster, Mr Brett Webster, congratulating Benjamin Holmes, with Dean of Studies, Mr Chris Challen

Hansel and Gretel found their way to the JAC



On 14 November the Junior Arts Centre took on the magic of make-believe when our Year 5 and Year 6 Group Drama students performed their interpretation of Hansel and Gretel.

The Samuel French version of the story provided some very humorous lines which were brilliantly executed by our young drama students. Clever stage directing by Miss Hannah Sutherland, creative scenery by Mrs Kate Stimson, excellent back-stage organisation from Miss Bernadette Jarvis and dramatic characterisation from our drama students provided the audience with a very entertaining presentation of the famous old classic.

Our students certainly plied their drama skills. Confidence was evident, well projected clear voices rang out across the auditorium

(without the need of headset microphones). Characterisation was taken on with strong conviction and their colourful costuming added to the delight of the storyline.

The production was living proof that Speech and Drama training, whether group or individual, provides our students with added confidence and self-esteem, plus the ability to become effective communicators able to hold the interest of an audience.

Well done Junior Drama students.



Final Assembly

Only on very special occasions does the entire student body come together: Friday 20 November was one such occasion. The sports stadium in the Somerset Sports Centre was full to capacity with students from Prep to Year 12, plus teaching staff and the parents and families of our graduating Year 12 cohort. All gathered to share the celebration of Final Assembly with our departing Year 12 students.

After a welcome by the Headmaster, Mr Brett Webster, the College Captains, Jarrod Allen and Keely Lynch, gave their final speech to the school assembly. This was followed by the Deputy Head of College, Mrs Lee Catterall, inviting Prep students to present a special gift to the Year 12 students. In response, the graduating cohort presented their departing gift to the College.

The traditional ceremony covering the Transfer of the Mantle of Leadership then took place with the Year 12 students conferring leadership upon the students of Year 11 (the

Seniors of 2016) in the areas of Academic Learning, Cultural Involvement, Community Spirit, Social Justice and the Roles and Responsibilities of Leadership.

The Head of Senior School, Mr Paul Hornibrook, then invited the Year 6 to Year 11 students to form the Guard of Honour through which the Year 12 students could depart, led by the Medallion students were accompanied by a Prep student. The Guard of Honour formed along the pathway between the trees leading from the Old Collegians' entrance, to the sound of a rousing farewell applause.



Graduation and Valedictory

The Year 12 cohort made their way to the Lingo Lin Performing Arts Theatre for their last ever event as College students. There, they were joined by family and staff for Graduation.

During Valedictory and Graduation many profound, sincere and meaningful words were spoken by the School Captains. In his farewell speech Jarrod Allen reflected "It is said that school days are some of the happiest

days of your life and that is certainly true. Remembering all that we have done together will be fantastic." and "We can, not only look forward to the rest of our lives but we can reflect on what an honour and opportunity the past 13 years have been." Keely Lynch recalled "We may have started our schooling in different schools, cities or even countries, however, this last year of Year 12, binds us together for an eternity. We will always have our

fellow peers in the Ormiston College graduating Class of 2015."

We farewell the Class of 2015 and thank them for the wonderful contribution they made as Seniors of the College. We wish them health, happiness and success in the next step of their journey and look forward to hearing from them as members of the Ormiston College Old Collegians Association.



Season's Greetings



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