

Principal's Report

GIVE THANKS TO OUR LORD

It is my great pleasure to present my reflections on the ministry of the Bundaberg Christian College throughout 2009. We certainly have a vibrant community, with many people contributing to all that is achieved.

When reflecting on the past year I am mindful that the success of the College rests on a team effort. The partnership between the home, the school and the church cannot be under-estimated in its affect on the staff and students. Together we have made this college one of the best in Bundaberg, and grown that reputation over many years. Every year, I think that we cannot possibly outdo what we have accomplished the previous year, but when I look back at the year's accomplishments I yet again stand in awe by what God has achieved through us all. I could refer to our many outstanding achievements, but I'll let the following pages tell their own story. May they be a reminder of the many happy events and worthy achievements of staff, parents and students for many years to come.

When I welcomed members of the BCC community at this year's Commencement Service, I likened the year to a chapter in a good book. This year has certainly been that. As in any good book, there have been many surprises, some interesting turns of plot, danger, sadness, laughter and inspiration. While we have all been through some challenging times this year, there have been many more satisfying accomplishments along the way. I want to express my thanks to everyone for maintaining a sense of humour and great fortitude throughout the year.

This year I am more convinced than ever, that a successful school must stand for something. It must say what it believes in and it must do what it says it does. At Bundaberg Christian College we seek to provide excellence in education and to inspire Christian Character, empowering our students to develop their potential and fulfill their destiny. We are building futures and shaping lives. The ultimate test of the success of our school lies in how well prepared our students are for life beyond the classroom. Our Christian environment allows our teachers to be single-mindedly focused on producing Godly young men and women.

Corrie Ten Boom wrote: "Never be afraid to trust the unknown future to a known God." As I ponder our theme for 2009, Building for Eternity, I wonder what the future holds for BCC; a young and energetic College that has achieved much, but gives the promise of more to come. I think we've all seen the scope of building works at BCC this year. In a similar way God is building our life - we don't know what lies ahead but we know that He is working His purposes out year after year.



There is something wonderfully inspiring in the thought that God has a plan and a purpose for our life. We are in the hands of God and He chooses our place and orders our circumstances. He makes all things work together for His glory. I believe it is the highest honour, to occupy such a place in the thought of God. We shouldn't doubt that His way is better than ours, since He is infinitely wiser than we are, and He loves us so very much. What a blessing to live this way!

At this point I want to acknowledge our Primary and Secondary leaders who have led with distinction throughout the year. They have proved to be exceptionally reliable and have openly demonstrated our RISE values. I have every confidence that they will continue to act as fine ambassadors of the Lord and BCC as they serve Him in their chosen careers and in Year 8 next year.

Our respective Primary and Secondary Presentation Night's saw many students honoured for their diligence and achievements. Congratulations to those students who gave their personal best throughout the year; whether they won an award or not, they can be proud of their contribution to the life of BCC and the body of Christ. Don't forget that winning an award doesn't determine our value or worth – our true worth is only found in Christ. At BCC we believe that every student has a spark of 'brilliance', a God given talent or gift; and the great news is that it only takes a spark to get a fire going... and this has already started, as many of our students are already involved in student-initiated activities such as the SALSA group, our Days of Prayer, our Tuesday lunchtime Prayer Group and further to this, seven of our students are heading overseas for mission work

Principal's Report

over their Christmas holidays.

Activities such as our Easter Bonnet Parade, Book Week Parade, Open Night, Grandparents' Day and the respective class Chapels were well supported this year. Our annual camps were a particular highlight of the respective classes, as were the visits from Lynton Alan, our Artist in Residence and Peter Eastwell, our Visiting Scientist.

I would like to acknowledge members of my Executive team who have supported me throughout 2009. I would like to especially make mention of Mr Hayden, who stepped into the position as Head of Secondary this year, and has provided further wisdom and grace to our devoted team.

This year has again proved to be a busy and exciting year for the College academic program. Our students have again been successful across a range of academic pursuits (e.g. our victorious Senior Maths Teams Challenge Team). I would like to thank the staff of BCC for their enthusiasm and support for the changes to our academic programs; changes that will position us well in the future as we keep maturing as a College.

The outstanding musical achievements of our students reveal the depth of commitment our parents, staff and students have towards a well-rounded education. The Annual Gala Music Concert paid tribute to the many staff and students involved.

It is a great source of pride that so many of our students are involved in the sporting and Agricultural life of the College. I am extremely grateful to the staff and parents who have given so much of their time in the preparation of our teams. Many of our students have represented the College in team and individual sports at Zone, Regional, State or even National levels.

To our departing Seniors, I seek God's continued blessing and guidance on their future. I know we will follow their progress with interest and pride. Having watched them grow from my first day at BCC, we know they are different today than when they first arrived. How have they changed? In appearance, in maturity; yes, but most of all, in response to God's love and grace. However, God is not finished with growing them. From the first day they entered BCC they have heard that God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. But hearing is not receiving. Relationships depend on mutual love. God proved His love for us through the cross where Jesus took on our imperfections so that we could be made perfect in His sight. My prayer is that they will continue to develop their individual personalities as they seek to know the Lord and make Him known in their respective families and chosen careers.

At BCC we are indeed blessed to be surrounded by such a committed and talented staff. Their genuine interest and concern for our students, their passion for their respective classes and their commitment to the school make our staff a class apart. Forget the wonderful facilities we are fortunate to have; it is our staff, empowered by the Lord, who make BCC strong and successful. While thanking people, I would also like to thank members of the BCC Board for their tireless work and support and the many parent volunteers, including members of the P&F, who have assisted in reinforcing what we are doing at the school.

And so we turn over the last page on this year's chapter. Like any good book, you don't want the story to end. Fortunately, we will start a fresh new chapter next January. We have every right to be proud of our College.

Again, I extend my gratitude to all staff, students and parents for their ongoing efforts in making BCC the special place that it is. It is a joy to be a part of this community and I am excited about the opportunities that 2010 will bring.

As 1 Thessalonians 1:3 says "may our work be produced by faith, our labour be prompted by love and our endurance be inspired by hope".

My family joins me in wishing the BCC community a blessed Christmas and a safe and fruitful New Year.

Mark Bensley
Principal

