

Lumen Christi Catholic College

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Annual Report for 2008

A Message from Key School Bodies

The 2008 school year was very successful in the continuing development of Lumen Christi Catholic College (LCCC). The year culminated in the announcement of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) results with one measure having LCCC second of all the schools on the South Coast and again being named in the top 200 schools in NSW. Considering this is only our third HSC class, these results are simply stunning and testimony to the effort the students and staff have made and the support of parents for their children and the College.

During 2008, Mr Wayne Smith was Acting Principal whilst I was on secondment to Merici College in Canberra for the twelve months. Mr Smith brought his experience and wisdom to the community and made a substantial contribution in a short time. Projects that had been in the planning stages have been either completed or begun during his time. Mr Smith led the College in the significant World Youth Day celebration. This was a major event and one that involved many pilgrims from across the world. It was a memorable experience for all those who were involved.

Our College Vision *Let us be the Light of Christ Learning to value God's gifts Inspiring hope and serving others* and Mission Statements ask us to learn, to inspire and be inspired to serve others. Lumen Christi is a fine school and we continue to remind ourselves of what Jesus would do at times when we are challenged to live out the College Vision and Mission. Catholic Schools are always challenged by their beliefs and goals, which is one way of ensuring we do not lose focus on why Catholic education began in Australia and why we always reflect on our reason for existence.

Lumen Christi Catholic College is part of the Country Area Program (CAP) and in 2008 CAP funds were used to continue teaching and learning initiatives providing staff with Professional Development opportunities. The Integrated Focus continues to be a key theme of aligning teaching strategies.

The staff embraced the opportunities provided by the workshops, seminars and conferences through CAP. The staff freely share their learnings with fellow staff members and implement skills in their classrooms. (see www.cap.nsw.edu.au)

2008 College Board Report by Mr Richard Jarmusz

The Lumen Christi Board began 2008 by welcoming new board members, maintaining the diversity that reflected the community, school students and staff. This ensured enthusiasm for the College's vision of "Let us be the Light of Christ Learning to value God's gifts Inspiring hope and serving others."

The Lumen Christi Board is mindful of the current economic times. Families make sacrifices to send their children to our school. The Board's responsibilities fall in line with the values and needs of our children, staff and teachers and the hopes and aspirations of the families that are a part of our school community.

The College Board continued its participation in various areas of College life and in planning for the future. The College continued to strengthen its foundation and identity in the Archdiocese and local community. These are very important relationships for us.

Parents & Friends (P&F) Report by Mrs Kari Esplin

During 2008 the Lumen Christi P&F Association continued to play a vital role in the College, undertaking some quite ambitious projects. A new functional area was created and is being used for assemblies, Masses, and of course during lunch and recess. Paving this area has also reduced dust around the school and will assist in reducing many maintenance issues. As with all school projects this was a joint effort with school management, the Catholic Education Office and willing parents. In 2008 the P&F continued to purchase capital equipment for the Canteen. It is a real credit to the P&F that we have funded such a well equipped Canteen.

The most important part of our role was keeping parents informed. We prefer to do this electronically as it benefits the environment and stops the pile up of unread newsletters in your child's school bag. So please email the front office with your email address so that each week the newsletter can be sent to you.

Student Performance

Lumen Christi uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, projects and presentations. The College also participates in the NAPLAN tests for Year 7 and 9 students for the purposes of diagnosing individual needs and reviewing teaching programs. Students who have not met the benchmarks have been identified and an appropriate measure of assistance can be given to these students. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis with Parent-Teacher Interviews held twice a year and written reports distributed at the end of Term 2 and 4.

NAPLAN results for Year 7 LCCC showing percentage of students in bands. Band 9 is the highest Band.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 9	13	5	6	9	14
Band 8	25	20	19	28	24
Band 7	33	36	42	28	40
Band 6	22	21	19	23	15
Band 5	6	18	13	9	6
Band 4	1	0	2	2	1
Percentage	99	100	98	98	99

The last row shows the percentage of students achieving at or above national minimum standard

NAPLAN results for Year 9 LCCC showing percentage of students in bands. Band 10 is the highest Band.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 10	9	2	3	11	5
Band 9	18	10	21	6	20
Band 8	27	22	28	24	26
Band 7	22	22	29	34	27
Band 6	22	29	14	17	18
Band 5	2	14	4	8	3
Percentage	98	86	96	92	97

The last row shows the percentage of students achieving at or above national minimum standard

Year 7 LCCC mean scores compared to the National mean scores.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation	Numeracy
LCCC	565.5	542.7	543.7	556.7	566.6
National	537	534	539	529	545

Year 9 LCCC mean scores compared to the National mean scores.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation	Numeracy
LCCC	590.7	550.1	584.9	575.5	586.0
National	578	569	577	569	582

One avenue that is provided for intervention to assist those students who did not meet the benchmarks and provide assistance to them on a regular basis during classtime. In addition, the areas of weakness identified in the test enabled the College to make changes to the sequencing of topics to assist the students in subsequent years.

The Year 10 students at Lumen Christi sat the School Certificate tests in November. These results were very pleasing considering Lumen Christi is a non- selective school.

SUBJECT	BANDS	LCCC 08	STATE	LCCC 07	STATE	LCCC 06	STATE
English	4,5,6	87%	76%	85%	72%	83%	71%
Maths	4,5,6	50%	49%	52%	45%	53%	41%
Science	5,6	34%	32%	40%	27%	35%	29%
History	5,6	19%	23%	47%	25%	29%	24%
Geography	4,5	62%	59%	76%	65%	65%	58%

Our third HSC results were outstanding with Lumen Christi making the top 200 list of NSW Schools for HSC Achievement. The cohort sat 29 subjects and 22 of these subjects had an exam mean higher than the state average. There were 48 Band 6 results earned by the students placing the College in the top 25% of schools in NSW based on the number of students in the school.

Some of the notable subject results included:

SUBJECT	BANDS	LCCC 08	STATE
Chemistry	5,6	55%	38%
English Standard	4,5,6	95%	37%
English Advanced	5,6	91%	49%
Food Technology	5,6	67%	29%
Industrial Technology	5,6	71%	32%
Legal Studies	5,6	78%	42%
Mathematics	5,6	73%	45%
Physics	5,6	50%	32%
Software Development	5,6	67%	40%
Textiles and Design	5,6	100%	53%
Hospitality	5,6	82%	23%

Professional Learning and Teacher Standards

In 2008 there were 50 teachers at Lumen Christi and all have a teaching qualification from a higher education institution within Australia [or as recognised by the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition [AEI-NOOSR] guidelines.

In 2008 there were two main areas in which staff at LCCC participated in professional development activities.

1. Catholic Education Office/LCCC funded workshops included:
 - various meetings for Principals, Religious Education Coordinators' Assistant Principals and Bursars
 - Even Start program
 - Crossroads Conference
 - Rewired Conference
 - History/ Ancient History/Maths/Religious Education Annual Conferences
 - Geography inservice
 - Set Design & Drama Courses
 - Dare to Dream –Indigenous workshop
 - VET workshops
 - Numeracy Intervention Program workshop

2. NSW Country Areas Program(CAP)
 - CAP Conference
 - Hawker Brownlow Conference
 - Restorative Justice Program

- Cooperative Learning workshop
- Technology Forum
- Music Workshop
- Astronomy workshop
- Belonging Conference

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning at the school was \$468.00.

Teacher Attendance and Retention

The average number of days teachers were in attendance at Lumen Christi in 2008 was 197 days. The total number of days in a school year is 204.

The percentage of teaching staff retained at Lumen Christi from 2007 to 2008 was 80%.

Student Attendance and Retention Rates

The average attendance rate for all students from Years 7 to 12 for 2008 was 90%.

2008 was our third Year 12 class to sit the Higher School Certificate. Of the 97 students who completed Year 10, 66 completed Year 12.

Post School Destinations

We were delighted that many of our HSC class of 2008 were successful in gaining University places, with approximately 40% choosing to delay their University study to take up a gap year. The remaining students received apprenticeships, entered the workforce, the armed forces or continued their education in TAFE or similar, which is testimony to their willingness to achieve goals commensurate with their ability and effort.

Enrolment Policy and Profile

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the College's website OR on the Catholic Education Office's website at www.ceo.cq.catholic.edu.au/schools/enrolments/policy.pdf

School Policies

"At Lumen Christi Catholic College, learning happens in an environment where positive relationships are inherent, based on a foundation of mutual trust, respect and courtesy-all are Christ." (LCCC Core Beliefs 2001). Lumen Christi belongs to a system of schools that proudly declares a special consideration for each individual and the development of the whole person.

The Lumen Christi Catholic College Vision and Mission Statements, Core Beliefs and Exit Outcomes indicate that our College provides a positive, safe, supportive and encouraging environment. These documents and policy provide a tangible link between contemporary society and the messages of the Gospel, encouraging the development of Christian values and enhancing the personal and moral development of our students.

At LCCC we promote only positive behaviours and attributes within our classrooms and student body. The foundation of our pastoral care and discipline policy is built upon four keystone behaviours or principles called the "4C's". These are consistency, cooperation, common sense and consequences. (see www.ceo.cq.catholic.edu.au/policies/discipline.htm)

All students are expected to act in accordance with these behaviours and the subsequent Code of Conduct and Student Rights and Responsibilities, as outlined in the student communication diary. These are non negotiable. A merit and demerit program is in place at the College to promote these behaviours and policies.

Policies are available on request from the College or may be viewed in part on the College website.

School Determined Improvement Targets

The College has nine major areas identified in the Strategic Plan. These include Parent Bodies, Curriculum, Students, Resources, Catholic Culture and Ethos, Teaching and Learning, Development of the Site, Staffing and Community. As a developing College, these main areas have had equal emphasis over recent years.

The building of resources is an ongoing priority especially in the library. Our catalogue has grown significantly in 2008 and access to electronic media has also seen a vast extension of available resources.

The major impact in 2008 was the arrival of additional 121 computers as part of the Government's strategy to increase the ratio of computers to students. They are being used frequently by the students. Additional interactive whiteboards have also been installed

Our curriculum offerings continue to be evaluated in meeting the needs of our students. Year 9 and Year 11 electives have been adjusted to reflect the needs of the students. The Keeping Garden project at Jigamy Farm (Indigenous Meeting place) continued to make progress. A specific target for 2008 was to initiate a program to improve the attendance rate and engagement of our indigenous students.

Improvement of numeracy and literacy outcomes for students was also a priority in 2008. Students with NAPLAN results in the lower numeracy bands were placed in classes concentrating on improving their basic skills. The literacy group met regularly and also concentrated on improving their outcomes. Regular Maths tutorials were made available for students to improve their learning.

Considerable time was spent on improving the student welfare system and inservicing of staff in Restorative Practices. While still providing limits and consequences, the approach looks for ways to repair damaged relationships and improve existing relationships. The Restorative School believes in the "Three R's" - Relationships, Responsibility and Relevance.

The major development on site was the concreting of the top playground that was becoming a major issue for the College. This was a significant improvement to minimising dust and has subsequently kept corridors and classrooms much cleaner.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Lumen Christi has an overarching approach to learning at the College referred to as the "Integrating Focus". Learning occurs best when the matter to be learned is relevant, relates to experience and is not covered in isolation from other learning. A school based integrating focus provides the connection to overcome the disjointedness that may occur.

The three main areas covered by the Integrating Focus include the National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools, elements from the Habits of Mind and the main themes from the Religious Education Guidelines, *Treasures New and Old*. A poster in each classrooms displays the key concepts of the integrating focus for the term. Teaching programs incorporate activities in the classroom that reflect the key aspects of the Integrating Focus. The College assemblies are an additional opportunity to draw together some of the main concepts of the Integrating Focus to demonstrate the College wide approach to holistic and explicit learning in these main areas.

In 2008 students were involved in a Service Program with each student expected to complete at least ten hours of community service during the year. Students who reach ten, twenty or forty hours receive a special commendation at the annual Presentation Night. In addition, a perpetual award is awarded to the student who has made an outstanding contribution to community service throughout the year. One of the major community service activities in 2008 was the regular weekly visits to Imlay House Nursing Home. Groups of students visited the Home each week to play games with the patients, read books, spend time in prayer or simply just chat with the patients. The patients looked forward to the students visiting each week and the students enjoyed seeing the smiles on the patients' faces each week.

The student Communication Diary contains a list of Rights and Responsibilities which form the basis of Lumen Christi's approach to the promotion of respect and responsibility. These statements provide the foundation for the Student Welfare and Discipline policies.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

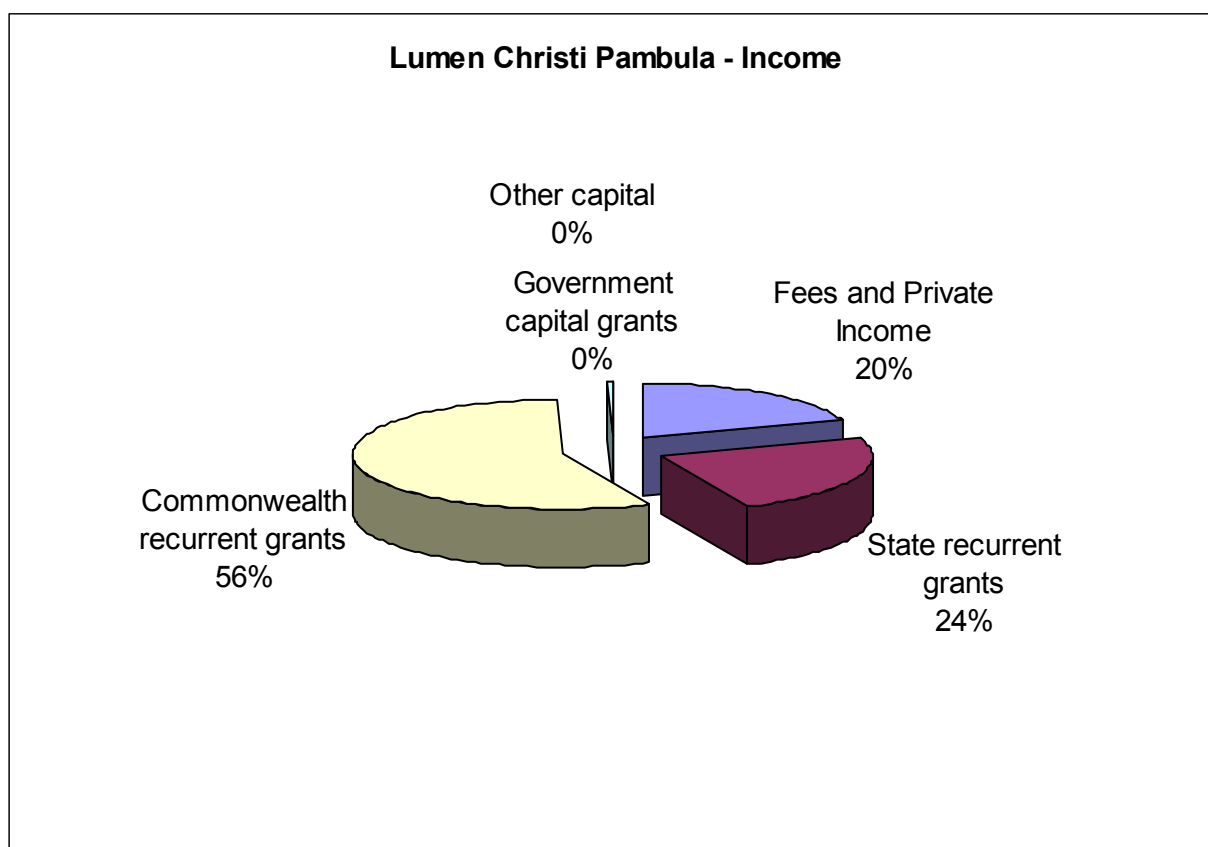
A Student Satisfaction Survey was conducted in Term 4. 2008. Students were asked to rate 19 statements about their education. The statements that achieved a positive response of 80% or higher included statements such as: my teachers care about me; are prepared to offer extra assistance; expect students to do well; are prepared to explain things clearly; encourage me to improve my standard of work; are prepared for class; expect students to act responsibly. Students also believed they felt safe at school and the school had clear rules and expectations.

The Parent Satisfaction Survey contained 15 questions. Parents were most complimentary about the teachers' commitment, enthusiasm and the learning environment for their child. They believed there were high standards of student behaviour; the school was safe; felt involved and were very satisfied with the education provided.

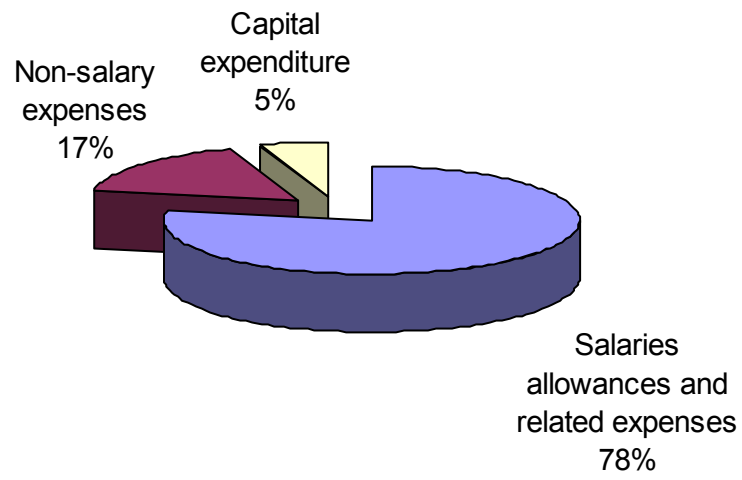
The Staff Survey consisted of 21 statements. Staff responded positively to the opportunities for professional development; to the recognition and support from their colleagues; commitment to the College; democratic decision making and the climate conducive to learning.

Summary Financial Information

A summary of the school's financial information is shown in the graphs below.



Lumen Christi Pambula - Expenditure



This report was prepared by:

Paul Carroll
Principal