school board

Board members as at November 2011:

Chairman  Dr Timothy Day
Deputy Chair  Mrs Sonia Rendigs
Treasurer  Mr Peter McGregor
Secretary  Ms Trudy Skilbeck
Members  Mr Ivan Andolfatto
          Mrs Pam Chessell
          Mr Edward Cohen
          Mr Geoff Fookes
          Mrs Laurinda Gardner
          Mr Gunther Jahnke
          Mr Steve McKenna
          Mr John McKinnon
OSA President  Mrs Libbie Smith
Baptist Union of Victoria  Mrs Judy McMaster
Principal  Mrs Helen Hughes
Business Manager  Mr Richard Sallows
From June until August this year, I had the privilege of taking sabbatical leave. I am grateful to our School Board for enabling this leave and to Mrs Farmilo, as Acting Principal, and Ms Oprean, Acting Deputy Principal. They and senior staff capably oversaw all programs and activities and the School progressed as planned.

Apart from time spent on doctoral studies through the Faculty of Arts and Education of Deakin University, I attended a number of conferences and seminars in Melbourne, Sydney and Toronto and selected experiences which would give insights into recent educational directions. This included the use of research-based evidence to inform practice; coaching, leadership, mentoring and appraisal; educational facility planning and uses of technology to support 21st Century learning. The International Confederation of Principals’ Conference, held in Toronto, was attended by 2000 Principals from 40 countries and provided a global perspective on the current themes in education.

In bringing these experiences together, key issues to be further emphasised and enhanced through professional sharing with and amongst our staff are highlighted:

1. The need to think globally – about information sources; in our opportunities for communication and collaboration; in our awareness of our social responsibilities and potential contributions; in educating our students to become informed citizens of the world.

2. The benefits of collaboration to ensure best practice in all our undertakings – colleague to colleague, both within and beyond our school; through leadership, mentoring, coaching and appraisal processes.

3. The value of an evidence-based approach – in the formulation and evaluation of programs; the seeking of feedback from students, parents and colleagues; choice of useful data to inform future directions.

4. Ways to improve information handling – the importance of web literacy; choosing the most useful technologies to support the growing use of inquiry-based learning; guiding skilful research; the encouragement of critical thinking as students negotiate the mass of information available to them.

5. Ways to maximise student learning and engagement – opportunities for professional sharing of classroom practices; being alert to the latest research into approaches to teaching.
6. Supporting students’ preferred ways of learning via the physical environment at school – further planning for flexibility of spaces to enable the flow from whole group to small group to individual work.

In these key areas, the leadership of Strathcona’s commitment to detailed, informed planning will be evident. While keeping abreast of the national and international education scene, we need to be discerning in our choices and work together to evaluate what will be most beneficial to our programs. We are conscious of both our opportunities and our accountabilities within and beyond our School community.

We live in an era of results-based management and an evidence-based approach to education. Influenced internationally by organisations such as UNESCO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), international comparisons influence our national directions, as evidenced in the National Education Agreement (COAG, 2008). I quote Andreas Schleicher of the OECD who has stated, ‘information feeding public accountability has become more powerful than legislation … and it has made international comparisons indispensable in the field of education that was thus far conceived a largely domestic area.’

While giving insight into education systems in Australia, such comparisons, that influence ways of driving higher standards, can draw on the wrong emphases. Michael Fullan (2011), a highly reputed educationalist, compares what he considers to be the ‘wrong’ and ‘right drivers’ of whole system reform. He outlines four main ‘wrong drivers’ that have more effective matched alternatives:

1. Accountability: using test results, and teacher appraisal, to reward or punish teachers and schools vs capacity building;
2. Individual teacher and leadership quality: promoting individual vs group solutions;
3. Technology: investing in and assuming that the digital world will carry the day vs instruction; and
4. Fragmented strategies vs integrated or systemic strategies.

Fullan stresses that all drivers have a place in reform. However, the four ‘right’ ones must lead and dominate, bound together with the right underlying attitude, philosophy and theory of action.

With the development of a national framework for schooling, our Australian education systems will undergo reform. The implementation of a national curriculum across all learning areas K-12 and increasing school level transparency and accountability (such as through the My School website), mean that ‘independent’ schools must also respond to the reform agenda.

Fullan cautions that these seemingly ambitious and admirable nationwide goals will not be met with the strategies being used that emphasise assessment, monitoring and intervention. As has been experienced in other countries, they may remain ineffective ‘because they do not change the day-to-day culture of school systems’.

While bound by national accountabilities, at Strathcona, we are able to focus on strategies which will positively build the culture of learning in our School, motivating and engaging staff and students in continuous improvement and encouraging team work. As we formulate directions for new programs, we are responsibly using research and data to build a comprehensive picture of our School and individual students’ performance.

Our determination to use best practice is evidenced in the SEED Program (Seek, Engage, Enrich, Diversify), introduced for Years 7 and 8 this year. Using an inquiry approach which creates interdisciplinary links to develop students’ creativity and thinking skills, topics that do not readily appear in traditional studies have been explored.

The informed, team process followed to review and formulate new directions for the Year 9 program with I-Learning (Interdisciplinary, Interactive, Inquiry-based learning), to be introduced in 2012, is another example of our best practice approach. This program emphasises personalised learning, connectedness, creativity and developments in ICT to support learning. It recognises the potential for better learning outcomes when students are engaged in learning that is active, purposeful, challenging, and when they face real problems that require complex solutions.

As you read the Annual Report, staff contributions show their commitment to students and appreciation of Strathcona’s values. Among our teaching staff, their high ideals of practice are also evident in their commitment to professional learning within the School and through external providers and in their contribution to professional associations and participation in and presentations at seminars and conferences. I sincerely thank the teaching staff for their individual efforts and team work and the teacher assistants who support the work of many sections of the School. I also express my appreciation for the cooperative effort of all staff – teachers, teacher assistants, administration and property staff. Their close mutual support makes Strathcona the vibrant, caring and productive community that it is.

It is a privilege to work closely with the following staff in senior leadership roles:

- Mrs Farmilo so capably and warmly fulfils her role as Deputy Principal, attentive to the needs of staff and girls.

- Ms Oprean, Dean of Students, is dedicated to the wellbeing of our young people, ably leads the extensive pastoral network and has coordinated the School’s involvement in the I Keep Safe, digital citizenship initiative, this year.

- Mr Phillips, Dean of Studies, oversees the development of curricula and continues to influence professional learning throughout the School, influencing students’ acquisition of 21st Century skills.

- Mr Phyland, Head of Junior School, sensitively manages his staff and students and continues to build cooperative relationships with parents as the children are supported at this critical stage of their development.

- Mr Wriedt, Head of Tay Creggan, fulfils his role with much enthusiasm, eager to make the Year 9 experience as fulfilling as possible.

- Mrs Burns, Chaplain, has worked with dedication in this her first year in the role at Strathcona; her warmth and guidance of us all in our spiritual development is valued.

- Dr Kitchen, Head of Learning Technologies, keeps us aware of new technologies to support and enhance learning. His generosity of time in recording of events and producing regular vodcasts for STV is beneficial and appreciated by the School community.

- Ms Hall, Head of Information Resources, is committed to ensuring that staff and students have access to quality resources and that students master essential information and web literacy skills.

I thank our Heads of Departments who have ably led their teams of staff:

Mr Brit Biviano .................................................. Art
Mr David Bradshaw .................................................. Commerce
Mrs Marisa Rowlands .................................................. Drama
Ms Simone Boland .................................................. English
Mrs Claire Chambers .................................................. Food & Technology
Ms Terri Oprean .................................................. Health & Human Development
Mrs Pat Menke .................................................. Geography/History
Ms Veronica Swayne .................................................. Languages
Ms Tracy Herff .................................................. Mathematics
Dr Tim Kitchen .................................................. VET Multimedia
Ms Georgina Nagy .................................................. Music
Ms Monique Henderson .................................................. Physical Education
Mrs Pam Welsford .................................................. Science
Mr Steve O’Donohue .................................................. Sport (until June)
Ms Megan Barber .................................................. Sport (from July)

Year Coordinators play a critical role in the pastoral network leading their teams of Form Tutors in the Senior School:

Mr Scott Pannam .................................................. Year 12
Mrs Julie Plymin .................................................. Year 11
Mr Mark Hamilton .................................................. Year 10
Mrs Miranda Gazis .................................................. Year 8
Mrs Yvonne Gagnon .................................................. Year 7

Mrs Gazis joined the team during the year when Mrs Juchno commenced her maternity leave.

Other roles and responsibilities in 2011 have included:

Mrs Julie Kilpatrick ........................................ Deputy Head of Mellor House
Dr Vicki Treidel .................................................. VCE Coordinator
Mr Mark Duncan .................................................. Careers Advisor
Mrs Kerri Rhodes .................................................. School Psychologist
Mrs Charlotte Forwood ........................................... Leader of Advanced Learning
Mrs Carolyn King ........................................ Mellor House Leader of Advanced Learning
Ms Melissa Davey .................................................. Chief of Staff
Mr Scott Pannam ........................................ i-Wise/Blackboard Coordinator/Strathconian Editor
Ms Simone Boland ........................................ Debating Coordinator
Ms Liesl Woods ........................................ Outdoor Education Coordinator
Mrs Pam Allan ........................................ Compass Award Coordinator
Ms Annette Holtschke ........................................... Timetabler
Ms Katherine Harrington ........................................ Assistant Timetabler
Mrs Robyn Dunoon ........................................ International Student Coordinator
Mr Brit Biviano ........................................ Strathconian Editor
Mrs Anthea Andrews ........................................ Primary Science Program for local schools
Quality administrative support is essential for the smooth running of the School and I acknowledge the following team who work closely with me:

- Mr Sallows, Business Manager, oversees the administration and property staff and is responsible for the financial systems and keeping across our government reporting accountabilities.
- Mrs Wilson, Director of Enrolments and Marketing, is well appreciated by all parents in the School community for her detailed and friendly management of registration processes. Her impact on the marketing of the School is evident in internal and external publications.
- Mr David Young, Director of Information Technology Services, joined us in July and has refined our IT infrastructure with best industry standards.
- Ms Lloyd, my Executive Assistant, excels in her role with her extensive knowledge of the School and professional, warm approach.
- Ms Chalmers and Mrs Little, our Community Relations Officers, have established extensive connections within and beyond our School community and provide excellent support to our various Friends Groups, the Family Association and the Old Strathconians Association.
- Mr Ammerlaan, Property Manager, ensures that our school property and facilities are maintained to the highest standard.

I acknowledge the fine work of all administration and property staff.

New staff who were welcomed to Strathcona in 2011 include:

Mrs Bronwyn Arnott .........................Mellor House Chaplain
Ms Megan Barber ...............................Head of Sport
Mrs Rhonda Burns .................................Chaplain
Mrs Allison Frattaroli .............................Geography teacher
Mrs Wendy Hawkins ...............................Laboratory technician
Ms Nicole Kapiniaris ...............................Mellor House teacher
Ms Diana Li .................................Languages teacher – Chinese
Ms Catherine Marshall ..............................Business Office & HR Assistant
Ms Kristene Schnabl .............................Early Learning Centre teacher
Mrs Mary Thornhill .................................English teacher

Staff leaving us after fulfilling contract positions in 2011:
Mr Jonathan Campbell
Mr Anthony Lynikas
Ms Nadina Pacella-Salce
Ms Sally Ranson
Ms Cathie Waldron

As the year concludes, I thank the following staff who are departing for new experiences and wish them well:

Mrs Carol Bartnik
Ms Jacqui Carlile
Mrs Jo Eager
Ms Leanne Gould
Mrs Julie Kilpatrick
Mr Euan Littlejohn
Mrs Christine Papas

School Board

Strathcona has a fine Board of Directors who give generously of their time and expertise to ensure sound governance and financial oversight of the School. I warmly thank Dr Timothy Day, Chairman of the Board, and all members of the Board and subcommittees for their commitment to Strathcona, their guidance of its future directions and their close working relationship with me.
Community Groups

In this Annual Report, you will have the opportunity to read reports from our Family Association, the various Friends Groups, the Old Strathconians' Association and the Brownlow Committee. With their support of a broad range of activities and resources, they add to the richness of the girls' school experience. I am grateful to them for their generosity and support and thank also those who have been Year Representatives, members of the Dinner Dance Committee and all who have contributed to and attended school events.

Year 12

I congratulate the young women of Year 12 who, in fine Strathcona tradition, rose to the responsibility of senior student leadership. They have been a cohesive group and most influential on the younger girls, particularly through major school activities such as House carnivals and competitions and the Performing Arts Festival. I am most appreciative of the way in which those in specific leadership roles have fulfilled their responsibilities and I acknowledge School Captain, Melissa Allan, and Deputy Captains, Tessa Clegg and Gemma Hallett, whose generosity, resourcefulness and good humour have had a great impact throughout the School. The staff and I wish each member of the Class of 2011 success and happiness in their future studies, careers and family life. We trust that they leave with a strong sense of self, compassion for others and confidence in the positive contribution they can make to the community.

All our young people

The staff and I take delight in guiding their learning, encouraging their involvement in many activities, witnessing their friendships and, in particular, seeing them develop as enthusiastic, generous individuals. We are fortunate that there is such caring in our School community and it is my constant hope that each of the children has a real sense of belonging.

I thank them all for what they have given to this year in our School. Just as I am, parents can be rightly proud of all that their girls have achieved.

A comprehensive Annual Report has been compiled with contributions from various sectors of the School. I encourage you to read the Report in its entirety to understand just how rich the offering of Strathcona is.

My warm wishes go to all in our School community for a blessed Christmas and relaxing family time over the holidays. Thank you for your part in another wonderful year!

Helen Hughes
Looking back –
Looking forward

As we move toward the end of another successful year for Strathcona, I would like to assure the School community that Strathcona remains under sound and informed leadership which is aware of current educational trends and has a sound plan for the future growth and development of the School. Strategic planning for the next five years has been adopted and is currently being implemented across the range of school activities. We have celebrated a number of achievements throughout the year, but as a Board have been able to develop ideas and progress plans for the future wellbeing of the Strathcona community.

Board discussions and forward planning this year have shown a strong shift to consideration and implementation of new technologies, with creative and responsible use of the expanding information revolution. There has also been considerable input/engagement from the Principal, Deputy Principal, Deans and other Senior staff on current and evolving educational ideas, informing the Board on inquiry-based learning, digital citizenship and e-safety, thinking skills and curriculum development, and their practical application in a forward thinking school. Time has been committed to expose the Board to some of the Professional Learning opportunities offered to staff, which further strengthens our view that staff are the School’s greatest asset. The Board has provided support for staff to be involved with in-house Professional Learning, to attend and present at conferences and to train up in use of new technologies, thus enhancing their professional educational skills. Mrs Hughes was enabled to take some months of study leave involving research through Deakin University and time spent at various overseas centres of excellence in education, and she will be implementing some of the knowledge gained there. A novel Year 9 I-Learning Program has been developed for Tay Creggan, combined with use of iPads in Year 9 – similar resourcing of other year levels with iPads for flexible, tablet-based learning is planned. We remain aware of the need to support learning in new ways especially with the advent of novel information and communication technologies and recognise that this requires specialised staff, facilities and systems to enable optimal use of these resources.

In parallel, updating the current Masterplan will see refurbishment and development of school buildings and facilities, with imminent plans to renovate Featherstone Hall in the first half of 2012, as part of our ongoing commitment to provision of excellent facilities. We have plans for a New Learning Centre to be developed in coming years, which will create more flexible learning spaces and community/social areas, and extend the broad educational goals of the School.
We aim to provide a quality education in an environment which maximises personal and social development. I pay tribute to Mr Peter McGregor and the Finance committee for their careful and capable financial management and budgeting. Although there are inevitable increases in costs for materials, resources and staff, the Finance committee and Board have striven to limit the costs passed on to the families in tuition fees. As in previous years the vast bulk of our income derives from tuition fees with only 15% derived from government grants. Likewise the bulk of expenditure relates to educational resources, salaries and expenses with administration and maintenance accounting for 23% (please refer to the graphs above). The current fee levels continue to compare very favourably with, and are lower than, comparable independent schools in our region, and continue to represent a sound investment in your daughter’s future.

Strathcona is moving forward into the 21st century, embracing new educational ideas and technologies and is well positioned to meet the challenges of the future. I once again pay tribute to Mrs Hughes and her staff as well as my fellow Board members and look forward to continued collaboration with the School community. Best wishes to all for the coming holiday season and especially to the class of 2011 who make the transition from school to further life experience.

Dr Timothy J Day, Chairman
Old Strathconians’ Association

Twelve months ago, the OSA commissioned a Marketing Plan. This was undertaken with the support of the Strathcona Board, and was completed in March 2011. The data and information provided in the report have encouraged the OSA committee to proceed with a number of new initiatives and will provide a firm framework for us to build a successful future for the OSA within the wider Strathcona family.

At the Annual General Meeting in August, I was pleased to have the opportunity to thank the OSA Committee members. All are generous with their time and their expertise, and their dedication to the OSA is very much appreciated.

This year saw the retirement of Kate Hahn (‘01), who has been a member of the OSA Committee since 2007, and, at the end of 2011, Caroline Noble (‘92) will also step down. Caroline has provided dual service being both a past student and current staff member. I am grateful to both women for their contribution to the OSA and Strathcona over a number of years. Clare Gardner (‘06) has been elected to the OSA Committee and we look forward to having her on board into the future.

The OSA Reunion program has continued successfully during the year. Since the beginning of 2011, our Reunion venue has been the atrium area of the Creative and Performing Arts Centre. This is an excellent space, positioned just across from the newly refurbished swimming pool, which allows us to showcase the School facilities to our returning past students. The thorough work of Elisabeth Chalmers in the Community Relations Office ensures that these events are well organised and run smoothly, and again this year a number of members of the OSA have given their time to staff these events.

In addition to the 12 Melbourne-based reunions this year the OSA took advantage of Helen Hughes’ visit to London during her leave, and arranged for her to host a reunion of past students in London. This was a well-attended and very happy afternoon.

The OSA wish to acknowledge the year round support we receive from Mrs Hughes, and from Deputy Principal, Mrs Jenni Farmilo, both of whom find time in very busy schedules to attend OSA events, meetings and reunions on a regular basis.

In 2011, the OSA has supported a number of social and fundraising initiatives. In August, there was a day tour by bus to the Yarra Valley to visit a number of wineries. The group included past students of varying ‘vintages’, partners, current parents, past parents and friends and was a very enjoyable day.
The Strathcona Family Association (SFA) has three well established main income streams. They are the voluntary levy, the Second Hand Uniform (and badged goods) Shop and the annual Second Hand Book Sale. These sources are then supplemented by other fundraisers from time to time throughout the year. The SFA aims to contribute at least $20,000 to school programs and resources each year.

Our focus for 2011 has been to review events as they happen and seek ways to improve profitability without unduly increasing workloads. Improvements have included adding the voluntary levy to the progressive school fee payment system, new badged goods such as fabric aprons and golf umbrellas, and streamlining processes.

We continue with our financial and hands-on support of the Parents’ Soirée, Year 7 BBQ, Keys Please evening and annual Cross Country event, together with funding projects such as the pilot digital citizenship program, “iKeep Safe Generation Safe 360 Project”, more electronic whiteboards for Mellor House classrooms and new glassware for functions at Tay Creggan.

We were delighted to welcome school parent, Mr Andrew Greensmith, as guest speaker at our annual Christmas Luncheon at Tay Creggan last November. Andrew led the plastic surgery team involved in the successful separation of conjoined twins, Trishna and Krishna, at the Royal Children’s Hospital. The story of the challenges faced by both girls, their supporters, and the large number of people involved in the complex procedures, had the sell-out event attendees spellbound. Funds raised from the auction were donated to the Jigsaw Foundation, supporting families with children requiring such specialised surgery.

We are most appreciative of the support and advice from our Principal, Helen Hughes, and in her absence, Jenni Farmilo. Thank you also to the numerous members of staff who have attended meetings as guest speakers. Special thanks go to Elisabeth Chalmers in the Community Relations Office for her invaluable knowledge, planning, organising and support, and also to Diana Little for her support of SFA activities.

Although all parents of the School are in fact part of the Family Association, without the commitment and dedication of the core group, we would be unable to achieve what we do. Very special thanks to Edward Cohen, Jo Juler, Ernesta Ramsay, Sarah Merrylees, Helen Harrison, Gayle Gower, Anita Pisevski, Helen Katsoulis and those who can’t attend but keep in touch and...
88th annual report

respond to requests. With Ernesta’s younger daughter finishing Year 12 this year, we sincerely thank her for her work as SFA Treasurer, and welcome Carolyn Gelme to the role following the AGM.

On behalf of the SFA committee, we wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas season, and look forward to furthering the Association’s commitment to the School in 2012.

Di Gillies
President, Strathcona Family Association

Friends of Music

2011 has again been a busy and productive year for the Friends of Music, as we provided both practical and financial support to enhance the various music programs at Strathcona.

Significant events for the year began with catering for ‘Jazz on the Green’ in March, a relaxed day of music and picnics on the grass at Main School. The Friends of Music Annual Dinner in July, our major fundraising event for the year, was a great opportunity to hear many of our chamber groups and small choral groups perform in the beautiful hall at Tay Creggan during an enjoyable evening of fine food and good company.

Hot and cold drinks and delicious sweet treats were provided for the annual Music Concert held at Balwyn Theatre. We also thank Acorn Nursery and Bendigo Bank for their generous donations this year.

Friends of Kayaking

The Murray River Marathon over the New Year break again proved to be the showcase event over the last 12 months for the kayakers. Two teams competed in what were extreme conditions. On the back of the late wet season, the river was high with access limited to some flooded legs of the course and then there was a hot and high wind day which cancelled the last day of racing. Whilst a disappointing conclusion to the race, the event provided the challenge, experience and camaraderie kayaking promises.

We continued to successfully participate in events against other schools throughout the year, with many paddlers being highly placed in many events. Particularly pleasing was the high number of Year 8 girls participating in the open Aura Vale Lake event as new paddlers experiencing race conditions.

The committed crew of parents has continued to provide support to the club with ongoing fundraising and much needed club support on race and event days. They have also been able to purchase two new boats, maintain the existing fleet, supply the team with Strathcona branded kayak uniforms and generally participate to assist their daughters to be their best. It is appropriate to note the efforts of the committee members from last calendar year, in particular, the past President, Bob Testro, who provided an ever helpful and engaging leadership of the Club.

Happy Paddling…

Peter McNeil

Friends of Aerobics

2011 has indeed been another successful year for our Aerobics squad. This year, our group of 14 eagerly welcomed back Kate Nelson (who graduated last year) to coach the various teams. Kate had been a long standing participant in Aerobics throughout her time at Strathcona, as well as a consistently successful competitor. As she is currently embarking on a demanding University course in the performing arts, Circus Studies, Kate coaches our Aerobics squad on Saturday mornings in our new and improved gymnasium. This arrangement has worked out well for the girls who range from Year 7 students to our duo in Year 11.

Our teams have competed in a range of events throughout the period of June through to October. Each team has worked hard to perfect a polished Aerobic routine set to music. Special thanks must go to Ms Mary Petsinis who has overseen the Saturday morning sessions. Strathcona has enjoyed placings in every competition this year. Of particular note, three teams (a new record) qualified for the 2011 AEROskools National Championship, conveniently held in Victoria this year.

Qualifying for this event is a special achievement in itself, so it was with great excitement that two of the three teams took away medals! Our Level One Senior Duo received a Silver medal and our Level One Intermediate trio took Gold! What a fantastic result!

Caroline Noble

Friends of Kayaking

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After a term off, the new season of rowing began in July with about 50 rowers from Years 9, 10 and 11 continuing their Strathcona Rowing experience and about 25 Year 8 girls trying rowing for the first time. A highlight of Term 3 rowing was the Annual Strathy Regatta which was held on September 11th on a cool and challenging morning at Footscray. On the day, there were 93 rowers competing in 20 events. There were races for House Quad Crews, Double Sculls, Single Sculls and seven Parent Quad Crews. Over 200 people attended the regatta with Gilbert winning the House Cup for the first time, “In-Sink” taking out the men’s event and “The Fab Foar” winning the A Final of the ladies’ division. Our parent crews once again thoroughly enjoyed their rowing experience with many parents keen to train and compete again next year, whilst the House competition saw girls from Years 8 to 12 come together as one team. This in many ways epitomises what rowing at Strathcona is all about.

The Strathcona Rowing Squad was magnificently led through the 2010/2011 season by our Captain, Kate Vickery, and Deputy Captain, Genevieve Nenna. Through their contribution and leadership Kate and Gen helped make rowing a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all. Congratulations to Anna Cornwell and Tahlia Mollard for being appointed Captain and Deputy Captain for the upcoming season.

Strathcona Rowing is the envy of many other schools with its own facilities and jetty at Tay Creggan, and a fleet of nine quads, two double sculls and six single sculls provides our rowers with the chance to compete at their best in a range of boat classes. With these resources and a talented and committed coaching group of 12, Strathcona Rowing provides a unique opportunity for girls to participate in and experience a fantastic team sport.

Funds raised this year were used to support the Stage Band trip to Mt Gambier and the annual Strathcona Music Camp for all music students, to provide meals for ensemble students during special extended rehearsals, and for the purchase of new Christmas choral music. In keeping with our aim to also support worthy music-related causes in the wider community, a donation of $500 was sent to Rochester Primary School, north of Bendigo, to help replace music equipment lost during the devastating floods early this year.

A great sadness this year was the sudden and unexpected passing of inaugural Friends of Music member, Joy Buxton. Joy’s ongoing contribution over so many years to this group, including her work for many years as Treasurer, was characterised by boundless enthusiasm and meticulous attention to detail. She was a loving and gracious lady, and will be very sadly missed.

I would like to sincerely thank all the members of the FOM committee this year for their time and support, and welcome enquiries from any new parents who may be interested in joining the Committee or helping out at the various functions during 2012.

Finally, congratulations and thanks to the dedicated Music staff at Strathcona, so ably led by Georgina Nagy, and to the brilliant music-making students who have brought so much joy to us all throughout their fantastic performances this year.

Judy Pietsch

Friends of Rowing

The Head of the School Girls (HOSG) Regatta held on March 19th and 20th was the culmination of the fifth season of Strathcona Rowing. At the regatta, fifteen crews and one sculler (76 rowers) represented Strathcona with pride, and we achieved some very good results. The girls stayed in Torquay and 200 attended the HOSG dinner on the Saturday night. The weekend was a great success with many girls describing it as “the best weekend ever” and one that they will remember for many years to come. The Presentation Night on April 4th was a fitting celebration and acknowledgment of a great season with over 190 rowers and their family members attending.

After a term off, the new season of rowing began in July with about 50 rowers from Years 9, 10 and 11 continuing their Strathcona Rowing experience and about 25 Year 8 girls trying rowing for the first time. A highlight of Term 3 rowing was the Annual Strathy Regatta which was held on September 11th on a cool and challenging morning at Footscray. On the day, there were 93 rowers competing in 20 events. There were races for House Quad Crews, Double Sculls, Single Sculls and seven Parent Quad Crews. Over 200 people attended the regatta with Gilbert winning the House Cup for the first time, “In-Sink” taking out the men’s event and “The Fab Foar” winning the A Final of the ladies’ division. Our parent crews once again thoroughly enjoyed their rowing experience with many parents keen to train and compete again next year, whilst the House competition saw girls from Years 8 to 12 come together as one team. This in many ways epitomises what rowing at Strathcona is all about.

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Strathcona Rowing is going from strength to strength through the great support from Mrs Hughes, the generous contribution of the hardworking Friends of Rowing Group, the wonderful parent support and, most importantly, great enthusiasm from our squad of rowers. As we all work towards the HOSG Regatta on March 17th and 18th 2012, the sixth season of rowing at Strathcona is full of promise and excitement.

Michael Cornwell
Friends of Rhytmic Gymnastics

The Strathcona Rhythmic Gymnastics Club has had a terrific year. The club has many gymnasts ranging in age from 3 years to 17 years. They all train under the National Levels program and we have gymnasts in Levels 1 to 9. The girls train up to 10 hours a week.

The gymnasts have competed in many competitions during the year, including the Senior and Junior Victorian Championships, the Aussie Allstars competition, as well as our own Strathcona Cup. Four senior girls, including Cara Adamopoulos (Year 9) and Emma Morrison (Year 11), qualified to represent Victoria at the National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships and travelled to Perth during the July school holidays to compete.

The Strathcona Junior team came 1st in the Aussie Allstars team competition and the Senior team came 3rd. These were fantastic team results. Individual results were also great with many of our gymnasts medalling in the Victorian Junior and Senior Championships.

The younger gymnasts, including many in Pre-prep, have enjoyed learning new skills in their weekly classes. Many of the levels 1-3 gymnasts had their first experiences of competition at the Strathcona Junior Cup, our invitational competition held in June. This competition was a major fundraiser for the club and we had over 70 gymnasts competing on the day. Money raised has helped to fund the purchase of new equipment, as well as fund the coach’s travel to Perth for the Nationals competition.

The gymnasts are currently preparing for the Victorian Multiples Championships and learning new individual routines for 2012. They are also getting ready for the annual Rhythmic Gymnastics display and to perform in this year’s Presentation Night.

All this would not be possible without the coaches, and the Friends of Rhythmic Gymnastics would like to thank Laura Macintosh and the other coaches for their efforts in 2011. It has been a delight coaching with them.

Tiffany Kelly

Friends of Snowsports

The 2011 season commenced with our Information and Registration Evening which is held annually at the beginning of February.

The year was filled with opportunities to get together, with social evenings, a family weekend, dry land training, and the Victorian Interschools Competition. The year always concludes with our End of Season Presentation Dinner.

The Mt Hotham family weekend in July has become a favourite amongst the girls and their families and is always a pleasurable time for our group. This year was certainly no exception. The weekend always provides an opportunity for the girls to train and practise their skills and it has also become a unique family social weekend. Much appreciation is expressed to our past Friends of Snowsports family, the Pattersons – Alistair, Sally and Alex (2007 Captain of Snowsports) – who kindly organise the weekend every year.

The main event for the year was the 2011 Subaru Victorian Interschools Snowsports Championships held at Mt Buller, 21st-26th August. Over 150 schools competed this year with approximately 6,000 entries across seven disciplines. Competitors had the choice of Alpine Giant Slalom, Snowboard Giant Slalom, Boardercross, Skiercross, Moguls, Cross Country Classical and Cross Country Freestyle Relay.

Strathcona was proudly represented by Jodie Dunston (Captain), Evelyn Gomm (Vice Captain), Monique St Clair, Younghee Cho, Elisha Catlow, Shannon Griffiths, Jaimie Olerenshaw, Mikaela Kellaway, Annabel Kellaway, Emily Barrington, Tara Skelton and Tamryn Lovass.

May I take this opportunity to thank all involved with Friends on Snowsports in 2011 – our Captain, Vice Captain, the team of girls who competed in the Interschool Competition, their parents, our School Coordinator, Chris Phyland, and the fellow committee members, Lyndal Barrington and Deborah Griffiths, for another enjoyable year.

I would especially like to pay tribute to all the parents of the girls for their valuable support. Parent support and participation are imperative to the success of Friends of Snowsports.

At our End of Season Dinner, we sadly farewelled the Dunston family whose daughter, Jodie, has completed Year 12 this year. Jodie, Captain 2010-2011, will be missed by all the girls.
We now look forward to getting together again for a new and exciting 2012 Friends of Snowsports season. We would warmly welcome new families to join this friendly group.

*Catherine Catlow*

**Brownlow Committee**

On Monday, 26th September 2011, Strathcona hosted its 21st Annual Brownlow Medal Breakfast in the Medallion Club at Etihad Stadium with an attendance of almost 400 past and present school parents, business people and football fanatics from across Melbourne.

Strathcona’s Brownlow Medal Breakfast is widely recognised as the start to the Grand Final week celebrations and enjoys support of the AFL who provided us with the Cup for display. Once again, one of the original founders of the Breakfast, David Parkin, was in attendance. Our Master of Ceremonies was Terry Wallace and the panel consisted of Adrian Anderson (AFL Football Operations Manager), Travis Auld (CEO Goldcoast Football Club), Chyloe Kurdas (AFL Female Football Development Manager) and Susie Robinson (Executive Producer of ABC Grandstand). Greg Champion of the Coodabeens provided two very entertaining segments during the event.

This high profile event is a major fundraiser for Strathcona, raising this year approximately $25,000 for our School.

We were again pleased to donate the lucky ticket proceeds of $6,000 to Life Education Victoria.

We are extremely grateful to the sponsors of this event: Ocsober, Bendigo Bank, PMDL Architecture & Design, WOW! Travel, McConnell Dowell Constructors, Capital Finance, Fuji Xerox, Grant Day James, Marshall White and Adams Print.

Sincere thanks are extended to the 2011 Brownlow Breakfast Committee of Paul Wheelton, Brian Walsh, Michael Catlow, Lisa Fekete, Richard Sallows, Chris Phyland, Tim Kitchen and Diana Little for their networking contacts and commitment to making the event such a success.

*Elisabeth Chalmers*
The Community Relations Office plays a key role in networking within and beyond our School community, providing support for the School community groups and associations and enabling successful fundraising activities and parent functions.

The year began with a soirée held in February in the Creative and Performing Arts Centre to welcome new families to the School. An evening for Class Representatives was also held at the Principal’s home in March.

Support has been provided to the Friends Groups, the Strathcona Family Association, Class Representatives and the annual reunion program of the Old Strathconians Association. Thirteen reunions have been held and these have been vibrant and joyful occasions. Another initiative introduced by the OSA has been the formulation of *Best Recipes* which is a compilation of recipes from past and present students and families of Strathcona. The Community Relations Office will assist with the promotion of this publication.

Fundraising events included the Dinner Dance at Leonda on the Yarra in June and the 21st Brownlow Medal Breakfast at Etihad Stadium Medallion Club in September. All of the funds raised from these events have contributed significantly to various improvements within the School.

We sincerely thank the Dinner Dance Committee consisting of Susan Fetherston and Suzanne Hunt, with assistance from Gayle Gower, and the Brownlow Medal Breakfast Committee consisting of Paul Wheelton, Michael Catlow, Lisa Fekete, Brian Walsh, Richard Sallows, Chris Phyland, Tim Kitchen and the many staff and student volunteers who worked so tirelessly to ensure each event ran smoothly and successfully.

The second gathering of the The Feliciter Connection was held on 30th April with author, journalist and feminist, Anne Summers as the guest speaker. Approximately 70 past staff and interested friends joined together for dinner at Tay Creggan. The visit of Anne Summers attracted much press coverage and during her visit she also spoke at the assemblies of Years 9 to 12. The soup lunch in November was also well attended. The next function in 2012 will be the Annual Dinner on Saturday, 21st April.
The relationships built through the Community Relations Office with school families have assisted in many areas of school life, including the sourcing of host families for interstate and overseas exchange students.

The June and December editions of the *Strathcourier* continue to be produced within the Community Relations Office. These publications keep the past and present School community up to date with the activities of the School. Very positive feedback and emails of appreciation are regularly received from those who enjoy reading the publication.

The committee for the 2012 Fair to be held on Saturday 24th March has reconvened and is meeting regularly to organise the event.

We extend our grateful thanks to all who have contributed to the Community Relations Office in many ways in 2011. It is always enjoyable to host the end of year Volunteers Cocktail Party to thank the many parents who have given their time to assist at the School in so many ways throughout the year.

*Elisabeth Chalmers & Diana Little*
Enrolments at Strathcona are strong – reflecting the School’s reputation in its many activities, with a special emphasis on consistently outstanding VCE results. Enrolments are the life of any school and while Strathcona continues to have strong numbers it can be assured of a very bright and prosperous future. At the same time, there is no room for complacency and the School will continue to place a strong emphasis on the quality of its offerings and marketing policies and activities.

School tours are a vital component of the marketing strategy for private schools and Strathcona is committed to an extensive program to attract prospective families and students. We have a great story to tell – about our School, our teachers and, most importantly, our students.

During 2011, eight school tours were conducted allowing families to visit the Early Learning Centre, Junior Year 9 and Senior campuses. The Saturday morning tours were extremely popular and provided an excellent opportunity for families to tour the facilities and meet both staff and students. The two mid-week Open Mornings in May and July were extremely well attended. They provided wonderful opportunities to see Strathcona ‘at work’ and experience the strong sense of community amongst the staff and students. On the scholarship/tours morning in March, Mrs Helen Hughes addressed a capacity crowd of prospective families followed by tours and morning tea.

The opening of the renovated Aquatic & Fitness Centre has provided a showcase new facility alongside the very popular Creative & Performing Arts Centre. Both facilities draw very positive reactions from prospective families.
In response to competition within the private school sector, the Marketing Committee has pursued a vigorous marketing campaign during 2011. The Committee has met regularly to consider strategies to promote the School. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, *The Age*, *Melbourne Weekly Magazine*, *The Weekly Review* and other selected publications and guides. To showcase our students, a number of stories have appeared in various media outlets highlighting the many individual and team successes of Strathcona students. Many parents have commented on the positive image of the School portrayed through the media.

Throughout the year, significant work has been devoted to the preparation of a new prospectus for the School. It is hoped that the new prospectus will be launched at the end of the year. The new document will be supported by a number of brochures on the various sections of the School. The prospectus is a strong marketing tool and reflects the strengths, goals and ethos of Strathcona.

*Joanne Wilson*
Daily organisation of staff and students, policies and planning

One of my favourite quotations is, ‘life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.’ One might not think that I would experience such moments under the above heading, but I have such wonderful moments every day.

I have the great privilege to help lay the solid foundation that we have at Strathcona for teaching and learning. The best possible educational outcome for both staff and students underpins all the administration and planning that is undertaken.

Policies and procedures are constantly being reviewed and updated and this year saw the continuation of that process. Occupational Health & Safety and compliance requirements have also been scrutinised in accordance with regulations. Most recently, we have worked with consultants to ensure our emergency procedures and critical incident arrangements are current and applicable.

Technology continues to support both pedagogy and policies and procedure. The use of Blackboard has been upgraded this year and continues to support the implementation of curriculum. Responsible digital citizenship is an area that demands our greatest scrutiny, and, as a staff, we have been diligent in examining the latest research as it pertains to education both now and in the future.

More extensive use of technology to support the pastoral network of the School has proven to be a tremendous asset. The use of text messages for unexplained absences has been trialled and will be used for the Senior School in 2012. This year, we have expanded the online booking system to all major events. The senior girls have also voted online for their peers who will accept the mantle of leaders 2012.

The professional development of the staff continues to be a priority, and this ensures that current research and best practice underpins all teaching and learning. The staff are very appreciative of the Principal’s support and encouragement in this vital area.

All these tools enable the staff to offer an extensive and broad curriculum for the students to enjoy.

A thorough and productive review of Year 9 has been undertaken and a very exciting curriculum and program will be implemented in 2012. Reviews, research, professional growth and planning all contribute to make Strathcona such a vibrant learning community.
The dedication of the staff is outstanding, as is the commitment and dedication of the students. By supporting each other the staff and students enjoy a relationship that is quite unique to Strathcona. This sense of commitment and community is a hallmark of our School, and I consider myself blessed to be a part of such a school.

Moments that take my breath away come in interesting, and at times, unexpected spaces in my day. I am most grateful for the support and guidance of Helen Hughes, our Principal, and to my colleagues for making each day so enjoyable. In closing I would also like to thank the girls for their many kindnesses and especially the Year 12 girls who have led with maturity and a great sense of fun and enthusiasm.

**Jenni Farmilo**

**Business Administration**

**Administration and Business Office**

The excellent Administration and Business Office staff at Strathcona provide ongoing support for not only the Principal, the School Board, teaching staff and students, but they are also actively involved in supporting the parents, parent groups and the wider community of Strathcona.

The Business Office staff work diligently throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of the School’s financial and administrative processes. Enhancements to these processes during 2011 have included the introduction of a Child Care Benefit processing system for primary school students using before and after school care and the upgrading of the School’s administration computer system and processes.

**Property and Grounds**

Early 2011 saw the finishing touches to the Aquatic & Fitness Centre renovation taking place, including the installation of a solar pool water heating system. The official opening ceremony was held on March 17th with guest of honour, Joyce Brown OAM, and past Principal, Ken Lyall OAM, who dedicated the Centre.

Tay Creggan’s main oval was refurbished over the summer holidays and into Term 1. The oval was laser-levelled and a new irrigation system was installed and connected to the underground rain water tank. A new hardier variety of grass specifically grown for multi-purpose sporting fields was sown.

Tay Creggan also had a new internet link installed with faster broadband connection that commenced operation at the end of Term 1.

At the Canterbury senior campus, air conditioning of the Year 7 and 8 centres was installed during Term 1. During the Term 2 holiday break, air conditioning of the adjoining Hopkins Building classrooms, offices and the Advanced Learning Centre occurred.

**School Board**

Part of the Business Manager’s role is to support and assist the School Board and its subcommittees. Planning of the long-term future of the school facilities continued in 2011 with the preparation and approval by the School Board of a Facilities Master Plan 2011-2022. The first major project of the Master Plan is the renovation of Featherstone Hall. Our Architects have undertaken extensive consultation with the Principal and staff and preliminary plans are now being costed and assessed by the Finance and Property subcommittees of the School Board.

Staff consultation has been a key factor in successful preparation of concept plans for a New Learning Centre on the senior campus. This is a longer term project and is still in the concept stage but it promises to give Strathcona an exciting future.

I thank the Administration and Business Office staff and the Property and Maintenance team, ably led by Adrian Ammerlaan, for their hard work and diligence.

**Richard Sallows**

**Curriculum/Professional Development**

**Curriculum Development**

“In times of profound change, the learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.” Al Rogers

Curriculum is continually evolving. It must for learning to stay fresh; to be current in what is considered important for
preparing young minds for the future; to meet the changing demands in the economy, technology and society; and to incorporate changes in understanding about how people learn.

2011 has seen the introduction of SEED (Seek, Engage, Enrich, Diversify) at Years 7 and 8. Units have run for 6 to 12 weeks including topics exploring depictions of space and time, designing spaces, the depiction of women in sport in the media, and many more. Students have explored topics that don’t readily appear in traditional discipline areas through an inquiry approach with significant opportunities for creativity and development of thinking skills. The generous grant that we received from the Invergowrie Foundation has helped to cover the cost of classroom materials and supported the attendance of several of the teachers of SEED at the excellent Hawker Brownlow Teaching and Learning Conference in May.

At Years 7 and 8, ICT and Information Literacy have been integrated into the whole curriculum so that students learn the skills in context and when they have an opportunity to apply them. This has been enhanced by the class sets of MacBooks at each level that have been a marvellous support for student learning, along with the introduction of new interactive whiteboards in some rooms.

We have continued our involvement with the de Bono Institute through the Think Plus program, which has exposed us to the research of Carol Dweck regarding mindsets and Edward de Bono’s classic Six Thinking Hats. The mindsets that we promote in our students, both as teachers and parents, have a profound influence on their learning. The research shows that students are very sensitive to the feedback they receive. In particular, praise that acknowledges the effort behind a success (it must have taken a lot of work to achieve that) supports the learning predisposed Growth mindset, while praise acknowledging intelligence (you are so smart) promotes the Fixed mindset, which has a tendency to impede learning.

The Year 9 Review team, drawing on extensive consultation and research, completed their review of the curriculum at Tay Creggan. A program that has several new features has been developed to commence in 2012. This builds on all of the great features of Tay Creggan and includes more utilisation of the location of the campus and access to the City. The new I-Learning Program, with its four learning channels spread over six weeks, will feature prominently as will outdoor education, health education and the arts. The Year 9 program has also been chosen for our next stage of utilising iPads within the School.

The new Australian Curriculum is also influencing our curriculum as we move towards meeting its goals, particularly at this stage in the disciplines of English, Mathematics, Science and History. Geography, the Arts and Languages will be the focus of the next stage of development.

NAPLAN

Both our VCE and NAPLAN results have continued to demonstrate that Strathcona is providing a successful learning environment for our students. NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) assesses students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This testing provides parents with some feedback on how their daughters have performed in literacy and numeracy compared with other students in the State. These reports were sent home in September. The data provided by these tests provides the School with some very powerful information that can help us to better understand the needs of individual students and where we might refine our learning programs to improve student learning. The results should be seen as a snapshot of performance on the day of the test and not an indication of a student’s potential. On average, our students perform approximately one year above the average score for students in the State. The data also reinforces our focus on differentiation as the range of achievement on the tests is quite broad. Analysis of the NAPLAN data for those students who have been at Strathcona for two testing periods reveals a general trend of strong growth, particularly in students performing at the lower levels of performance. Our approach at Strathcona is to make use of the extra diagnostic data that the tests provide. We also believe, as research supports, that a broad curriculum is advantageous in developing literacy and numeracy skills in all students, and that it is not just in English and Mathematics that these skills are learnt and reinforced.
Professional Learning

Students are the focus of learning in schools but they are not the only learners. We all continue to learn and are engaged in our own education, both formally and informally throughout life. We are lifelong learners. Teachers as professionals need to be continually stimulated and updated with new skills and knowledge about their subject disciplines, about the way young people learn and about new technologies.

This learning is achieved in several ways, including professional reading, participation in professional networks, training days, guest speakers, attendance at conferences and sharing with colleagues.

In 2011, we have had a number of guest speakers for the staff at Strathcona, including Jan Sherry, continuing to answer our questions on the Teachers’ Code of Conduct, Robyn Treyvaud as part of our extensive work on Digital Citizenship, a number of presenters on the use of interactive whiteboards, work with hearing impaired students and in-servicing on Microsoft Office, CPR, Anaphylaxis and assessment in English.

We have also had an extensive program of internal professional learning, drawing on the skills of our staff who have provided sessions for others on a large range of skills, including data-logging, Global Information Systems (GIS), vocabulary building, MS Office products, Apple iWork products, Garageband, Photoshop, Interactive Whiteboards, Prezi and many others. A group of us have developed our understanding and implementation of thinking tools and skills through the Think Plus Community of Practice and many have participated in trialling iPads. A team of Year 9 teachers for 2012, who will be key in the planning and facilitating of the I-Learning program, engaged in professional learning involving team building, the Hermann’s Whole Brain model and the curriculum planning model ‘backwards by design’.

Conferences and dedicated sessions by external providers also feature strongly in the professional learning program of our staff, including the Hawker Brownlow Teaching and Learning Conference, the AHISA Senior Staff in Schools conference, the ACEL Conference and several subject specific conferences including History, Science, Mathematics and Information Technology. The full list is too long to include here, but reflects not only the extent of formal learning that our staff are engaged in, but also the breadth and depth of networking that occurs.

Several of our staff have presented at conferences or delivered professional development sessions for external organisations including Charlotte Forwood, Mary Hall, Tracy Herft, Helen Hughes, Tim Kitchen, Kimberley Moor, Ross Phillips, Christopher Phyland and David Young.

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Key

- Yellow: Strathcona
- Blue: State
- Green: 25th percentile
- Blue: Median
- Yellow: 75th percentile
- Green: 10th percentile
- Blue: 90th percentile
Easter Service; Building Bridges Program; Foundation Day Service with Tanya Pell (2002 leaver)
Safe system combines content with process and provides our School with the skills and resources needed for students and staff to be both suitably connected and protected within the School community and beyond.

Pastoral Care is very much a team approach, with many layers of support for the girls. All staff support and encourage every student to grow and develop in all areas of their lives – physical, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual – to become caring and responsible members of the community.

Each year level of girls is monitored, nurtured and encouraged by one of our dedicated Year Coordinators, who work very closely with the Form Tutors to make sure the individual needs of each girl are met. The Year coordinators oversee and help deliver the pastoral programs to the girls, including their year level camp. Our team of Coordinators consists of some staff taking on the role for the first time this year, but they have managed the challenge superbly. Miranda Gazis at Year 8, and Julie Plymin at Year 11 have moved into their respective roles comfortably, and other experienced staff at other year levels have continued to lead their teams and support the girls: Scott Pannam at Year 12, Mark Hamilton at Year 10, Geoff Wriedt at Year 9 and Yvette Egonidis at Year 7. Our School Psychologist, Kerri Rhodes, our Chaplain, Rhonda Burns, and the Leader of Advanced Learning, Charlotte Forwood, also provide support, counselling and testing when required to further enhance the development of our girls.

I personally would like to thank our Pastoral Team for all that they do to provide a caring and nurturing environment for all of our students.

Terri Oprean
Chaplaincy, Christian Education and Liberal Studies

Christian Education permeates Strathcona and creates a well-founded understanding of Christianity. This year, Mellor House was privileged to enjoy Mrs Bronwyn Arnott’s Christian Education classes where she provided the children with an appreciation of the love of God and their relationship to the world and each other. At Tay Creggan the girls have ably investigated religious life in Australian society. They have enjoyed inspirational speakers from Crossway Baptist Church...
and many girls have volunteered to participate in Community Service activities. At main campus, students developed a greater awareness of the ways religious beliefs can be applied to their daily experiences. This was particularly evident in the Worship Assemblies where students enthusiastically participated. The Building Bridges Program continues to provide a platform for interfaith dialogue, bringing together students of Christian, Jewish and Islamic faith. Several Year 10 girls embraced this opportunity and established friendships and a good understanding of different religious beliefs and rituals.

At the Foundation Day Service early in the year, past student, Tanya Pell (2002), spoke about her teaching in the remote Aboriginal community of the Amata Anangu. During the Easter Service, School Captain, Melissa Allan, spoke about the significance of Easter and the music students contributed compositions that were most memorable. We look forward to the Strathcona Carol Service, providing an opportunity for our School family to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus and to contemplate the hope His presence offers all people.

During the year, the girls consistently embraced the teaching of Christ to care for the disadvantaged. In a generous manner, their fundraising efforts have significantly supported such groups as: Australians affected by floods; the School of St Jude in Tanzania; the 40 Hour Famine and the work of Dr Shirin David, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, with International Needs, India.

The past year has unveiled moments of gladness and sorrow. There have been times of academic and professional success as well as shared times of sadness, when collectively and privately we prayed for those experiencing sorrow. All in all, the experiences of 2011 have united us as a community and there has always been the quiet confidence that with God all things do work together for a higher good.

Rhionda Burns

VCE

Year 12 students achieved some outstanding results in 2010 and these results included a number of exceptional individual performances. An overview of VCE results shows that 5.8% of girls attained an ATAR of 99 or higher, 47.1% of ATAR scores were over 90 and 61.5% were over 80. The median study score was 35.

The exceptional individual results were evident in the eleven study scores of 50. These were achieved in English (4), Food Technology (2), Chemistry, Drama, Further Mathematics, Specialist Mathematics and History - Revolutions. The 23.9% of study scores of 40 or over is also a reflection of the wonderful success of the class of 2010. As Dux of the School, Vanessa Wong attained a perfect score in Chemistry and Specialist Mathematics, results that contributed to her ATAR of 99.9. Vanessa has gone on to study Medicine/Surgery at Monash University. Laura McKinnon and Rosemary Byth who have gone on to study Biomedicine and Arts/Law, respectively, obtained other excellent results.

As a member of the Inner Melbourne VET (Vocational Education and Training) Cluster, some girls have benefited greatly from the opportunity to undertake courses not offered at the School. These studies have included Applied Fashion and Design and Community Recreation. The School has hosted VET courses in Hospitality and Interactive Digital Media. With a practical competency basis for assessment, these studies have broadened the understanding of potential career paths available to students.

It has once again been a pleasure to work with students and parents in determining VCE selection.

Dr Vicki Treidel

Junior School

The energy and enthusiasm of students in Mellor House surrounded much of the learning activity over the year. Teachers help generate an environment where children are encouraged to explore, take risks and learn. I am pleased to report that we have, in Mellor House, an environment where learning is supported by caring and dedicated professionals, a solid and challenging curriculum, parents who value education and a group of children who are willing to explore the world with a positive mindset.

Teachers have participated in a range of professional development experiences to further their understanding about learning and, therefore, better inform their teaching and work with our students. All staff worked with an external consultant this year on this special area of focus examining the assessment. By assessing student achievement in greater detail, we are better able to structure a curriculum for them that accurately caters to their needs.
As usual, our students accessed some wonderful experiences outside of the classroom. Camps, excursions and external competitions across a range of curriculum areas enriched the learning taking place at school. Teaching staff actively sought challenging and stimulating activities for their students - as individuals and in larger groups. In the basics of everyday learning, I am pleased to report that in the areas of English, Integrated Studies and Mathematics, our students are achieving very high levels. Some of our students receive individual support from the Curriculum Extension staff who ensured that the children in their care were supported towards achieving their individual goals.

The use of information and communication technologies in educationally sound ways greatly assists student engagement and learning. Staff and students learnt new ways to use technology in and out of the classroom. Some of our Year 4 students were rewarded for their work in an external animation competition, winning for our school a number of video cameras.

Kathy Walker was a guest speaker at a parent evening and spoke about the development of resilience and self-esteem in our children. She challenged some of the common behaviours of families and schools and questioned the impact we are having on our children.

Student leadership opportunities are provided in formal and informal ways at every year level. Whether it be in an ELC class as the daily ‘Leader’ or more formally as School Captain, our students are exposed to situations where skills of leadership are provided and modelled. In Term 4, we worked with the Year 5 students to prepare them for being Year 6 and School leaders next year. Many of the formal leadership positions were decided this year in readiness for the start of 2012.

Looking outward to support those in need was, again, a priority for our students, often led by our Social Service Captains. We supported with funds and gifts a number of organisations who work in the fields of homelessness, overseas child sponsorship and cancer research.

I thank all Mellor House staff for their dedication to the children’s learning and wellbeing this year.

*Chris Phyland*
This year has again been an uplifting experience on many fronts. The supportive and caring environment that exists at Tay Creggan allows the students to explore their personal characteristics and capabilities, identify their learning strengths and recognise areas for continued improvement. It is most pleasing to hear from parents that their child is actively looking forward to returning to school when absent due to illness or a holiday. When this is happening, we know that the formula is correct!

A major aspect of the Year 9 program has been the Wednesday Extension Studies program which focuses on developing personal and inter-personal skills. Students are encouraged to accept responsibility for managing their time and resources effectively to complete set tasks. Working in groups, they have initiated ideas and negotiated appropriate courses of action to achieve their goals. With almost unlimited access to information, it has become very important for students to develop skills which enable them to analyse carefully and think critically in order to help them make sense of the issues dealt with.

The projects undertaken are Video Technology, Robotics, Discovering Democracy, Outdoor Education and Design and Construction. The last has been wonderfully adapted this year by Ms Close enabling the girls to design and create a piece of artwork that is erected for a 3-week period in locations around Tay Creggan. These ‘installations’ have been thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Discovering Democracy project, under the guidance of Mrs Bromby, is specifically designed to challenge students to investigate a human rights issue in depth and understand the importance of active citizenship. The girls develop many skills during this project, as well as an awareness of world and local issues.

The Panel Presentations have provided the students with structured opportunities to reflect on their project with an emphasis on the skills developed, progress made and strategies applied. These occasions have also provided a vehicle for students to showcase their project work from the Extension Program, while also involving the wider School community. I am most appreciative of the time and talents parents and other staff have given to making these occasions so useful for the girls. All parents who have taken part in the ‘Panel’ have greatly appreciated the experience and are impressed by the professionalism and quality of the presentations.

The cross-country ski camp at Falls Creek was again a most successful event. The girls were incredibly supportive of each other as they faced the challenges of Nordic skiing. All developed their confidence and skills during the camp which was also frequently interspersed with much fun and laughter. Ms Woods led a volunteer group of girls for an overnight snow camping experience and all returned energised by the experience.

There were numerous Social Service events run this year, ably led by the Social Service Captains. These activities have helped the students gain a better understanding of the contributions they can make to their community. The girls had the annual Anti-cancer Fun Run, held stalls and baked cakes, sewed toiletry bags for a women’s refuge and assisted with removing graffiti in the local area.

I am continually amazed by the energy and enthusiasm the Year 9 girls exhibit. In academic fields they have participated in Mathematics, Science, Geography, LOTE and Creative Writing competitions, as well as attending holiday Science programs. Other activities on the Year 9 calendar have included debating, music, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards Program, the water based activities of the kayaking and rowing groups, the Inter-form, Inter-house and Inter-school Sports during every term of the year. The dancing class program was again enthusiastically supported and the final night presentation saw the girls displaying their dancing skills with their fathers who, no doubt, relished the opportunity to display their dancing skills as well!

I commend all the House Captains and Drama Captains for their leadership skills, particularly with the Dance and Drama Festival. They faced the challenge of organising numerous rehearsals throughout the term which culminated in a spectacular production on the night.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my second year at Tay Creggan and gratefully thank the hardworking, enthusiastic and supportive staff who form the ‘family’ environment here at this campus and have made it possible for Tay Creggan to be the productive and cohesive community it has been during 2011.

Geoff Wriedt
Information Resources

A popular clip on YouTube tells the story of Luis Soriano Bohorquez, a teacher in Colombia, who has devoted his life to bringing books to children via his Biblioburro – his donkey library. Carrying up to 120 books at a time and travelling eight hours a journey with Alfa his loyal donkey, he brings reading materials to those with no books at home and no access to a library. "A child that we educate today with the Biblioburro, is a child to whom we are teaching rights, duties and commitments," Luis says.

Such dedication is humbling indeed and reminds us, whether it is in the form of a traditional or an electronic book, whether it is on the back of a donkey or accessed by the internet, of the power of knowledge to transform lives.

The work of the Strathcona Information Resource Centre across three libraries – Senior School, Mellor House and Tay Creggan – has as its objective to develop content, services and environments that are responsive to the range of needs of students from Prep to Year 12 and of all staff in all areas of the School. This means that the whole gamut of resource types needs to be made available. Fiction, picture story books, talking books and graphic novels are here to stimulate imaginations. Participation in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, a Book Fair, Reading Kits, Mystery Reading Boxes, on-the-spot reviews and colourful displays ensure that we have a rich collection to encourage beginning readers and entice independent readers to extend their reading horizons even further. The Bronte Club, under the leadership of our Student Leader of Information Resources, Jessica Donaghey of Year 12, has also been a significant part of the reading culture of the School.

Non-fiction, reference books and journals satisfy the thirst for information for assignments and projects, while audio-visual resources mean that the visual as well as the linguistic learner is catered for. A major emphasis in 2011 has been on the
acquisition of ebook resources, be they via online access or files available over the School network. Although often more expensive than hard copy, many e-books provide anywhere, anytime, unlimited access to specialist resources carefully selected for their relevance to, and support of, the ongoing curriculum. Over the course of the year, Kindle, Kobo and iPad e-book readers have been trialled to evaluate their effectiveness in bringing learning materials to staff and students.

At the same time, a networked computer bay, a bank of laptops, digital cameras, digital microphones and DVD recording and burning facilities ensure that there is ready access to the digital tools with which Net Gen students are so comfortable and that are now such an integral part of learning. Provision and support of data projectors and interactive whiteboards in classrooms are also part of the School’s commitment to technology. With a variety of learning spaces from computer bay, to seminar/tutorial rooms, to a private study area, a creative commons and recreational reading spaces, all with connectivity to the wireless network, the SIRC is able to accommodate full classes, small groups and individuals in both collaborative and personal learning contexts. Such spaces will become increasingly important as knowledge becomes more interdisciplinary, learning more collaborative and classrooms more virtual.

Spread as we are across a hybrid print and digital world, a library, a resource centre, an information centre, a learning centre or commons - call it what you will - is, in terms of its resources, services and spaces, a concrete and symbolic heart of learning. Acting as an essential portal to local and global information, developing the skills necessary to navigate the digital world confidently and responsibly, encouraging learners to take the intellectual initiative in their investigations and explorations, the SIRC strives to establish our students as assured citizens in the realm of knowledge, a goal we share with Luis Soriano Bohorquez and his donkey, whose eloquent story resonates with us all.

We thank the dedicated team of the SIRC - Mrs Dunoon, Mr van Ree, Mrs Joyce, Mrs Spasov, Mrs Waldron, Ms McAuliffe and Mr Campbell (Terms 1 and 2) - whose shared commitment to the ideals and goals of the SIRC has meant that the three Strathcona libraries have made a vibrant contribution to the life of the School in 2011.

Mary Hall

88th annual report

Information Technology

2011 has certainly marked a year of changes for the Information Technology resources at Strathcona. Earlier this year an overall ICT Review was completed to help identify areas of improvement for the School’s network and services infrastructure. Out of the review an action list provided core critical areas for focus and development. Many of these items have now been addressed, providing a more resilient foundation for the requirements we may face ahead.

As part of a number of new initiatives undertaken, there have been approximately 100 new Apple MacBooks deployed for staff and almost 200 new Apple MacBooks for students. Most of the MacBooks were purchased through the Government Digital Education Revolution 1:1 Grant program, the remainder replacing end-of-lease laptops. Fourteen new Eco Green notebook trolleys were also purchased to secure these new MacBooks.

To ensure seamless operation with Microsoft Active Directory and complete integration between Microsoft Windows and Apple OSX operating systems, the School’s Apple Mac Server was rebuilt from the ground up and incorporated new management utilities for automatic software and updates deployment. Additional management utilities were also installed to assist in preparing new computers throughout the School.

A new Cisco Adaptive Security Device (firewall) was also installed replacing the existing Cisco PIX firewall (also as part of the DER 1:1 infrastructure grant). Along with the firewall upgrade, both Tay Creggan and the Main School internet services were upgraded to fibre connections through ISNet. This upgrade also saw the provisioning of our own Virtual Private Network (VPN) connecting Main School and Tay Creggan allowing resources to be shared (securely) between both sites.

In July this year, Mr David Young was appointed as the Director of IT Services and began the process of planning and developing the future direction of the IT infrastructure and services. Identifying both the business and curriculum needs and how the IT resources need to align to meet these, along with strategic goals and other imminent curriculum requirements (such as the integration of iPads into Year 9) will provide some exciting times ahead.

With all the preparation work undertaken, 2011 was the year a new email system was deployed throughout the School. Microsoft Exchange 2010 was brought online for the start of Term 4. Staff were the first to enjoy the new capabilities of the system. The students will be connected over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.
Production Workshop, which was attended by students from several schools in the area.

In 2011, one of the two Year 7 Da Vinci Decathlon teams won their regional final and competed in the State Final, where they finished 2nd in Science and Creative Producers, and 9th overall. Congratulations to Francesca Coloretti, Eleanor Forwood, Lauren Geremia, Nicola Gilevitis, Bronte Hough, Alexandra Linehan, Briana Pappalardo, Elinor Riley and Madison Sorrenti for their fantastic effort. Late in Term 3, two teams of Year 7 students competed in Airline Online, a simulation activity, at Camberwell Grammar School. Teams were required to set up and manage an airline, as well as compete against other airlines for market share. At the end of a strenuous day, the team consisting of Eleanor Forwood and Annabel Marks managed to win the award for the most successful airline, ‘Up Over’.

Strathcona once again entered both Junior and Secondary Maths Olympiad teams with the Year 7 team run by the Maths Department and the Junior Team run by Mrs Forwood, Mrs Dominique Honrado and Ms Annie Shannon. The Junior team increased its overall score from 2010, which is a great effort. The excitement and engagement in the maths problem solving training sessions was always delightful to observe. Maths extension is offered to students across all year levels in Mellor House. Mrs Honrado and Mr Phyland ran the Maths Talent Quest this year with several students receiving high distinctions. Mellor House has also hosted and participated in G.A.T.E.ways programs.

The Advanced Learning Centre continues to develop its resources and programs across Mellor House and the Senior School. The Centre purchased an interactive whiteboard for Mellor House, which has been in constant use for delivering multi-sensory programs. Two iPads were purchased for the integration aides at the start of the year to assist with note-taking in class. This has resulted in a more efficient use of aide time. The Centre also has a bank of four MacBook laptops and four iPads which have been used with enthusiasm by the students and staff. The opportunity to use tactile equipment has helped students to develop their understandings across a range of areas.

In 2012 the Advanced Learning Centre intends to continue to
develop its support of teachers, with a focus on differentiating the curriculum and the development of subject specific vocabulary across all year levels. There will also be a focus on Science enrichment tasks in Mellor House. The Advanced Learning Centre will continue to assist with developing students’, teachers’ and parents’ understandings of how we learn, with an emphasis on the latest research and its implications for teaching and learning.

Charlotte Forwood and Carolyn King

Careers

The careers program at Strathcona is multi-targeted. Students at Strathcona in Years 9 to 12 have access to Careers Education and individual counselling within formal programs, as well as on a needs basis as and when these arise. All students are able to access the Careers Room resources which include written material; brochures and books as well as career exploration software.

Initially, students in the middle years are encouraged to reflect on what interests them and to critically analyse what personal attributes they may possess and ways they may develop those attributes that are not as strong. This is the beginning of the process that will lead them into the subject selection for the VCE where the focus will then move to identifying study and work opportunities that may prove a good fit, considering the interests they have previously identified.

This process is not always easy and many young people will continue on this voyage of discovery after they leave school. I think this is important for young people to understand, so that they embrace the opportunities that further education can provide to discover what really interests them. Universities are increasingly developing programs that address the students’ need to identify further study and career plans. Melbourne University has promoted their ‘Next Steps Month’ which offers a range of opportunities for current students to receive advice and attend seminars designed to assist them in navigating their way through their course and identifying opportunities as graduates.

In 2011, Year 9 students have been briefed on the Work Experience Program for June 2012. They are also receiving OH&S training as a legal requirement before taking a work placement. I consider it vital that students put time and effort into securing a meaningful work experience placement. They need to be proactive and approach preferred employers early to maximise their chances of being accepted.

We continue to run the ‘My Future’ program in Year 10 where the girls have had opportunities to explore their own skills and potential career pathways. They have been guided through challenges such as résumé writing, job applications and mock interviews. A further focus of the program has been the development of generic skills and the importance of these in the employment market now and in the future. Work Experience for many of these girls was very rewarding, and gave them the chance to be treated as adults with genuine work expectations. The very real benefit is for students to experience some of the routines of work, types of work and, for some, a snapshot of what work is like in a particular profession or job. The School is grateful to the many employers who continue to provide these opportunities for our students.

The Morrisby testing is now an established part of the Year 10 program and provides an important resource for the girls and their families to use when considering the subject choices at VCE level. Feedback from parents has been very positive and the report will provide an ongoing reference point when navigating the VCE years and beyond.

Students in Years 11 and 12 have had many opportunities to attend careers events throughout the year. Events included the Careers Expo early in the year, seminars at universities, Open Days in August and Information Sessions at School. These have involved staff from various universities speaking to small groups of girls about programs they offer in areas such as Business and Commerce, Science, Arts, Design and Health. These were all well attended by our girls and an important opportunity for them to hear from those directly involved in their interest areas. In June, the Year 12 girls attended a Tertiary Information afternoon at Deakin University which included a performance by a group of students from the University about the transition from school to tertiary study and strategies to help in the settling-in process. It was very entertaining and raised a number of important issues that may confront students next year and beyond. We also sent five Year 11 students to a Finance Seminar in August, which was offered for the first time this year as an initiative of the business community, encouraging young women to consider a career in this area.

Graduating students from 2010 found placements in a range of tertiary courses such as Health Science, Business and Commerce, Arts and Media, Science, Art and Design, Law and Education. The vast majority of girls (88%) received an offer of Yeah 10 Work Experience in dentistry
one of their first two preferences. Many have opted for generalist degrees providing a flexible course structure and a range of specialist options at a later stage. Some have taken double degrees to gain a broad base for future employment. Others deferred courses to travel or work.

As a parent of a 2010 graduate, I have experienced the transition process from school to tertiary education first-hand. It is a big change and there are many issues the girls need to grapple with, some depending upon the course and institution. Making friends and feeling a sense of belonging, keeping informed and knowing where and how to find information, developing the self-discipline to meet deadlines without being reminded, managing finances and keeping to a budget are all things I have observed my daughter coming to terms with. It is a challenging time and hopefully one which lays down the foundations for a rich and rewarding life.

Finally, good luck to our Year 12 students as they await their results in December and the offers period early next year.

Mark Duncan

International students

International education in Australia has faced many challenges in recent years. Despite this, Australia is a major global player in international education and a world leader through teaching and learning.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of a significant event – the introduction of the Full Fee-paying International Student Program in Australia. Strathcona supports this program and currently has 21 full fee-paying International students from China in Years 10 to 12. China is still the predominant country from where our students come. Students attend a language school undertaking a 20 week course before they commence at Strathcona.

During the year there have been many highlights: Chinese New Year is the most important event in the Asian community in Australia and overseas as it brings families together. It is always recognised by our International students. This year, a PowerPoint presentation was given by Alicia Liu, our International Student Leader, at a Senior School assembly on aspects of Chinese culture during the New Year celebrations – foods, social activities and the Chinese zodiac (its symbolism) and the significance of the animals; “The Year of the Rabbit” in 2011.

Cultural Diversity Week is also an important week for International students. During this week, we acknowledge as a school community the contributions the International students make. For the first time, the students performed as a full group at the Senior School Assembly as well as performing at the Year 7/8 Assembly. The International students wanted to share their culture, faith and language through music and dance.

Alicia Liu coordinated the performance, a Korean dance called “Nobody”, and organised the students to sing a Japanese and Chinese song.

In sport, the girls are enthusiastic about badminton and have been encouraged by their captain, Vivi Chen, to support this. The girls have a lot of fun and find the activity helps to relieve the stress of study.
The highlight for the Year 12 girls in Semester 1 was the long awaited Formal. Many of the girls took partners and the friendship and fun shared on that night were truly memorable. The girls experienced their “rite of passage” which would not happen in their own country.

The Welcome Reception at Government House on 24th August is an annual event to officially welcome International students to our State and celebrate the diversity international education brings to Victoria. Students from government, independent and catholic school sectors gathered with their teachers in the magnificent state rooms of Government House. Fourteen Year 12 International students attended this event accompanied by Ms Petsinis and Mrs Dunoon. The Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren, opened the event, followed by the Hon. Martin Dixon MP, Minister for Education, who launched the International School Students Victoria Facebook page. A tour of the State rooms and lunch in the State Drawing Room followed.

The most recent initiative in Semester 2 has been a Christian friendship group for the International students. This idea was initiated by Alicia Liu and organised by Mrs Burns, the School Chaplain. The group has met weekly at lunchtimes with a Chinese speaking leader from a Chinese Church who discusses the Christian faith and offers support. This discussion group has had an enthusiastic following from all year levels from Years 10 to 12.

I would like to thank the Student Leader, Alicia Liu, for her ongoing support and commitment to this role and for her organisation of informal social activities and leadership of the International students during special events. Alicia has provided a great link for the International students and the local students at Strathcona.

Socially, the students are a cohesive group and are well supported by one another.

The International students have been diligent in their studies and committed to achieving their best. The support of ESL classes under the leadership of Ms Petsinis has proven invaluable in the development of their English language skills and their confidence. My thanks once again are extended to ‘Miss Mary’ for her support of the International students and for her commitment to ESL teaching.

Robyn Dunoon
Art

In 2011, the Art department has continued to develop and consolidate a broad range of learning opportunities that have been designed to advance the students’ ability to both communicate and visually problem solve. Taking place both in and outside of the classroom, these programs have also continued to provide students with the opportunity to expand their capacity for self-expression, and to broaden their cultural awareness.

Student workshops, guest speakers from the arts industry, excursions, student exhibitions and the implementation of an Arts Week have all been used to help achieve this.

Winner of the Barbara Green Art Award for 2011 was Katrina Knight. In receiving this award, her ability, ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for the Visual Arts were recognised. During this year, Katrina has continued to approach all aspects of her arts studies with consistency and diligence. The School community acknowledges the Green family for continuing to make such an award available for our students.

The 2011 Art Captains, Katrina Knight and Elizabeth McFee, are also to be commended for their maturity and dedication to their leadership role. Their enthusiasm and assistance were instrumental in the success of many of the department initiatives, especially the implementation of the Arts Week celebrations and activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Art Department staff for their professionalism and contribution to the success of the Art curriculum and programs at Strathcona. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the School community that enables this success.

Brit Biviano

Commerce

It has been an interesting year again for our students with the global economic uncertainty (particularly in Europe), the ramifications of the carbon tax, and the High Court decision on asylum seekers monopolising debate in the federal parliament. There has been much to engage the students outside of the normal teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom.

Three speakers addressed the Legal Studies students again during Law Week in May: Josh Frydenberg (Federal Member for Kooyong) took time away from his busy schedule to speak to students about the steps involved in getting a bill through parliament, the roles performed by ministers, cabinet and
2011 was filled with a myriad of exciting opportunities for students to embrace Drama and shine. The year commenced with the Senior Performing Arts Festival which once again proved to be a lively evening filled with creativity, enthusiasm and exceptional House Spirit. This year, the festival was held at the beautiful Besen Centre which provided a generous performance space for each House to showcase their work to optimum effect. The four Houses vied for first prize and the coveted Performing Arts Cup which this year was won by Gilbert. The Drama Captains rose to the challenging theme, Melodrama, and created inventive drama scripts that captivated the audience. The Dance Captains choreographed colourful and stimulating dance routines which were integrated seamlessly into the scripts while the Music Captains added beautiful choral singing and musicship. Warm congratulations to all the Captains for creating such a successful evening. Thank you also to Brittany Testro and Kristen Waters the School Dance/Drama Captains who compared the evening with admirable flair and gusto.

Rehearsals also started early in the year for the School musical, Beauty and the Beast. Every Friday afternoon the grounds were abuzz with excitement as the students from Years 8 to 12, together with the boys from an array of nearby schools, enthusiastically sang, played instruments and rehearsed lines for their heart-warming and utterly delightful production. The show performed to sell out audiences in Featherstone Hall and was received with resounding admiration and applause. The evening overflowed with arresting choreography, vibrant costumes, uplifting singing, buoyant acting and enthralled the audience. Georgia Pandel stole everyone's heart as the kind and loyal heroine and made our emotions soar with her beautiful voice. Congratulations to all the students involved, your exuberance was a pleasure to watch. Congratulations also to Jason Parker and his team for a fantastic show.

Drama

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The Unit 3 Theatre Studies students embraced the challenge of working with farce and created an extremely physical, quirky and delightful performance of Thornton Wilder's The Matchmaker. They transported the audience back to the halcyon days of the late 1800s and the uplifting theme of ‘life is a dream, realise it’. The students created loveable, oddball caricatures that created turmoil and mayhem. Their
many misadventures delighted the audience prior to the de rigueur happy ending in which love conquers all. Stagecraft was also designed with artistic vision and created a visually opulent backdrop for their performance. The girls sang, danced and acted their way into our hearts.

Term 2 concluded with an extremely powerful production of *The Crucible*. Written in 1953 by the American playwright, Arthur Miller, its central themes of fear, jealousy and vilification are extraordinarily potent in our post 9/11 world. The Year 10 Drama class rose commendably to the challenge of performing this extraordinary provoking and complex play and created an outstanding performance which enthralled the audience. The class exhibited exceptional acting prowess, maturity and a praiseworthy commitment to honour the playwright’s intention and bring his harrowing themes and demanding characters to life. They achieved an emotionally intense and beautifully performed piece of theatre.

The Year 10 Drama and Dance Captains heralded Term 3 with three weeks of feverish and gratifying rehearsals for the Year 7 House Dance and Drama Festival. The Drama Captains wrote extremely funny scripts on the theme “Fairytales”, and the Dance Captains created visually engaging and creative dances. The younger students relished the opportunity of working with the older girls and enjoyed the experience immensely. Year 9 House Dance and Drama festival was also a wonderful experience for the girls to showcase their talents, work collaboratively and have fun. The girls worked with admirable passion to deliver vibrant and totally engaging performances.

The Year 8 co-curricular Drama production provided a fabulous opportunity for the Year 8 students to showcase their thespian talent. Once again, under the capable guidance of Jason Parker, the girls captivated their audience with the performance of humorous and engaging plays late in Term 3. Characterisations were sustained with admirable stage confidence and acting prowess. The enthusiastic approach to acting by our students is a joy to witness.

This year, audiences have also been invited to Year 10 Monologue evenings and Shakespearean Duologue evenings as well as the Year 12 Monologue performances.

Congratulations to all the students who have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into so many drama activities this year. Your passion and thirst to step outside your comfort zone and challenge yourselves makes teaching rewarding. A huge thank you to our School Dance and Drama Captains, Kristen Waters and Brittany Testro. The girls have been exemplary ambassadors for Drama and have supported the students with their encouragement and attendance at every performance this year. They have touched so many students with their genuine enthusiasm and love for theatre and their legacy will live on. We will all miss them both and feel enriched having worked with them.

Marisa Rowlands

**English**

*Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers.* ~ Charles W. Eliot

We love books! We love the way they feel, the texture and their olfactory delights! We often look lovingly at these friends sitting nobly on our shelves, the signposts of our lives that whisper to us of memories, dreams, other worlds and ways of being.

Do we feel dismay that we may betray our brethren with the introduction of e-books on personal learning devices such as iPads, iPods and iTouch? There would be a chorus that would passionately extol that this does indeed constitute an egregious disloyalty! Nay, a novel, play or poem is not obsolete nor for the ‘dustbin of history’. Instead what we have is the reading experience requiring a different sort of ‘stroking of the pages of the text’ (Susan Gannon). There is also a whole new set of literacy skills that come with it. These digital literacies enable us to identify important questions, locate and synthesise information, critically evaluate its usefulness and communicate it to others. As a consequence, mobile platforms have provided opportunities for lively discussion of pedagogy and experimentation of Apps within the Department, while the Year 8 students have brought in their own devices and used them for work on the novel *Juno of Taris*. As always, we remain committed to providing a balanced, dynamic and relevant English education that develops students’ thinking and metacognition as they engage in different ways of accessing information to learn effectively.

Work is continuing amongst the staff on the Australian Curriculum. We have seen this as an opportunity for
students are achieving well above the State average. We are also extremely proud of our outstanding 2010 Year 12 results in English, Literature and ESL. In English 40.5% achieved a study score of 40 or above. Four students received a perfect study score of 50 with 43.8% scoring an ‘A+’ and 19.8% an ‘A’. This provides further evidence of the extensive and rigorous language and literature teaching program being covered in the School. It is also a testament to the team orientated approach, hard work and commitment of all English staff who at all times provide a supportive and academically enriching environment; one that encompasses a love and appreciation of the classics of literature and those of a more contemporary nature no matter the ‘cover’ they come in.

Simone Boland

Food Technology

This year, the Food Technology staff at Strathcona have continued to play a significant role in educating our students on the importance of healthy eating and its link to general wellbeing. It has been encouraging to see so much enthusiasm and creativity from students throughout the School. We have again seen some outstanding achievements at a number of levels.

We began 2011 on a very positive note, with an excellent set of 2010 VCE results, half of the students achieving a study score of 40 and above. Chloe Harris and Jessica Sellwood both achieved a perfect score of 50. We were also delighted that both of these students were awarded a Premier’s Award for Food Technology, placing both of them in the top 5 in Victoria, a very significant achievement.

In April, Claire Exinger in Year 10 was awarded 3rd place in the Home Economics Victoria Food Design Challenge which is open to all Food Technology students in Victoria. She impressed the judges with her delicious risotto creation – an innovative Beetroot and Goat’s Cheese Risotto.
In July, the Year 10 Food Technology students were able to share the experiences of a professional cake decorator, Barbara Imlach, who visited our Food Technology kitchen to demonstrate some exciting cake decoration skills. We thank her for the valuable contribution she made to the students’ learning. Following on from this, we were able to enter 30 decorated iced cakes at the Royal Melbourne Show and, despite some very strong competition in our category, three students were awarded Certificate of Commendation - Rachael Zhu and Brooke Stephenson a ‘Highly Commended’ and Minnipa Griggs a ‘Commended’. Congratulations to these girls on an excellent achievement.

Our commercial kitchen facilities at Tay Creggan have continued to provide an excellent learning environment for the Year 11 Hospitality students who have produced work of a very high standard this year. This year, we also took on a new initiative - two End of Year Dinners - for the students to showcase their achievements in food preparation and service to teachers and family.

There have also been some changes to the Food Technology staff this year. Narelle Cameron, our wonderful Year 8 and 9 Food Technology teacher is now on maternity leave. Congratulations to her on the birth of Zoe Elise, and we wish her well as she takes leave to spend more time with her family.

We have been fortunate to have Ms Kerry Wilson join our Department. Ms Wilson has proved to be an excellent addition to our staff with her organised and dedicated approach to teaching and the way in which she adapted to her new role so quickly and competently.

Next year, with the advent of the new Year 9 Program at Tay Creggan, all students will be undertaking Food Technology classes for the whole year. This is a significant and exciting development for our Department and we look forward to expanding our teaching to include some very exciting projects to link in with the new Year 9 curriculum.

In conclusion, I am also most grateful to the Food Technology staff, Terri Opran, Narelle Cameron and Kerry Wilson, for their efforts and support throughout the year. Their expertise and professionalism have enabled us to maintain a high standard of Food Technology at all year levels. I would also like to thank our industrious and talented Food Technology assistant, Noelle Boyd, who has continued to make all things possible.

Finally, to the Food Technology students – congratulations on your overwhelming enthusiasm and passion in Food Technology this year and we look forward to a most successful 2012.

Claire Chambers

Geography

During 2011, Geography has continued to encourage students to think carefully about the world in which they live. This is a study that genuinely connects students with the community in important ways and promotes informed and active citizenship. It examines real issues and supports the idea that individuals can make a difference.

All students from Years 7 to 10 have a semester of Geography as a part of their core curriculum. In Year 10, students are offered a choice of Geography courses - 'International Issues' and 'People and Places'. The 'International Studies’ option has remained a very popular elective choice in Year 9 and the course has been re-developed over the year. VCE Unit 3 and 4 International Studies has been well supported and is available to both Year 11 and Year 12 students. In 2012, we are pleased that there will be a class in both VCE Geography and also in the new VCE Global Politics that has been developed to replace International Studies.

Courses at Strathcona are supported by new technologies which allow students access to electronic mapping tools, real time data, virtual reconstructions and amazing visual images.

Next year, students will also have digital atlases. Students have ready access to a range of electronic tools that encourage curiosity, creativity, detailed investigations and the effective presentation of their findings.

An important aspect of Geography is that fieldwork is integrated into programs in each year level. This provides an experiential approach to learning and encourages students to collect their own data and use this information to stimulate thinking and learning about complex relationships and interactions. The Year 7 Geography students have conducted their 'fieldwork' research in and around the School. Year 8 students visited Toolangi State Forest for a full day excursion and investigated Mountain Ash forest environments and forest management issues, including logging. The Year 9 students have visited the City to investigate urban growth and sustainability. The Year 9 fieldwork program has been further extended to include a water transport visit to the Docklands area. The Year 10 students in the 'People and Places' Geography elective have made extensive use of the public transport network to visit a range of locations across Melbourne to observe different urban environments.

All Year 9 students participated in the Australian Geography Competition with extremely pleasing results. Eight students were awarded High Distinctions this year. We congratulate Rachael Coulthard, Amy Cubit, Isabel Duyker, Isabelle Everist,
opportunity to visit Strathcona’s Early Learning Centre to observe a range of development and consolidate their learning. The girls have had the opportunity to pursue their own areas of interest by researching and presenting on youth health issues, some of which were then presented at a Senior School assembly.

Australians generally enjoy good health and are among the healthiest people in the world. Unit 3 provides the opportunity to develop an understanding of the health status of Australians and, in particular, looks at diet and health. We then lead on to compare Australia’s health to those living in developing countries and how we as individuals and as part of other organisations can help those less fortunate than us. We were honoured to have Malcolm Whilton from World Vision Australia speak to the girls about his first-hand experience helping in Haiti after the earthquake 18 months ago. The images and stories brought home to our girls just how lucky we are that we are Australians.

This year, Strathcona once again had a number of students involved in mock United Nations debates. Congratulations to Tessa Clegg and Gemma Hallett who reached the State final of the prestigious United Nations Youth Association Thant-Evatt Trophy debating competition and participated in a full day of debate in the Parliament House Legislative Assembly chamber. Cathryn Youings and Jaynaya Dwyer are also to be commended on reaching the State semi-finals of this event. Other students involved in the regional rounds were Niamh Deighan, Clare Exinger, Claire Stollery and Laura Young who all represented the School to a high standard. Six Year 9 students were able to attend a training day in preparation for the Thant-Evatt competition in 2012 and we look forward to continuing our success in these debates in the future.

This has again been a busy but valuable year. The Geography staff have welcomed the arrival of Mrs Alison Frattaroli as a teacher in Year 7, who is replacing Mrs Teresa Ruksenas, currently on leave. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2012 will bring.

Pat Menke

Health and Human Development

This year, we welcomed new staff member, Ms Kerry Wilson, to Strathcona to teach Units 1 and 2 Health and Human Development. She has outstanding qualifications and many years’ experience teaching the VCE level as well as junior secondary health studies. Before coming to Strathcona, she had been working for Diabetes Australia.

2011 is the second year of the revised Study Design and the students undertaking Units 1 to 4 have been enthusiastic about the changes in the new course.

Units 1 and 2 include individual human development, individual change being a continuous lifelong process that begins at conception and continues until death. To allow the girls to hear first-hand about issues some people face as they develop, a number of guest speakers were invited to talk to the girls, including speakers from the Thalassaemia Association of Victoria, Positive Women and an engaging speaker from the Mental Illness Fellowship of Victoria. To assist their understanding of prenatal development, Bree Stark, and her newborn baby, Isla, visited and gave valuable insight into prenatal development and infancy. Students also had the opportunity to visit Strathcona’s Early Learning Centre to observe a range of development and consolidate their learning. The girls have had the opportunity to pursue their own areas of interest by researching and presenting on youth health issues, some of which were then presented at a Senior School assembly.

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Terri Opiean

History

History continues to offer lively and challenging learning experiences that promote thoughtful insights into a whole range of human experiences. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and interest that our students have brought to their studies of History.

All of the current History courses are now under review as we move towards the systematic implementation of the Australian History Curriculum in 2013. Next year we will offer a fully revised course at Year 9 which will run over the whole year rather than as a semester course. We will also make some preparatory adjustments to our other courses in Years 7, 8 and 10.
In History, we encourage all of our students to continue to challenge themselves and we are now looking forward with interest to 2012.

Pat Menke

Learning Technologies

Going mobile

Mobile devices are now being used as much as desktops for learning and teaching at Strathcona.

Thanks to recent Federal Government initiatives as well as our own budgeting, we have dramatically improved the access to mobile technologies throughout the School. Not only are we maintaining four separate iMac labs, two Windows based labs and various desktops throughout the School, we now also have at least one iMac in almost every classroom as well as over 200 laptops (mostly MacBooks) within easy reach of all learning areas.

We have a ratio of one computer for every two students from Prep to Year 12. However, the distribution of the computers does allow for the Federal Government’s requirements of 1:1 from Years 9 to 12.

We have achieved the student to computer ratio projection stated in the 2009-2011 ICT Strategic plan.

By the end of 2011 we aim to increase our ratio of student to computers to better than 1:2 with a mix of computer laboratories, class sets of laptops, pods of desktops and a 1:1 laptop program for Years 10 to 12. We also continue to provide our students and teachers with the opportunity to work with and become comfortable with both a Windows and an Apple based platform.

– Strathcona ICT Strategic Plan 2009-2011

Reaching for the Horizon

The New Media Consortium (NMC) Horizon Report (http://wp.nmc.org/horizon2011/) is a well respected ongoing international publication that identifies and describes emerging technologies that are likely to have a large impact on teaching, learning, research or creative expression within education around the globe.

There are five key trends identified within the K-12 edition of the 2011 Horizon Report that provide a framework for this report.
A recent staff day was dedicated to establishing what ICT and what Information Literacy (IL) skills are taught and should be taught at Years 7 and 8 now that the SEED program has replaced individual ICT and IL lessons. Our staff are realising that ICT and IL skills are best taught in all subject areas and not in isolation. Interdisciplinary programs like SEED have been an excellent platform to focus on a wide range of ICT and IL skills. It is important to keep monitoring progress for all students.

Trend 5) The perceived value of innovation and creativity is increasing. Innovation is valued at the highest levels of business and must be embraced in schools if students are to succeed beyond their formal education. (Horizon Report, p7)

Innovation like the iPad has single-handedly changed the landscape of education like no other digital device since its historic introduction to Australia on 28th May, 2010. Schools (like Strathcona) that deliberately chose not to take up a 1:1 laptop program (for good reasons), when it was in fashion about 10 years ago, are now looking seriously at changing their policies because of the features of the iPad. The National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) sponsored a Learnosity Trial for Chinese using iPads. This was overseen by Independent Schools Victoria (ISV). We were provided with a class set of iPads that we are able to continue to use at Strathcona. Two Year 8 classes have trialled the use of iPads and, during Term 4, iPads are being trialled by the teachers who will be teaching Year 9 in 2012. This is all leading to a major trial where parents of students in Year 9 (2012) have been encouraged to purchase an iPad for their daughter. The iPad will be used as a 1:1 digital device for Internet access, word processing, note taking and the use of a wide range of subject specific and general applications that will enhance the academic program at Tay Creggan. With the hope of productive use of iPads in Year 9 next year, we are planning to extend the use of mobile devices into the future.

A blended approach

The use of a blended learning approach (combining online and offline resources) through the Blackboard Learning Management System has been, and continues to be, a vital communication and education tool for our School community.
Every secondary course has an associated online portal via Blackboard that is available for students and parents to access. Uploading files to Blackboard is becoming as natural as handing out worksheets in class. Students are enjoying the convenience of being able to access homework and assignment information whenever and wherever they need it.

Extra-curricular information on Blackboard has been further developed this year with the enhanced use of STV to provide regular ‘Strathy News Updates’ that are also seen on various screens around the School.

The other Blackboard initiative this year has been the launch of the ‘wellbeing’ site. This is an area of Blackboard that adds to our ongoing work on digital citizenship, bullying and general health care.

**Award-winning teams**

Strathcona has again been recognised as a school with students who make great short films. This year we won both the Senior Secondary and Primary divisions of the national 3in6 video competition, an annual event that involves making a 3-minute film or 1-minute animation in 6-hours. We also came equal second in the Primary Division after our Year 4 class entered two excellent films.

This year we are entering six short films into the Boroondara Youth Film Festival.

**Behind the scenes**

There are some key people I would like to thank in this report who have helped make learning technologies a relatively seamless yet vital aspect of the running of our School. Our newly appointed Director of Information Systems, Mr David Young, has helped update most of our information systems and established the start of what will be an efficient and enterprise standard wireless network that will serve our future requirements for more mobile technologies.

Mr Young is leading a great IT team with Mr John Taylor, Network Administrator, and Mr Lynton Kemp, Systems Administrator. Together they are the backbone of our IT systems and do an amazing job that is much appreciated.

I would like to thank William Spry (Year 10 parent) from Wilkar Productions which has been an ongoing partner organisation with Strathcona Multimedia to help record our major events, produce DVDs and, most recently, to help upgrade our STV studio to a full High Definition digital recording space. Having this link with industry has been very beneficial to our VET Media students.

Our 2011 Media Leaders, Sarah Burke, Sierra Wilson and Clare Krahnert, have worked hard throughout the year in promoting STV and maintaining a high level of video communication throughout the School. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Helen Hughes and Mrs Jenni Farmilo for their leadership and encouragement throughout the year.

*Dr Tim Kitchen*

**Languages**

**Have language, will travel, will work!**

Who’s looking for employees who can communicate in another language? Just recently, employers as disparate as the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Defence Force and the mining industry in central Queensland, have indicated a need for suitably qualified interpreters and translators in a variety of languages, including French and Mandarin Chinese.

And in the future, where could these employees potentially come from? The language classes at Strathcona! Travel, commerce, mining, education, politics, modelling, sports, the arts; these are just some of the fields where the knowledge of a language in addition to English has smoothed the path to international careers.

- Kevin Rudd, our former Prime Minister and current Foreign Affairs Minister, was well known for his ability to communicate in Chinese, and those of us who heard his address at the ANZAC dawn service in Villers-Bretonneux were pleased to note his effort to present part of his speech in French as a courtesy to his hosts.

- Tina Arena, who sang the National Anthem at the prize-giving ceremony for the Tour de France, is currently based in France where she is a huge success, partly through her ability to sing in French.

- And, of course, which French teacher’s heart didn’t glow with extra pride to hear Cadel Evans express his thanks in French on the Champs Elysées after winning the Tour de France?

- Our former students of French and Italian are also pursuing their language studies and we look forward to hearing of similar successes from our Year 11 and 12 students of Chinese who are currently completing their VCE Chinese courses.
The inaugural Year 12 French ‘camp’ was held this year (in the Senior Centre), designed to improve our students’ oral competency in preparation for their final examinations. The girls particularly appreciated the assistance provided by three of our former students, Genevieve Fahey, Stephanie Bing and Elena Mujkic, who are currently completing combined degrees and a master’s degree at either the University of Melbourne or Monash University. The Year 12 girls were most impressed by our visitors’ fluent and polished French.

Another highlight for the French Department this year was the biannual tour to France in April. Nineteen students, accompanied by Mrs Boland and myself, enjoyed a homestay in the south, followed by a visit to the battlefields of WWI, including attendance at the Dawn Service, and concluding with several days to explore the artistic, gastronomic, cultural and shopping delights of Paris. I extend my sincere thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm and interest, and to Mrs Boland for her help with preparation and unexpected emergencies which occurred. Mrs Little, the Strathcona Exchange Coordinator, again provided invaluable administrative assistance. Mrs Plymin, Mr Phillips and Ms Moor are currently preparing for the tour to Italy next April, while Ms Mo and Mrs Bowden are making initial plans for the tour to China in September.

We would especially like to congratulate the students in Ms Mo’s Year 11 Chinese class for their sterling efforts to achieve gold medals for their outstanding level of participation and success in the Language Perfect International Competition. This is the first time we have been involved in this competition, and judging by the interest, enthusiasm and results, we will definitely be participating again next year.

As foreign language teachers, we are heartened to see the renewed focus on grammar and language structure in the new English curriculum and we trust that this will make our job a little easier. Our overseas exchange students often comment on how difficult it must be to study a foreign language without a sound knowledge of the structure of one’s own language and, while this is undoubtedly a reflection of the way they learn at home, it is also true that a knowledge of the tools of English makes it easier to understand the construction of elegantly correct foreign texts.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the 2011 Language Department staff – Mrs Prue Clarke, Mrs Yvette Egonidis, Ms Diana Li, Ms Peixia Mo, Mrs Christine Papas, Mrs Virginia Prior, Ms Sally Ranson, Mrs Diane Scukovic and Mrs Vivian Simoncini – for their ongoing support and the passion and professionalism they bring to language learning at Strathcona.

Veronica Swayne

Mathematics

Mathematics is all around us and is used throughout the world in many fields such as Science, Engineering, Medicine, Commerce and Social Sciences. It is about more than solving arithmetic or algebraic equations; it is about problem solving and problem wondering, knowing and selecting appropriate strategies to solve problems. Mathematics is a way in which we are able to interpret the world. Our goal in the Mathematics Department is to share this passion with our students and to equip them with ability to think mathematically.

At the VCE level this year, we have audited our process of selecting students for the acceleration pathway. We believe that this has enabled us to ensure that we are providing students with the best preparation for the VCE studies in Year 11 and Year 12. We have also changed the structure and content of our Year 10 Mathematics B subject to enable this to be changed to Foundation Mathematics Units 1 and 2. This means that students who experience great difficulty in Mathematics are able to complete a VCE Mathematics subject.

At Years 7 and 8 this year, we have continued to focus on differentiating our curriculum. The Mathematics department has become familiar with the proposed new National Curriculum for Mathematics and we are continuing to review and develop our curriculum in preparation for the introduction of the National Curriculum. We have continued to develop our assessment pieces at these two levels to include high quality analysis and problem solving tasks. In particular, we have implemented a variety of activities using Maths 300 and have interwoven Mathletics carefully into our curriculum at Year 7 to support our teaching.

At Year 9 this year, we have completed a review of our assessment and curriculum and are now in the process of planning next year’s curriculum, with a view to implementing the use of iPads effectively into our teaching.

Three hundred and two students from Year 7 to 10 undertook the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) Mathematics competition. All students participated well and 23 students received Distinctions. Of particular note, the following students received High Distinctions:

Minjeong Kim ................................................. Year 10
Amy Cubit ..................................................... Year 9
Isabelle Everist ............................................. Year 9
Jasmine Clegg ............................................... Year 8
Jacinta Zhu .................................................. Year 8
Eleanor Forwood ......................................... Year 7
Congratulations to these students for an excellent performance in this competition.

At Year 7 and 8, over 70 students were involved in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads. The Olympiads are challenging and students have shown great resilience and determination in their application in the competitions. In particular, we would like to congratulate the following students on their excellent results:

Top 10%: Year 8 Bella Poon
         Year 7 Charlotte Pannier
Top 25%: Year 8 Molly Paterson
         Sophia Harrison
         Alice Hay
         Anna Terry
         Jasmine Clegg
         Alexandra Macafee
         Year 7 Annabel Marks
         Phoebe Triantopoulos
         Laura Chiaramonte

The 2010 Year 12 results were of a high standard with 38.6% of assessment grades being 'A+' or 'A'. In particular, we had outstanding scores of 50 in both Specialist Mathematics and Further Mathematics. In Further Mathematics, the median study score was 33. In Mathematical Methods, just under 50% of the cohort achieved a result of 40 or above (adjusted). In Specialist Mathematics, approximately 10 out of the 12 students achieved a result of 40 or above (adjusted). Congratulations to the Year 12 students.

In terms of the Mathematics Department’s focus next year, we will be looking at reorganising some of our extension program at Years 7 and 8. In addition to our current structure, we will be implementing a program that will run out of class time. This will focus on covering extension topics and include thorough preparation for competitions such as the Australian Mathematics Competition and the Mathematics Olympiad. This will reduce the impact of these competitions on class time. We will also continue to develop meaningful ways in which to implement ICT and the use of iPads at Year 9 and, looking into the future, for Year 10 in 2013.

Congratulations to all students on their hard work and well earned results in their study of Mathematics this year. Thank you to our staff in the Mathematics Department for all the time, effort and professionalism they have shown when teaching this year.

Tracy Herft

Physical Education

This year has been one of excitement and progression for the Physical Education Department as we had full use of our exceptional new facilities. The renovated pool has provided the opportunity for students to take part in an aquatics program with an emphasis on stroke development and water safety. With the addition of an extra teacher to each class, the students now have the opportunity for more direct instruction and feedback to aid in their skill development.

The opening of the weights and training room has been met with sustained interest and consistent use by our Year 11 and 12 students and the teaching staff. During the first term of use, there were over 300 visits logged into the record book and many individuals took up the offer of having a personal training program designed by a Physical Education staff member. Giving students the confidence and ability to use a gym in their later years for lifelong fitness was a goal during the design of the facility and it is pleasing to see this goal realised for so many senior school students.

This year, we also welcomed the addition of a full-time Outdoor Education teacher, Ms Liesl Woods, and had the first full year of service from our Swim Programs Officer, Mr Nathan Cole. The addition of two new members to our team is a reflection of the commitment the School is making to quality programs and personnel within the Physical Education department and reflects the importance the School places on the value of physical activity to the healthy lifestyle.

Monique Henderson

Science

In 2011, all members of the Science department have been involved in reflecting on their current teaching practice, and the sequencing of the Year 7 to Year 10 Science curriculum. This has been part of the preparation for the introduction of the National Science Curriculum in 2012. The key question was: How can we as teachers structure courses and classes so that the learning of Science engages students in meaningful ways and prepares students to use science for life in a scientifically and technologically advanced society? Given the number of Strathcona students undertaking Science subjects at VCE level and beyond, and the engagement of students in Science classes, we felt there is much of which to be proud. However, the introduction of the National Curriculum has meant that a number of resources have been developed containing new ideas which the department is keen to explore.
2011 Science competition and results successes have included:

- Vanessa Wong: 2010 VCE Study Score of 50 in Chemistry.
- Anna Mitchell (Year 11) has been selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum in Perth in January 2012.
- Rebecca Schwartz (Year 11) placed in the top 1% of the senior section of the Australian National Chemistry Quiz (12 Year 11 Chemistry students and Year 10 Science students were placed in the top 10% of their section).
- Ashlea Coxhill (Year 9) gained a High Distinction in the University of New South Wales Science competition (top 1%) (27 Year 7 to Year 9 girls came in the top 10% of their sections).
- Megan Petrie and Madeline Hunt gained Science Talent Search Bursaries for their experimental research projects on Quantitative Protein Analysis of Milk by Casein Precipitation.
- The Year 7 Decathlon A team came second in the State finals in the Science section.

Excursions raise students' interest in their studies. The 2011 Science department excursions included a Year 11 Physics camp, the Year 11 invitational program to Genetech Toxic Stories program, Year 11 rock platform analysis, a Year 10 Scienceworks excursion and a Year 7 Zoological Gardens classification excursion.

Other activities in which the Science department staff were actively involved included assessing VCE examinations, judging for Science Talent Search and working with 100 Mont Albert Primary School students on activities involving physical and chemical change.

The resources used in the teaching of Science are regularly updated. This year, a class set of laptop computers has been housed in the Science area. At Tay Creggan, new horticulture beds and sheds have been installed.

This year, Mrs Wendy Hawkins has joined the Science department as laboratory technician. Mrs Hawkins has taught science in the United States of America and we have greatly appreciated the interest and enthusiasm that she has brought to this position. In June, she travelled to Darwin to present at CONASTA, the Australian Science Teachers’ Conference on ways to analyse soils and water in the classroom using easily accessible products. Mrs Nanda Joglekar has resigned as laboratory technician due to ill health. Regarding staff departing, the department will greatly miss Mrs Eager and Mr Littlejohn as they depart for a more relaxing lifestyle. Mrs Eager will be remembered for her enthusiasm, for her knowledge and the pursuit of excellence. She taught senior Chemistry, and Science at Tay Creggan during her time as Head of Tay Creggan. Mr Littlejohn’s interest in ICT has assisted us in developing the ICT skills of staff and students. He taught VCE Psychology and General Science. We wish them every happiness for the future.

Pam Welsford
Community Service

In 2011 the Social Service team, Claire Smith (Captain), Emily McPherson and Phoebe McMahon (Deputy Captains), was committed to raising further social awareness and leading the School community in supporting a variety of fundraising ventures.

The girls took the initiative of organising the Year 12 students’ support for a World Vision Sponsor Child, Martha Geremu, a young girl who lives in Ethiopia. Money raised from the traditional netball match against Camberwell Grammar and the Year 12 Fashion Parade of formal dresses will provide a range of services to Martha and her family. The School community also continues to support Freddielyn Eugenio Busel who lives in the Philippines.

Another highlight of the year was the annual Helpathlon that involved the participation of students in Years 4 to 8 in a fun-filled series of 10 activities, including egg and spoon races, dress-up games and netball shooting. Most of the girls were sponsored by family and friends to participate in the day’s events and were again able to raise over $4,000 for the School of St Jude in Tanzania. The money has been designated to upgrade their fleet of buses that transport children from impoverished areas to the school.

A record number of girls sacrificed food and other modern day essentials such as access to technology and participated in the 40 Hour Famine. The $6,500 raised will primarily go to East Timor where many in the population continue to live in poverty.

Some Year 11 and 12 students increased their understanding of social issues by participating in the ‘Live Below the Line’ campaign. Their challenge was to live on $2 a day for five days. Another initiative taken by senior students was sparked by the visit of ‘Vision Generation’ from World Vision. A guest speaker emphasised the advantages of Fair Trade products and the Social Service Captains campaigned for the purchase of Fair Trade goods throughout the School.

Towards the end of 2011, many girls were able to make generous donations to ‘The Good Samaritan’s Purse’ and support ‘Operation Christmas Child’ by putting together a shoe box filled with Christmas gifts for a needy child.

Once again, girls from the various year levels have been most effective in organising and holding lunch time stalls and activities to raise funds for charities such as Beyond Blue, Camp Quality, National Breast Cancer Foundation, the Leukaemia Foundation, Camp Challenge, The Royal Children’s...
co-curricular areas

Hospital, the Diabetes Foundation and Cambodian Missionaries. They have also donated food to put together hampers for families affected by Australian disasters such as floods and bushfires.

Throughout the year generosity has frequently been evident in the girls’ responses to ‘Bring a can’ and ‘Gold coin donation’ days. As a School, we are privileged to witness the growth of a philanthropic approach to life as we reach out to others in ingenious and creative ways.

We congratulate the girls on raising more than $25,000 this year. Another outstanding effort!

Rhonda Burns, Vicki Treidel and Claire Chambers

Compass Award

Strathcona has been a registered participant of the Compass Award for many years and, this year, there were 36 students enrolled in the program. It is a co-curricular activity in which students from Years 5 to 8 elect to participate in one or more levels before commencing the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme.

Students work in consultation with their coordinator on deciding specific activities and aim to achieve their set goals in four categories: “Service” promotes awareness, understanding and practical experience of the ways you can help others in the local community; “Exploration” develops self-reliance and a spirit of adventure; “Physical Activity” encourages regular participation in a selected sport and the ‘Skills’ section gives the student the opportunity to show perseverance in a hobby or leisure activity.

The Compass Award has four levels. Each level is a little more demanding on the student than the previous level. It is pleasing to note that this year nine students have nominated to participate in the highest level and have been working towards meeting the requirements of regular involvement and persistence in a wide range of activities.

We congratulate Year 8 students, Mabel Chong, Sarah Martin, Sarah Abrahams and Alice Hay on their commitment to completing Level 4, the highest possible achievement in this Award, this year. Mabel Chong and Sarah Martin’s continued efforts and determination on completing the entire program of all four levels of the Compass Award over a period of four years is most impressive. Their next challenge will be the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

Pam Allan

Debating and Public Speaking

The ability to present articulately to an audience is an essential leadership and life skill – it simply takes practice and confidence. We encourage all students through the classroom and in more formal venues and competitions to prepare thoroughly and to have an engaging presentation manner.

This hard work and dedication is evident in the student’s involvement in the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) Schools competition. There are many aspects to a successful case, from considering the complexities of a topic and marshalling a range of arguments, to structuring and organising a coherent team line. Finally, there is the manner and delivery of the team case, always a key strength of our students.

Through preparation in our School class program, Strathcona girls always present eloquently and with assurance, establishing good eye contact, and varying the tone and pitch of their voices.

The results this year across Years 9 to 12 were very solid. We had eight teams participate in the Camberwell Draw with topics such as ‘That we should ban Scientology’, ‘That we should have a quota for women on corporate boards’ and ‘That private schools should not receive funding from the government’. All teams researched their topics thoroughly which enabled them to gain a respectable ranking on their respective ladders for the Grade, with many Best Speaker Awards. A special mention goes to Team 2 in Year 10 who won all their five debates. Our debating workshop with Camberwell Grammar students at the beginning of the year focused on thematic rebuttal. The tips and strategies were useful for our students to access a more complex and organised form of argument and hence find more success during the season.

In the Junior Secondary Debating Program, we entered four teams of Year 7 and 8 students, with stunning successes in the Balwyn region. For all three rounds of debate, these girls are to be congratulated on their commitment and preparation. They won eight out of 12 debates and had 10 Best Speakers awards. What was especially pleasing was the dedication of students who turned up on the night as Reserves, even though they themselves were not debating. This generosity is the essence of the Strathcona debating community. All teams enjoyed the experience of winning, and were coached responsibly by their Year 11 mentors.
The School’s Public Speaking Competition in which all students from Year 7 to 12 present a prepared speech, was again of a high calibre this year. Congratulations to the winners Rebecca Schwarz (Year 11), Madeline Hallett (Year 9) and Georgia Hawkins (Year 7). Gemma Hallett (Year 12) went on to present her speech at the State Final of the VCAA Plain English Speaking Competition.

The United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) Thant-Evatt Trophy Mooting Competition saw Year 11 students Jaynaya Dwyer and Cathryn Youings progress to the State semi-finals, while the Year 12 team of Gemma Hallett and Tessa Clegg reached the State finals.

A wonderful year all round!

Simone Boland

Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards Scheme

Strathcona has been running the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award for many years now, and this year has had an influx of participation. Thirty five Year 9 students have commenced the Bronze level this year, with three participants having completed their awards by the end of Term 3! Students pursuing the award must work towards a goal in four areas: a Skill; a Physical Recreation; an Adventurous Journey and a Community Service. Bronze level students learnt many new skills of campcraft and self-management during their 4-day expedition to the Cathedral Ranges, while students doing their Silver and Gold journeys experienced the High Plains of Victoria. Gold level participants additionally need to complete a residential camp, popularly the Murray Marathon.

Students engaged in the Award have demonstrated initiative in searching for exciting pursuits which match their interests. For the service component of the award, it was wonderful to see an array of activities being recorded: training Guide Dogs, working at Child Care centres; assisting in Libraries; coaching junior teams; fundraising for various organisations.

We are looking forward to the incorporation of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award as a unit of the revised Year 9 program for 2012. This will give every student in Year 9 the opportunity to complete the Bronze Award, being able to gain from it the skills and links to the community that participants this year have achieved.

Liesl Woods

International and Interstate Links Program

Students involved in the wide variety of tours and exchanges offered this year have expressed their enjoyment of many new experiences, developing independence, appreciating cultural differences and taking up a variety of opportunities and challenges. Lifelong friends were made and some of the best times of life so far were experienced by girls who participated in the 2011 International and Interstate Links Program.

The hospitality of many Strathcona families was appreciated by visiting students from our sister schools – Soshin Girls School in Yokohama, Japan; Ewha Girls High School in Seoul, Korea – as well as our exchange schools – Somerset College, South Africa; Durham Academy, USA; Columbia College, Dunedin, New Zealand; Meriden School, Sydney; PLC Armidale, NSW and Rockhampton Girls Grammar, Queensland.

Host sisters developed friendships and participated in many excursions exploring Melbourne with visiting students. The Soshin students willingly shared Japanese culture and customs with Mellor House and Year 7 and 8 classes.

Visiting students from France, Germany and Italy also joined the School and contributed positively to school life.

A study tour to France was held for language students this year with plans underway for study tours to China and Italy in 2012.

A group from Years 10 and 11 toured Kakadu and Central Australia, another group took part in a World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam and Cambodia and Netballers played in Hawaii. Participating in these tours provided highlights of the year for these students.

The following students represented Strathcona on exchange this year:

To Meriden, Sydney, 20 August – 1 September: Paris Balla, Anna Doyle, Hannah McLean (Year 8).
To PLC Armidale, NSW, 20 August – 1 September: Sophie Bruglera, Caroline McCraw, Sarah Milne and Anna Terry (Year 8).
To Rockhampton, Queensland, 1 – 13 September: Alexandra Crocker, Tess Exinger, Sarah Foster and Lily Sawers (Year 8).
Bramich to Sweden (December–January).

Elisha Catlow (Year 10) will attend school in Germany mid-November to February.

Anthea Szemiti (Year 9) will spend Semester 1, 2012 in Greece and Aleksandra Gibson (Year 9) will attend school in Belgium mid-November to March 2012.

We wish the girls well for their time overseas.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the tours and exchanges this year.

Diana Little

To Somerset College, South Africa: Georgina Tobias and Monique Fernandez (Year 10).

Strathcona host sisters for students visiting from Rockhampton were Madeleine Brown, Rebecca Gill, Claire Watson and Olivia Newman (Year 8) and for students visiting from Columbia College, New Zealand, the host sisters were Molly Young, Kate Donaldson, Elisia Kellick (Year 9), Katherine Norman and Jessica Westcott (Year 10).

The following Year 11 students have been selected to take part in exchanges organised through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange: Simena Tsalkos to France (December–January); Amanda Donaghey to USA (December–January); Gabrielle Bramich to Sweden (December–January).

Elisha Catlow (Year 10) will attend school in Germany mid-November to February.

Anthea Szemiti (Year 9) will spend Semester 1, 2012 in Greece and Aleksandra Gibson (Year 9) will attend school in Belgium mid-November to March 2012.

We wish the girls well for their time overseas.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the tours and exchanges this year.

Diana Little
Music

Our young musicians perform regularly throughout the year, both at school functions and in the wider community and, by the end of the school year, the girls will have given over 28 performances.

As always, all our major instrumental and choral ensembles were up and running before school officially commenced, which is a testament to the dedication of our young musicians. This dedication enabled our ensembles to perform early in the year at the Foundation Day Service, the Opening of the Aquatic & Fitness Centre, Jazz on the Green and at the Easter Service.

In Term 2, the Stage Band spent a successful weekend at Mt Gambier, participating in the Generations of Jazz, listening to some inspiring jazz groups and to such great musicians as James Morrison. Stage Band has given several fantastic performances this year, culminating in the Jazz Night at the Thornbury Theatre.

Our Year 8 Piano Trio also performed during this term to a most appreciative audience of close to 400. It was inspiring to see these very young musicians performing an amazing repertoire that would challenge adult musicians, and yet deliver such accomplished and polished performances.

The first Friday of Term 3 saw our musicians pack their bags and instruments and take off to our Music Camp in preparation for the Annual Concert. Ninety girls attended this year and much was achieved musically. The girls’ commitment, spirited approach to rehearsals and their effervescent energy ensured the success of this camp and indeed the success of the Annual Concert, which followed two weeks later. A Glee Choir has been established this year, at Years 7 and 8, and they had their first formal performance on this occasion, performing in their own right and also combining with Chanteuses singing Lean on Me. It was exciting to hear our senior girls improvising in this song.

Our Chamber musicians gave many superb performances at the Friends of Music Dinner, including Les Chanteuses, who gave a most entertaining rendition of the old standard, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.

This year for the first time, we introduced a Concerto Evening where six of our talented soloists each performed a movement of a concerto with the orchestra. Vivian Chen and Mabel Chong, (Year 8), Megan Ha, (Year 9), Rachael Zhu and Madeline Henderson, (Year 10), and Olivia Ehrenberg, (Year 12), all performed. The girls performed exceptionally well, tackling and overcoming the challenges of performing with an orchestra playing behind them – a first for all the girls.

I never cease to be amazed at our students’ capacity to give so generously of their time and talents, not only directly within the Music department, but also within the broader area of Performing Arts. It is always exciting and inspiring to watch the musical development of our girls over the years – from their first tentative performances either in Mellor House or at Middle School, to the confident, enthusiastic performances at Senior levels.

We were very saddened by the death of Joy Buxton who has been a parent and a grandparent in the School and a very active member of the committee of the Friends of Music. She also volunteered two days a week in the Music Department for many years and set up and ran our Music Library. One would not be able to list all that she did for our department. She was a great friend to many within the School community over a 26-year period and we will miss her sorely.

I would like to thank the Friends of Music who work tirelessly to support the music staff and the girls. Through their tremendous efforts and generosity over the years, we have received many instruments, both large and small, and music, which have enabled us to run various programs successfully. The Friends are a never-ending source of encouragement, support, creative ideas and enthusiasm – we are truly blessed.

Georgina Nagy
Outdoor Education Program/Camps

Strathcona’s Outdoor Education program has provided a year of exciting and engaging programs for all students. The year commenced with Year 8 students exploring the rivers and ranges of Alexandra, involving use of inflatable canoes, an energetic compilation of initiatives games, and a new rock climbing component. Year 7 students, based at Lady Northcote Recreation Camp were given the opportunity to swing from a height, cook over a campfire, navigate for a prize and participate in a Harry-Potter-length series of adventure activities. These challenges provided a forum for students to explore their own abilities, as well as build upon their new friendships. Students in Years 9 and 10 ventured into unique environments, the former experiencing the thrill of the cross country ski slopes at Falls Creek, and the latter enjoying a warmer scene involving Kayaking, Sailing, Surfing and a special element of Tree Climbing, at Merrick’s Camp on the Peninsula.

In addition to the year level camps, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards have provided students with the opportunity to hike in the Cathedral Ranges and the High Plains of Victoria. These trips have displayed Strathcona students’ ability to challenge themselves and support their peers, especially in difficult conditions. Students have also developed these qualities through special programs offered such as the Kakadu trip, World Challenge Expedition to Cambodia and Vietnam, and the newly introduced ‘Learn to Ski Day’ hosted at Mt Buller this year.

Looking towards 2013, preparations will be made to provide a more defined sequence of skill and challenge through Strathcona’s Outdoor Education program. We want to ensure that students are provided with access to all types of environments, and that they are most appropriately challenged for development of their physical, mental and social needs. Some adjustments may include: an overnight ‘camp-out’ element during the Year 7 camp; a caving component during the Year 8 camp (2012); the transfer of Ski Camp to the Year 8 program (2013); the addition of a journey-based camp to complement the initiatives occurring in the Year 9 Program; the addition of a certification process in the Year 10 camp; and various day adventure experiences being offered to all students.

Many staff have been involved with these programs, and we are very thankful for their contributions. All Year Level Coordinators have been extremely involved in the administration of their camps, and they deserve great acknowledgement for their work in providing information and support to all the students, parents and staff, prior and during their trips. 2012 provides an exciting platform of activities through which students may explore the world and themselves.

Liesl Woods

Speech, Drama and Effective Communication

The Speech and Drama program aims to improve the self-confidence and performance skills of students by developing both public speaking and theatre skills. A
wide variety of texts is studied and brought to life. Younger students enjoy humorous poetry, skits and characters, while seniors often engage in more challenging work, including Shakespeare, and classic material from the English canon. Improvisation games are popular at junior and middle school and build fluency and confidence. The focus at all levels is on building skilful communicators. Students both study and practise vocal and physical aspects of communication, while bringing a diverse range of material to life on the stage.

The Speech and Drama Program continues to see significant numbers of students enrolled. After active promotional work in 2010, the program has now seen increased enrolments at two key entry points: Years 4 and 7. Sixty three students from Year 4 to Year 10 undertook tuition this year.

The most popular tuition type is group tuition: a convention that increases enjoyment and allows students to engage in interactive communication and learning. Students with special needs or undertaking higher examination levels enrol for private tuition (about 10% of students).

In 2011, students have had opportunities to perform at two concerts for parents at Mellor House assemblies and at the Eisteddfod by the Bay. They presented for Trinity Guildhall examinations in November. Year 4 students also performed for their peers (Years 3 and 4), offering an excellent opportunity to promote the program.

Eisteddfod:

The Eisteddfod by the Bay was a highlight of Semester I with over 40 Strathcona girls participating. Two rewarding days were spent at the Eisteddfod venue and Strathcona girls represented the School with confidence and grace. The girls achieved seven 1st place trophies, 2nd place awards, nine 3rd place awards and 27 Honorable Mentions. Importantly, we all enjoyed watching and supporting the students in their work. One student to be especially congratulated is Mikaela Kellaway (Year 8) who won the solo championship, against competition up to Year 11. She performed an extract from The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, and recited Wilfred Owen’s Dulce Et Decorum Est.

Trinity Guildhall examinations:

Thirty-two students undertook Trinity Guildhall examinations on November 8th: twenty-seven students undertook solo performance examinations in Speech and Drama, from Level 1 to 5; four students undertook the examination Acting in Pairs, and one student undertook Level 7 Shakespeare solo. This is the highest number of solo examination students in recent years. Two students also completed examinations in June. We currently have two students preparing for Grade 8 examinations in June 2012. Both girls will apply to have their accomplishments recognised and credited towards their VCE.

The program continues to see an increase in enrolments, explained in part by higher retention rates as students work toward higher level examinations. The commitment made by students and parents; to tuition, eisteddfods and examinations helps to make the current program a vibrant experience for all involved. It is a pleasure to oversee the program.

Fiona Marantelli

GSV Sport

We are all aware of the benefits of physical activity and sport. Apart from essential health benefits, important outcomes include developing a sense of belonging and building leadership skills, self-esteem and self-confidence. Sport and physical activity are also a great way to develop new friendships and discover areas of interest and talent. There are many opportunities at Strathcona to be involved in sport at all levels, whether it is for fun, serious competition or to earn House points.

It has been a big year yet again for sport at Strathcona. The interschool sports offered through GSV have expanded with the introduction of Indoor Cricket and Water Polo. This has helped the participation numbers continue to climb with 44 teams representing Strathcona and approximately 370 students taking up the opportunity to participate in interschool competitions.

In 2011, Strathcona achieved some exciting results at GSV level. The Senior Tennis A, Senior Netball B, Intermediate Hockey A and Netball Junior G won their Zone and made the Finals. The Senior Netball C Team won their Zone Final and their Grand Final and were awarded as Premiers. We were also extremely successful at the GSV Carnivals competing in Division 1 in Diving, Athletics and Cross Country and Division 2 in Swimming. The Athletics team achieved their best result in 4 years and finished 5th overall and 1st in the Senior Division out of the 24 schools. Strathcona was also well represented at both the Finals Evenings, winning 19 medals at the Swimming and Diving, including 7 Gold, and 15 medals at the Track and Field evening, including six Gold.

We hope the number of students who participate in sport will continue to grow and we encourage girls who have yet to be involved in a sporting team to have a go and experience more of what Strathcona has to offer.

Megan Barber
Achievements in academic pursuits and the arts

The following students received Premier’s VCE Awards in May:

Rosemary Byth (Year 12, 2010)……….. Drama and English
Chloe Harris (Year 12, 2011)………………. Food & Technology
Jessica Sellwood (Year 12, 2011)……………. Food & Technology
Vanessa Wong (Year 12, 2010)………………. Chemistry

- Vanessa Wong and Rosemary Byth (Year 12, 2010) were awarded an Australian Student Prize by the Australian Government.

The Australian Student Prize is an initiative designed to give national recognition to academic excellence and achievement in secondary education. Five-hundred prizes are awarded nationally each year.

- 2010 VCE Drama students, Rosie Byth, Ruby Duncan, Brittany Testro, Georgia Pandel, Kristen Waters and Emma Watkinson, were selected by the VCAA to audition for Top Class Drama. Ruby Duncan (Year 12, 2010) and Georgia Pandel (Year 12, 2011) were selected for the Top Class performances and performed at the Melbourne Recital Centre in April.

- Tegan Ruta and Kate Nelson (Year 12, 2010) were selected for Top Arts. An exhibition was held at the Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, 31 March – 19 June.

VCE Top Designs/Top Class nominations:

Food Technology: Sarah Burke, Kate Vickery, Katrina Knight.
Visual Communication & Design: Nicole Willis, Kate Nelson.
Drama auditions: Rosie Byth, Ruby Duncan, Emma Watkinson, Brittany Testro, Kristen Waters, Georgia Pandel.

- Phoebe McMahon (Year 12) was selected by Vision Generation (World Vision’s youth movement) as one of 30 young people from across Australia to participate in Trek against Trafficking. In February, she travelled to Canberra to undertake high-level issue training with World Vision experts, engage with politicians, the media and local communities.

- Gemma Hallett (Year 12) reached the State Final of the VCAA Plain English Speaking competition.

- Cassandra Cohen (Year 11) was selected as one of 12 participants from 372 applicants to be involved in a journalism experience called “The High School Newspaper” for The Age.
• Anna Mitchell (Year 11) was selected for the National Youth Science Forum in January 2012.
• Younghee Cho, Sara Fortunato, Samira Wakhlu, Katherine Dartnell and Katie Lau (Year 11) received a Gold Medal and Georgia McNeil (Year 11) received a Bronze Medal in the Language Perfect World Championships.
• Jacinta Zhu (Year 8) won a place in the Boroondara Literary Awards.
• At the 2011 Eisteddfod by the Bay, in the 12 years and under section, Emma Koppelman and Francesca Coloretti (Year 7) were placed 1st and 3rd in a number of sections. Hannah Murphy (Year 7) was placed 1st in a number of sections. In the 16 years and under section, Mikaela Kellaway (Year 8) achieved 1st place.
• Bethany Whitmore (Year 6) won a lead role in the new film, Mental, by P J Hogan (the creator/director of Muriel’s Wedding), starring opposite Toni Collette.

Achievements in sport and co-curricular activities
• Clare Krahnert and Megan Proe (Year 12) received a Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and will attend a ceremony at Government House later this year.
• Megan Proe (Year 12) was selected to attend a development course as a ‘Youth Award Leader’ for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards in March.
• Gemma Hallet (Year 12) and Cassandra Cohen (Year 11) were the recipients of the Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards from the Australian Defence Force.
• Johanna Eades (Year 12) and Gemma O’Farrell (Year 11) were invited to meet Mr Josh Frydenberg MP Member for Kooyong, and were presented with certificates for the Local Sporting Champions Award for Hockey and Badminton, respectively.
• Chelsea Dyer (Year 12) and Madeline Morrison (Year 11) were selected for the GSV Netball representative squad for 2011, competing against other State representative teams.
• Amelia Hough (Year 11) was Captain of the Victorian U16 Schoolgirls Hockey team which competed in the Australian Titles in NSW and finished 6th.
• Riana Mollard, 2009 Captain of Rowing and coach of the Senior 3rd crew, was selected for the Victorian Youth Eight to compete at the Australian Rowing Championships.
• At the Rowing Victoria Junior Girls State Championships, Anna Cornwell (Year 11) won Gold in the Open Div 2 Single Scull; Caitlin Burns (Year 10) won Silver in the Year 10 Single Scull and Natalia Eades, Kate Vickery, Genevieve Nenna, Johanna Eades (Year 12) and Cox Carla Brugliera (Year 11), won Bronze in the Open Div 4 Quad.
• Madeline Morrison (Year 11) represented Victoria at the National Netball Championships in Brisbane in the U17 age group. She was also selected for the Australian U17 team.
• Emma Morrison (Year 11) and Cara Adamopoulos (Year 9) were selected to represent Victoria at the National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in July, having competed in the State Championships in June. Cara and Emma also represented the Victorian Rhythmic Gymnastics team at the Australian National Championships in Perth.
• In Cricket, Sarah Chancellor-Goddard (Year 10) represented the Inner East Emus in the Under 16 State Championships. For the second year in a row, they won, and Sarah was again voted player of the final by the umpires. She was also named player of the Championships out of over 200 girls from 16...
teams. She also successfully represented the Emus in the Under 18s, winning the final on the MCG. Sarah then represented Victoria in the Under 15 Nationals where she was named and capped in the Australian Under 15 team of the Championships for the year. She is currently training with the Under 18 State Squad.

In Hockey, Sarah represented the Red Devils in the Under 15 State Championships in which they also won back to back titles. In addition, she represented Victoria in the Under 15 National Tournament and won the Coaches Award.

- Minnipa Griggs (Year 10) represented Strathcona at the Tintern Inter-school Horse Trials 2011, competing in dressage, show jumping and cross country.

- Caitlin Burns (Year 10) represented Victoria in the Women’s U17 Victorian White team at the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in Adelaide.

- Rebecca Gower (Year 10), coach, and Anna Doyle and Anna Terry (Year 8), assistant coaches, coached the Year 5 Strathcona Storm Netball team who won the Grade 5 Silver Final.

- Christie Donaghey (Year 9) competed in the Victorian Gymnastics Championships and came 1st on the bars, 2nd on the beam and 3rd on the vault, overall achieving 1st in Victoria at National 8 level. She was selected to represent Victoria in the National Gymnastics Championship in Perth and achieved 1st on Vault. She is the Australian National Level 8 champion on this apparatus. She also came 2nd overall and is Number 2 in Australia at this level.

- Isabel Duyker and Maddison Chetcuti were nominated Year 9 Youth Award Leaders for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Program.

- Meghan Parry (Year 9) set a new GSV record of 28.15 seconds in the 50 m Freestyle at the GSV Swimming and Diving Finals evening in April.

- Lily Sawers (Year 8) was awarded Cadet of the Year for her involvement with the 13th Beach Life Saving Club at Barwon Heads.

- Madeline Wild (Year 8) was selected as a member of the team to represent the Metro East Region of Swimming Victoria and competed at a meet at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

- Isabelle Winiarski, Isabella Rossidis and Sophie Brugliera (Year 8) were placed 3rd in Level 1, Trio section of the Aerochenlallenge.

- Bronte Hough (Year 7) is a member of the Victorian U13 Girls Hockey team.
Melissa Allan
Mikhala Antonino
Sarah Aynsley
Bianca Boyle
Sarah Burke
Claire Callander
Olivia Carter
Jiahui Chen
Xizi Chen
Tessa Clegg
Cynthia Costanzo
Rebecca Courtier
Ashleigh-Rose Cubit
Hayley Daniel
Jessica Donaghey
Phoebe Drysdale
Jodie Dunston
Chelsea Dyer
Johanna Eades
Natalia Eades
Olivia Ehrenberg
Amanda Elcheikh
Rebekah Fanner
Emily Freemantle
Sijia Fu
Annabelle Gray
Emily Griffiths
Gemma Hallett
Shannon Hansen
Annabelle Harmon
Chloe Harris
Megan Hopkins
Morgan Hughes
Chloe Jacob
Laura Johnston
Jeanne Khin
Victoria Kladouhos
Katrina Knight
Megan Knight
Nicollette Kokkas
Clare Krahnert
Yanwen Li
Menglu Lin
Siming Liu
Madeleine Lowes
Jin Yi Lu
Katherine Manger
Amy Mc Ardle
Elizabeth McFee
Phoebe McMahon
Emily McPherson
Zoe Meadows
Ellen Merrett
Nerilee Morale
Louise Nankervis
Genevieve Nenna
Hayley Newton
Alexandra Osborne
Georgia Pandel
Jacinta Panjkov
Xue Peng
Olivia Phillips
Megan Proe
Annabel Ramsay
Tayla Ramsay
Emily Ray
Georgia Riley
Emma Roberts
Jessica Rossidis
Anna Sallows
Jessica Sellwood
Gianna Sequeira
Alexandra Sertic
Danielle Simpson
Cathryn Slusher
Claire Smith
Madeline Smith
Zoe Smith
Ye Mei Song
Gabrielle Tesoriero
Brittany Testro
Olivia Thompson
Anna Tribaldos
Jacqueline Van Veenendaal
Kate Vickery
Michelle Volovski
Xue Song Wang
Kristen Waters
Stephanie Waters
Sierra Wilson
Huishu Yang
Guangcan Yao
Ting Zhou
Jiali Zhu
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Year 9 Campus: Tay Creggan,  
30 Yarra Street, Hawthorn

Junior Campus: Mellor House – Prep to Year 6,  
173 Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury

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