

# *The Headmaster's Annual Report A.D. 2000*

## **Introduction**

May Prince Alfred College be:

- “ • a place of inspiration and learning;
- a place of welcome and nurture;
- a place where each person might find the courage and strength to fulfil their potential;
- a place where each is mindful of the needs of the other;
- a place of forgiveness and reconciliation;
- a place of justice, healing and peace;
- a place of security and compassion;
- a place of support and reassurance; and
- a place of strength and understanding.”

These words were spoken by our Moderator, the Rev Don Catford, on 15th September this year when he dedicated the central tower of the main building following its extensive refurbishment. As well as being Moderator and President of our College Council, Mr Catford is an Old Scholar of Prince Alfred College, and so it was particularly significant for us that he accepted our invitation to dedicate our building.

It is my sincere hope that his words of encouragement and challenge shall endure here permanently, long after the time when even our Main Building might have decayed and collapsed. The essence of any school is not bricks and mortar, but the experiences and the challenges which are essential to transform young lives. It is right, therefore, that Mr Catford challenged us in these areas when he dedicated our Central Tower.

I use the word ‘endure’ deliberately when I express the hope that his words of encouragement and challenge shall *endure* here longer even than our Main Building. Our school motto is *Fac Fortia et Patere*, which has traditionally been translated as ‘Do brave deeds and endure’. The rhetoric is reminiscent of World War I. This is not coincidental as *Fac Fortia et Patere* is our second motto, introduced just after end of the First World War in 1919. If we were to paraphrase our motto in today’s language, we would probably say ‘Go well beyond your comfort zone, and persevere!’. With a contemporary understanding such as this, I believe that the message of our motto is as relevant and appropriate today as it has always been, and it still offers a challenge to our boys and young men. May we rise to this challenge daily!

The opening of the Central Tower of the Main Building was just one of many highlights we have experienced this year at Prince Alfred College. As the final year of the second millennium, or the first year of the third according to some people, A.D. 2000 has been an exciting and busy time to be a member of the Prince Alfred College community.

For me personally, I arrived in Adelaide on 3rd January and together with my wife and four children to take up my position as the College’s ninth Headmaster. I am very grateful to the entire Princes community — students, staff, parents, members of Council and Old Scholars — for the

warmth and sincerity of the welcome extended to my family and me, and all the support and assistance that has been so freely given. The warmth of my welcome certainly made our process of settling in thoroughly enjoyable in every way for all of us.

It is a good experience to arrive in a school and look it through fresh eyes as I have done this year. Now that I am at Princes, and feeling very much an integral part of this great school, I can understand why everyone is so enthusiastic about Princes — we share a very special place which is playing an important part in shaping the future of our society. In a literal sense, we are forming Australia's future today in our classrooms, in our corridors, in our playground and on our sports fields. Our task in education should never be devalued or demeaned as the popular press and some bureaucrats sometimes love to do.

### ***Strategic Plan***

One of the most important things to happen at Princes this year has been to undertake the process of developing a new Strategic Plan. One of the 'biggest' questions we can ask ourselves in this school is: How do we make sure Prince Alfred College will continue to provide a relevant, challenging and excellent education to prepare our students fully for the future?

In a series of information sessions for our staff, our council, our students, our parents and our Old Collegians, I spoke about the challenges that will face our boys in the future — 80% of the children in Year 2 this year will enter careers that don't yet exist involving technology that hasn't yet been invented; the amount of information in the world doubles every two and a half years; graduates in 2010 will be exposed to more information in that year than their grandparents were in a lifetime. How does a school like Princes continue to provide the very best education in that sort of changing environment?

The answer is that we inform ourselves and make ourselves aware of these changes, and then plan ahead accordingly; and that is the strategic planning process we have undertaken. After several months of preparation, six information sessions were held in August and September, and a summary was placed on the school website, to encourage input from all sections of the school community. Almost 200 responses were received, and extensive feedback was provided to the school community through Newsletters in mid-October. Also in mid-October the College Council met for a full day with senior staff to consider the input and develop the draft strategic plan. Drafting of the plan is proceeding very well and I am confident that the strategic plan will be published and available to the school community early next year.

### ***Academic Program***

Following discussions which had been taking place for over a year among the Preparatory School staff, the decision was taken to adopt the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate into Years 1 to 5 with immediate effect. An application was made to the regional office of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, which was quickly approved. Adoption of the PYP is consistent with and supportive of the other key educational directions of Princes, specifically Reggio Emilia, the MYP, the IB Diploma and the Dimensions of Learning framework. In a sense, the PYP is the final piece of the jigsaw needed to enable us to provide a coherent progression of skills development from pre-school through to matriculation. PAC is only the third school in Australasia to offer all three programs of the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

Much of the staff professional development this year in the secondary school has focussed on developing the Middle Years Program (MYP) which is now in its second year of implementation at

the school. Introduced into Years 6 and 7 last year, the MYP is progressing annually upwards through the secondary school, reaching Year 8 this year and progressing into Year 9 next year. Under the leadership of our MYP Co-ordinator, Mrs Karen Manton, and our Director of Studies and IB Co-ordinator, Mr Roger Marshman, the MYP has stimulated new innovative learning among our students, and has strengthened the interdisciplinary nature of our teaching in the middle years.

At the end of term 1, a new initiative designed to encourage effort and application on the part of our students was introduced into the Secondary School. On Thursday 11th May for the first time, all boys who earned Grade 1 for effort in all their subjects were awarded a specially designed certificate (The Headmaster's Gold Award for Effort) at a special assembly to which parents were invited, followed by a special afternoon tea. Boys who earned Grade 1 for effort in every subject except for one which earned a '2' were awarded a "Red Award" while those who earned Grade 1 in every subject except for two '2s' received a "White Award".

It is useful to understand the thinking behind this new initiative. While academic achievement is vitally important in a school, by definition very few students are capable of coming first in their class. It follows, therefore, that rewarding achievement is a realistic incentive only to a very small proportion of our students. On the other hand, the effort grade on reports is a measure of a student's application, irrespective of natural ability. Although a student may be struggling to achieve high marks, if he is working his heart out then he ought to be receiving a Grade 1 for effort in that subject. Equally, if a student is achieving high marks, but is coasting to the extent that he is capable of doing better, then a Grade 1 for effort would not be appropriate.

The initial group of recipients came from Years 8, 9 and 10 as these were the only years to have effort grades included in their reports in Term 1. It is encouraging that of the 378 boys in these years, 64 (or 17%) received certificates, 6 of which were Gold Awards. Effort grades were added to all reports throughout the Secondary School by the end of term 3, and the awards presentation at the beginning of term 4 which was based on these reports saw 128 boys receiving awards, 25 of which were Gold Awards.

### ***Student academic successes***

In the final Year 12 examinations at the end of last year, SACE and IB, 70% of our students came in the top 20% of the state — an excellent result for a non-selective school and clear evidence if anyone needed it that Princes gets the best out its boys right across the academic spectrum. But the statistics continue — 42% of Princes boys came in the top 10% of the state, 25% of our students were in the top 5% of the state, 19% were in the top 3% and 10% of our candidates came in the top 1% of the state. Three of our boys doing the International Baccalaureate achieved the maximum TER of 99.95, and one, Mitchell Raeside, topped the world in the IB with a perfect score of 45.

It is quite remarkable that a school such as ours which has only been involved with the International Baccalaureate Diploma program for a few years should achieve such a result at this time. Not far behind Mitchell Raeside was Andrew Saint with a score of 43 and Alex Silz with 42. These three students all earned the maximum TER of 99.95. Tim Nicholls, Nick Simmons and Paul Crossley each had a score of 41, giving them a TER of 99.90 and joining them on this ranking was Matthew Fisher with a score of 40. Eshan Wijeyekoon was the top ranking SACE student with an aggregate of 88 and a TER of 99.90. Cheng Chen had a similar ranking, while Eric Cheng, Peter Leckie, Mark Powell and Peter Norton all had scores which put them in the top 1% of students for TER.

Almost all students proceeded to tertiary study, gaining entry to their chosen course option, and the results from our top students were absolutely outstanding. There was quite a large cohort of Year 12 students in 1999, and 95% of that group successfully completed the requirements for either the South Australian Certificate of Education or the International Baccalaureate Diploma. There were 22 merit scores for SACE and 30 scores of 7 for the IB, an overall total of 52 maximum scores.

Many other successes achieved by Princes students have been highlighted in the weekly Newsletter and in Princes Record this year, and so shall not be repeated here. However, some successes are especially noteworthy.

At the end of Term 2, for the third year in a row, Prince Alfred College completely dominated the Australia-wide National Economics Quiz sponsored by AMP and The Australian. One of our boys, Richard Steenvoorde was the top Year 12 student in South Australia, and in fact Princes has provided the top Year 12 student in all the three years in which we have entered the competition. Two other students, Peter Mathews and Cameron Doody finished equal second in South Australia in the Year 11 section. Altogether there were 23 prize winners from Prince Alfred College, but only 33 prizes awarded in total, meaning that students from Princes represented more than two-thirds of the prizes awarded.

Also in second term, 150 Prince Alfred College students from Years 8, 9 and 10 entered the annual Australian Geography Competition, organised by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers Association. Approximately 48,000 students entered this event from 637 schools across Australia. Tristan Clements (8 Bubner), finished equal second in Australia for his age group. A total of 68 Princes boys were awarded High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credits.

In fourth term, Craig Patterson (11 Blacket) was awarded the State Prize in the 2000 National History Challenge Awards. Craig's entry was in the Wartime Experiences Special Category, and it was also Highly Commended in the Using Primary Sources Special Category. The ceremony took place in the Prince Philip Theatre here at PAC, and was attended by many dignitaries as well as winners from other schools in South Australia in the other age groups. Another Princes' student, Tom Farrant (11 Stanton) came second in the Year 11/12 age category in South Australia, with an entry that went on to be the National winner in the Year 11/12 age category. Other Princes boys who made the State Final in South Australia were Philip Selby and Hamish Smyth in the Year 7/8 age category, Aaron Garry in the Year 9/10 age category and Chris Seglenieks and Tom Morgan in the Year 11/12 age category. Matthew Davis of Year 9 made the State Final in another History Competition, the Simpson Prize.

In third term, all Chemistry students in Years 10, 11 and 12 participated in the Australian National Chemistry Quiz organised by the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute. Students from PAC performed at a level well above the national average and Edward Wilson (10 Rushton) secured an Award of Excellence for achieving the rare distinction of 100% in the examination. Tom Evans (11 Blacket) was awarded a plaque for scoring in the top 1% of candidates at his year level. Chris Seglenieks (12 Rushton) was also worthy of congratulation, securing the highest score within PAC and gaining a place in the top 1% of candidates in the state.

In fourth term, the results of the annual Australian Maths competition showed that Princes boys also performed to a considerably higher standard than the state average in every age group. In some age groups, Princes out-performed the state average by 20% or 25%, even though we enter every boy in the competition, while many other schools allow only their elite mathematicians to

enter. Earlier this year, a smaller group of 17 students in Years 8, 9 and 10 entered the '2000 Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians', in which they completed a booklet with very advanced six questions over the course of three weeks. The overall success of our students was very pleasing, with three boys — Chen Tu, Stuart Floyd and David Mao — earning High Distinction awards, two earning Distinctions and three earning Credit awards. These results, and the others I have described here, reflect very positively on the efforts of our teachers and students given that Princes is an academically non-selective school.

Significant successes also occurred in our Preparatory School. When the results of the 1999 Year 3 National Literacy in Reading Tests were released this year, we found that ALL our boys (currently attending Year 4) were either at, or above, the benchmark. This result was most pleasing as it affirmed the outstanding quality of teaching and learning that takes place in our Preparatory School, and was in stark contrast to the scores for many other schools. In the years to come, national testing of numeracy and literacy will be extended to Years 5, 7 and 10.

Several Preparatory School students were recognised in Community Aid Abroad's 'Education Now Writing Competition' in second term. Anthony Antoniadis, Jamie Bahnisch, Tim Boucaut, Andrew Brook, Sam Ellison, Andrew Moschou, Cameron Roy, Patrick Sadlier and Andrew Treloar won merit awards, while Andrew Brook was one of the top 18 entries displayed at the Adelaide Lending Library.

### ***Wider School Program***

Our co-curricular program for 2000 began even before the beginning of the new academic year when a highly successful basketball tour to the United States was undertaken during January. The enthusiastic group, led by Mr Steve Johnston and Mr Greg Fletcher, experienced a wonderful mixture of basketball matches and sightseeing during their four week trip from 3rd to 30th January. The boys were billeted with other students' families at many of their stops and this was a valuable part in building friendships. Our team found that they were competitive at both junior and senior level teams in many areas, although the results show a sequence of narrow losses. At times our students found themselves playing in matches with crowds of 300 to 400 spectators, several of which were broadcast live on both radio and television and this was most encouraging. Our boys spent time in five different American schools and in all cases represented PAC and Australia in a most favourable manner. The boys often spoke in classes and gave slide presentations in whole school assemblies where they spoke about Australia and what it was like to attend an Australian school.

Our annual school musical production was performed on three occasions in the school hall on Thursday 25th May, Friday 26th May and Saturday 27th May. This year's production was 'Pippin', and marked the first time we have undertaken a co-production with Seymour College, previous productions having been co-productions with Annesley College. The standard of the production brought positive comments in many areas, including the voices, instruments, make-up, choreography, stage and lighting, and the efforts of Mr Michael Steer in directing the show are acknowledged with deep gratitude. Our school captain, Ted Bourlotos, drew particular praise for the quality of his role as the male lead playing the character of Pippin, although I know he would be the first to acknowledge the widespread excellent participation by well over a hundred Princes boys both on and off the stage.

Although our Secondary School's musical production was performed with Seymour College, a new initiative this year was the first annual musical production performed jointly by our

Preparatory School and the Junior School at Annesley College. Two performances of the production 'Music' by Cenarth Fox were performed to appreciative audiences on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th October in our school hall. Mrs Candace Kruger did a wonderful job of directing and co-ordinating this production with the staff from Annesley College, and the Year 6 and 7 boys participated with great enthusiasm. It is hoped that this was the first of many such annual productions.

Several boys from Prince Alfred College performed in a highly acclaimed production of 'Lord of the Flies' at the Playhouse Theatre in the Adelaide Festival Centre. Several Princes students had lead roles in the production, notably Chris Olver, Edward Brockhoff and Tom Morgan who played the roles of Jack, Simon and Roger respectively. In addition, several other students from Years 8 to 11 were given supporting roles. Interestingly, the remainder of the cast was primarily made up of Saints students, which certainly added some physical realism to the staged fighting scenes between the boys on the island. The play was very well received by the audiences viewing it, and the reviews in the press were also highly congratulatory.

On Friday evening 2nd June, our orchestra joined those from several other independent schools in Adelaide to perform in a jazz concert at Norwood Town Hall, accompanied by James Morrison and Don Burrows. Several hundred people attended the performance, which was of a particularly high standard. As they have done on many occasions, our orchestra combined with the orchestra from Seymour College on the evening.

A highly successful program of Outdoor and Transition Education (OTE) was conducted with Year 10 boys during the last week of August and the first week of September. The activities undertaken by the boys included:

- Family Life
- First Aid
- Drugs and Health
- Boys' Talk
- Outdoor Adventure Skills
- Learner's Permit and Risk Taking
- Language at Work

Dr Adrian Johnson and Mrs Viv Jenson made a huge effort in organising and co-ordinating this program which I know was deeply appreciated by the boys who participated in it.

Every year, the Intercollegiate (intercol) Matches are a highlight of life at Princes. This year, the winter intercol matches were conducted with an excellent sense of sportsmanship but a disappointing set of results. The results of the Intercollegiate matches were:

Basketball	lost	33-39
Football	lost	6.11 (47) to 13.11 (89)
Hockey	lost	1-2
Rugby Union	lost	3-18
Soccer	lost	1-3

It was generally conceded that the teams from Saints were stronger in each sport, although not always by the margin which the scores might suggest. In every case, the Princes teams played in a

thoroughly sportsmanlike manner which represented their school extremely well. In no match did our boys fail to give 100% commitment right to the end of the game, even when a loss seemed inevitable. We had known from the beginning of the season that Saints had a particularly strong sporting (and academic!) Year 12 this year and that we had a higher proportion of the Year 11 players. We were also hit by a particularly severe bout of illness through the school in the week preceding the Intercol matches, and Saints were fortunate to avoid this. Happily, the mood at each of the Intercollegiate Dinners was very buoyant despite the losses, as all teams had played strongly throughout the season with wins comfortably exceeding losses in most cases.

The results of the summer sporting intercols and the 'cultural' were more heartening, with wins in badminton, swimming and chess, and narrow losses in debating and rowing. Perhaps even more remarkably, our success in chess shows no sign of waning and deserves a special mention. This year, Princes has won the South Australian schools chess championship for the 26th time in 27 years, a run of success which is unique. It is no accident that Princes is known as South Australia's premier chess school. I congratulate our chess players for this fine result, and especially Anthony Nguyen and Captain, and Peter Matthews as Vice-captain and player on the number 1 board. Special congratulations are also due to Joshua Baldwin (10 Hemsley) who was placed 1st in this year's Under 16 State Chess championships. Sincere thanks are due to our chess coach, Mr Richard Thorne, and our two teachers who support and assist him, Dr Doug Rowston and Mr Murray Thompson.

A very large number of Princes boys gained prestigious positions in representative sports teams this year, thus contributing to sport outside Princes and bringing considerable kudos to the school. In Cricket, Tim Angel (12S) and Alex Chapman (12B) were selected for the State Under 19 team, while Brad Coles (10D), Jack Dent (11O), Sam Hurburgh (10D) and Luke Richards (10D) were selected for the State Under 17 team. Matthew Davis (9S) was chosen to be a member of the State Under 15 cricket team, and David Hocking (8 Ba) was selected as a member of the State Under 14 cricket team. In Rugby, Lea Hodge (12R) and Leigh Marsland (11D) were selected for the Under 18 and Under 16 South Australian Schools Rugby teams respectively in the Australian Schools championships which were held in Brisbane in July, while Andrew Burgess (8 Bu) gained selection in the State Under 14 Rugby Union squad. In Basketball, Wayne Haydon (12D) was selected in the State Under 18 basketball team, while Joseph Mencil (9H) was selected in the State Under 16 basketball team. Tom Farrant (11S) achieved recognition for his Squash playing when he was ranked number 6 in Australia for Under 17 squash. In Hockey, Sam Tyler (11D) was selected in the State Under 18 Hockey team, travelling to Melbourne in July to compete in the National Championships, while John Renc (10O) was selected for the State Under 15 hockey team. William Phillips (8Hu) represented South Australia in the national Under 13 hockey tournament. In the sport of Ice Hockey, Kain Boord (8Jo) represented South Australia as a member of the State Under 14 team, serving also as Assistant Captain and progressing to become a member of the Australian national team. We were represented internationally in Rowing when Tom Speakman, Joseph Wilkinson, Josh Masters, Tim Donaldson, Fletcher Hall and Scott Harris rowed with the South Australian Junior Men's Eight at the 2000 Pacific Under 18 Regatta in New Zealand. In Cycling, Matthew Rux was the winner of the SASSA cycling time trial in the Under 15 division. In Swimming, David Leung (9B) won a bronze medal in the State Under 14/15 100m freestyle finals. Henry Perks was selected for the State Junior Golf team, and came 4th place overall in the Australian Schoolboys' Golf Championships held this year. In Table Tennis, Alex Swanson was the winner in the Under 20 division of the State table tennis championships. In Athletics, Ben Collette was chosen to represent South Australia in the Under Age National Athletics

Championships and Dylan Greeff came third in the Under 13 division of the South Australian Triathlon championships. In Water Polo Nick Hosking (10H) was selected for the State water polo team. Andrew Surman (11B) was the winner of the Under 19 South Australian Age Titles in Badminton. Finally, John Besir and Austin Toner (both 10B) who were chosen as representatives for the Kanga Cup Soccer tournament held in Canberra in July

Each year for the past 56 years, Prince Alfred College has produced its Science Journal. This publication is a model of its type — professional, scholarly, and produced entirely by our students. Past editors and contributors to the Science Journal have gone on to make significant contributions in the area of Science. I congratulate this year's editor, Iain Murchland (12 Hemsley), the business manager Reuben Salagaris (12 Blacket), sub-editors Ben Ung (12 Blacket) and Chris Seglenieks (12 Rushton), together with Mr Bob Holloway who guided the editorial committee, for upholding more than half a century's tradition of high quality with the publication of this year's Science Journal.

A more recent publication at PAC is Uncle Alfred, our literary journal which was founded in 1996. Under the editorship of Tom Morgan (11 Hemsley) and Lachlan Scott (11 Oldham), the profile and presentation of Uncle Alfred have been significantly improved, and this represents something of a 'coming of age' for our literary journal. I congratulate the editors, their panel, the contributors and Mrs Jane Nelson for their support of Uncle Alfred. I also congratulate Edward Brockhoff (11 Delbridge), Chris Olver (11 Blacket) and their team of helpers for their initiative in organising a highly successful quiz night on 23rd June which raised \$1780 in support of the journal.

### ***Spiritual Life and Programs***

The way in which our Christian foundations are expressed is central to our identity as a Uniting Church school. For this reason, we are currently reviewing the relationship between chaplaincy, counselling and Religious and Values Education (RAVE) teaching here at Princes. As part of that survey, parents and students were invited to provide feedback on survey forms in late October. The input received on these forms has been very valuable, and it is hoped that changes may be possible early next year which will enable us to fulfil the potential of these important areas of ministry to our school community.

Meanwhile, further work occurred this year in developing our Religious and Values Education (RAVE) program in both the Preparatory and Secondary Schools by infusing the 'five strand' approach developed by Dr Peter Vardy from Heythrop College at the University of London. This approach has been adopted from Kindergarten through to Year 12, with some modifications to suit our Uniting Church tradition. Vardy's five strands which now form the basis of our RAVE teaching are:

***Strand One:*** An appreciation of the Bible and Christian tradition

***Strand Two:*** Values education within a broad Christian framework

***Strand Three:*** An introduction to the central areas in Philosophy of Religion

***Strand Four:*** An overview of the main World Religions

***Strand Five:*** An appreciation of the value of stillness.

Dr Vardy visited Adelaide in May and provided staff development for our Preparatory School staff and the staff of Seymour College, and he visited Princes on Friday, 12th May. The purpose of his visit was to invite our Science Department to produce a unit of work linking an aspect of science with faith, morals and ethics for presentation on a website along with units produced in several other Australian schools.

Our Annual School Church Service was held at Kent Town Uniting Church on Sunday evening, 9th April. Although this evening was wet and coincided with the finish of the Clipsal 500, attendance was very strong and the quality of the music and the message were remarked upon by most of those who were present.

It is important that our Christian understandings are put into practice wherever possible. This can occur in many ways, but I especially wish to congratulate the boys in Year 7 who combined with girls from Annesley College on 27th March this year in a 'walk against want'. The boys walked five kilometres to raise money for Community Aid Abroad. At the end of the walk, a chapel service focussed the students' attention on true poverty and whether people know when they are truly blessed in the hustle, bustle and materialism of our society.

Once again, the Alpha course was conducted at PAC, providing an opportunity for parents and friends who are interested in finding out about Christianity to meet together once a week for 12 weeks to share a meal, watch a video, chat over coffee and enter into small group discussions where questioning is welcomed. As in previous years, the alpha course attracted a number of interested parents who expressed their delight with the opportunities which the course provided to them to explore 'big' issues free of pressure in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

I wish to record my appreciation to several groups which have continued to support PAC through regular and faithful prayer this year. An open invitation has been extended to parents, students and staff each Wednesday morning to join together in the chapel to pray for the Princes community, and I thank the Rev Dr Adrian Brown for his co-ordination of this group. I am grateful also for the support of the parents' prayer group under the direction of Mrs Joanne Chalmers which meets every month in the Preparatory School to join together in a few songs, listen to a short bible reading and share in a time of prayer for the needs of staff and students at PAC. The power of prayer should never be underestimated, and I know that Princes is immeasurably the better because of this prayer support.

### ***Pastoral Care***

The essence of pastoral care is communication and love. If we took our Christian heritage seriously, and loved one another as Christ himself commanded, then almost all the disciplinary, harassment issues we face would simply evaporate. We cannot care for one another as we ought if we lack love. Equally, we cannot express love without open and transparent communication.

Because clear communication is so important for a school community (and any other relationship) to function effectively, efforts have been made this year to open up communication as much as possible. I have made two lunchtimes available each week as 'Open Door' times for students, so that any boy can come and discuss any issue or ask any question to me directly without having to make an appointment. I have made similar arrangements for staff, except that the times available for staff are every day during module 4. If any member of staff has anything at all on their mind, and it will take less than 10 minutes or so, they may simply come along at that time for a chat; no appointment is needed. If staff need more than 10 minutes, then they make an appointment in the usual way.

I have also enjoyed the opportunity to meet every boy in the school this year by seeing each one individually on their birthday. I have been very impressed with the calibre of our young Princes Men as I have chatted with them, and I have found this to be an excellent way for me personally to get to know every student. The practice of seeing boys on their birthdays will continue next year.

Communication has also improved through the School Newsletters this year. I have made a point of sharing news and ideas on a weekly basis in both the Preparatory and Secondary Newsletters, and the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Kevin Tutt, has contributed some excellent weekly items on a number of areas revolving around the theme of providing the best possible environment for the education of boys and young men. In the middle of this year, Mr Tutt attended the annual conference of the International Coalition of Boys' Schools in San Francisco where he presented a paper on boys' education, using the concept of Princes Man as an ideal worthy of emulation. I am delighted that the entire Princes community has had the opportunity to share in Mr Tutt's and others' insights on boys' education through his regular Newsletter items.

Several houses in the secondary school held successful family functions in late term 1 and early term 2. Several houses (and Year 8 as a group) held barbecues in the school grounds, making facilities such as the pool, gymnasium and tennis courts available. One house (Delbridge) held a quiz evening which was largely organised by senior students in the house. I am deeply grateful to the Heads of Houses — Mr Mike Millard, Mr Michael Steer, Mrs Viv Jenson, Mrs Judith Hodgson, Mr Grant Davis and Mr Scott Parker — for the care they show to the boys in their houses and for the extraordinary amounts of time they spend with boys in need at times. I wish also to express my appreciation to Mr Ken Watson for his oversight of the pastoral care system in the Secondary School, and to Miss Linda Douglas for the work she performs in this area in the Preparatory School.

Several initiatives have been undertaken this year to encourage student leadership. Each week, the Headmaster's Assemblies now have a Prefect serving as Master of Ceremonies. Furthermore, the Houses have each committees to be known as the "House Forum" in which representatives from each year in the Secondary School meet together and discuss issues of concern and possible new initiatives. As appropriate, these discussions then form recommendations to be forwarded either to the Prefects or to the relevant member of staff, perhaps through the Headmaster if appropriate. Several significant changes have been made as a result of input received from the House Forum gatherings.

Secondary staff at the College have been concerned for some time that the end of Term 4 each year has been an unproductive period for students. Furthermore, it has been a stressful time for staff who are trying to correct exams and prepare reports while planning and supervising a programme of largely recreational activities. Following wide consultation, which included two Newsletter surveys and liaison with the P & F and boarding parents, an alternative programme for this period has been adopted from the end of 2000. The new programme extends the time boys spend in class by three days, but dismisses them for the end of year a week earlier.

### **Boarding**

Boarding has been an important part of Prince Alfred College ever since the school opened in 1869. The service we provide to isolated rural families in South Australia is an important one which is being shared increasingly with families in overseas countries which are keen to have their sons receive a Princes education.

Mr Grant Davis assumed responsibility for the boarding house at the start of 2000, and has done a wonderful job in making the boarding house a 'home away from home'. He quickly redecorated parts of the boarding house and upgraded facilities to obliterate any sense of an institutional atmosphere, and liaised with the kitchen staff to diversify the dinner menus, introducing the boys to the 'tastes of the world'. The reaction from boys and parents to Mr Davis' leadership in the

boarding house has been extremely positive, and it is clearly evident that together with his assistant staff, Mr Craig Bowyer and Mr Philip Moore, Mr Davis is exercising a strong sense of pastoral care that the boys themselves are the first to appreciate. Partly as a result of Mr Davis' effective care and leadership, boarding numbers will increase next year and we may even have a waiting list; Princes is one of only two schools in Adelaide to be increasing its boarding numbers at present, the other school being an all-girls' school.

### ***Student Leaders***

This year for the first time since 1911 when prefects were introduced at Princes, the new prefects have been appointed at the beginning of term 4 of Year 11 rather than the beginning of Year 12 as in previous years. This follows from a suggestion made by this year's Year 12 prefects. In past years, as Year 12 boys have concentrated on their studies and examinations in term 4, it has been said that we have experienced a lack of day-to-day student leadership until the appointment of the new group of prefects in the subsequent year. Appointing the new prefects in term 4 of Year 11 seems to have overcome this problem, and it has also enabled our new prefects to ask questions and tap into the wisdom of the retiring prefects. Our new prefects were commissioned at a ceremony on the last day of term 3 this year, and spent two days at a leadership training camp early this term to equip them with the skills and vision to be effective student leaders. Mr Tutt and Mr Huddleston ably assisted me with this leadership training camp. The tradition of naming the new school captain at speech night remains unchanged, as does the term of office of Preparatory School prefects which remains a calendar year.

This year's group of prefects has been outstanding as student leaders who have strengthened the role of prefects and who have served the College unselfishly and generously. I pay particular tribute to our School Captain, Theodore Bourlotos, for his wide involvement in many diverse facets of the College, his willingness to help anywhere at any time, and his authentic 'leadership by example'. I congratulate and thank also Nathan Hallion as Vice-Captain, and the prefects — Alexander Chapman, Michael Findlay, Scott Harris, Andreas Heuer, Nicholas Hoffmann, Nicholas Jackman, John Jovicevic, Michael Low, Iain Murchland, David Pilcher, Aaron Puvi, Marcus Syvertsen, and Alexander Taylor. Like the other boys in Year 12 this year, these students have emerged as fine young men — Princes Men — who I am sure will follow in the footsteps of earlier generations of Princes graduates who have gone forward to serve their fellow humanity and to change our society for the good in many and various ways.

'Valedictory Certificates' have been introduced for the first time this year, presented to our Year 12 students at their Valedictory Dinner. This is a common practice in most schools and provides an important document for students' curriculum vitae. The certificates, which were signed by the Headmaster and the Chairman of Council, are printed on parchment and feature an embossed Princes badge with our main building as the background. The words on the certificate try and encapsulate the essence of a Princes education, and read in part: (this student) has, in accordance with the policies, practices and principles of Prince Alfred College, completed a course of education at the College which aims to provide for young men an outstanding spiritual, academic, physical, cultural, vocational and values-based learning experience to maximise individual growth and development, centred upon an educational system which measures and accounts for each student's individual performance in a caring community which is based upon Christian principles, and is thus eligible for candidature in this year's South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) and/or International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) examinations, and for introduction to membership of the Prince Alfred College Old Collegians' Association.

## ***Computer Technology***

Very soon after my arrival at Princes at the beginning of this year, significant concerns were expressed to me about the difficulties faced by students and staff in accessing computers and the internet. In order that the perceived problems could be remedied as quickly as possible, a detailed report on Information Technology (IT) was commissioned and this was completed by Mr Geoffrey Voller, an educator with extensive IT background and understanding. The report was delivered in term 3 and now forms the basis of a significant upgrading of our IT provision.

The 17 page report contained many recommendations, but two key recommendations were (a) the appointment of an IT Manager, with direct responsibility to the Headmaster, in order to provide coherent decision-making and direction, and (b) the formation of an ongoing IT Development Plan. These recommendations have been accepted, and interviews for the position of IT Manager were conducted in late October.

Many of the recommendations in the report concerned issues of upgrading our infrastructure (internet access, network, e-mail, hardware and software), addressing the issue of access to computers (by both students and teachers), IT support (curriculum as well as technical), and other areas including the webpage, development of a Virtual School, digitising the Archives, establishing links with business and using IT to link with our surrounding community. Priorities are currently being finalised and the firm intention is to make Princes once again an exemplar school in the provision of curriculum-relevant IT. To achieve this will involve some financial restructuring and our Administrator, Mr David Stewart, will be exploring ways in which any IT backlog might be remedied.

Many of the recommendations in the 'Voller Report' must appropriately wait until our new IT Manager commences duties early in 2001. Nonetheless, some immediate issues were able to be addressed late this year, including the purchase of 30 new iMac computers for the Upper Primary Computing Laboratory, and 15 PC-clone computers for the Secondary School Library to replace machines which were no longer functional. Investigations are taking place on ways of improving our internet bandwidth and expanding the school's network so that we can be ready to make improvements in these areas early next year.

## ***Relations with the wider community***

We were thrilled to be part of the Sydney Olympic Games when several members of the Princes community were selected to participate in the Olympic torch relay. Current students who participated were Henry House (9 Delbridge), Jonathan Mitchell (12 Oldham) and Marcus Syvertsen (12 Rushton). Old Collegians who participated included Ian Bastian (1956–59), Peter Dennis (1957–59), David Krantz (1983–88), Andrew Martin (1959–68), G. Howard Mitchell (1922–31), A. Murray Olsson (1944–46), Nigel Parsons (1983–85), Anthony Toop (1970–74) and Donald Wilkins (1957). Among our parents who ran was John Bolt, father of Andrew (10 Stanton) and Matthew (8 Bubner), who was an Olympian himself at the 1980 Moscow games. We were especially pleased that our Deputy Head of the Preparatory School, Miss Linda Douglas, also carried the Olympic torch; Miss Douglas represented Australia in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games as a Rhythmic Gymnast.

Our involvement in the Games themselves was also significant with Anton van Bavel (11 Stanton) serving as a Sports Technology volunteer for both the Olympic and Paralympic games in Sydney. At 16 years of age, Anton was the youngest volunteer in the Games Workforce, and his specific role was as IBM Computer Results Operator, Event Control, on the Throwing Events of

Athletics in the Olympic Stadium. This meant that as the Electronic Distance Measuring device measured the distance that an implement was thrown, Anton was responsible for capturing the data and recording it on the computerised scoresheet. He also was the person who used the computers to display the distance on a ground-level scoreboard and then display the name of the next athlete.

A highlight of the year for Princes was the National Assembly of the Uniting Church, which was conducted in the Hall, boarding houses and many classrooms. This national event was a wonderful opportunity for people from across Australia to experience our grounds and our hospitality. The Assembly is held only one every three years, and this was the second time it has been held at Princes, the previous time being 1982.

On Tuesday, 15th August the second Annual Reunion and Service for the Ex-Prisoners of War Association of South Australia was held here at the school, followed by a lunch at the Royal Coach Motor Inn. Over a hundred people attended the Chapel Service, which included a wreath laying ceremony attended by our Prefects as a guard of honour. The contribution of our Chapel Choir to the Service drew widespread praise.

We are delighted each year to host the Clipsal Innovation Lecture which is sponsored by Gerard Industries. This year's lecture, the third in the series, drew a record crowd of almost 700 people when Ric Charlesworth spoke on a broad range of themes drawn from his extensive background as coach of the Gold Medal winning Hockeyroos, a politician, a doctor and cricketer. Our own hockey team was also treated to an afternoon coaching session as a prelude to the lecture, under the gaze of the cameras of three television stations and a team of press reporters.

On Sunday, 3rd September a Commissioning Service was conducted in our school Chapel for the new Uniting Church Community Services Commission. Approximately sixty people attended this service.

A very successful day was held on Friday 9th June when Princes (and specifically the Preparatory School) hosted the annual conference of the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools (NALSAS). The principal invited speaker was Greg Sheridan, Foreign Affairs Editor for The Australian. About 150 teachers attended the various lectures and activities which were focussed on the Prince Philip Theatre and the Preparatory School classrooms. The day drew high praise from many participants, not only for the quality of the input but for the sound organisation, the warmth of the hospitality and the fine work being done by our boys.

We happily continue to make our campus available to community groups, adult learning organisations, school holiday sports training programs, dance societies and tour groups whenever possible. Our links with the general community are an important to us, and Christian hospitality encourages us to look for ways to welcome visitors whenever possible.

### ***Global Links***

At Princes we take seriously our claims that we must educate young men to be citizens of the world and to think as members of a world economy. If we fail in this, we condemn them to a marginalised existence in a local or regional environment. For this reason, we emphasise a global perspective through links with several schools overseas (notably Tunku Putra International School in Kuching Malaysia), through international student exchanges and the courses of the International Baccalaureate, or IB, culminating in the IB Diploma as an alternative to SACE as a means of matriculation. As mentioned earlier, we now teach all three IB courses in addition to

local qualifications — the three IB courses being the Primary Years Program (PYP) in Years 1 to 5, the Middle Years Program (MYP) in Years 6 to 10, and then the option of SACE or IB Diploma in Years 11 and 12.

In late February we had a visit of 40 students from Jinan, China. This delegation of students was the largest group of students ever to come to Adelaide from China. The students came from schools in Shandong Province that Princes has had contact with for several years, and Dr Brian Webber accepted my invitation to come to the school and meet again with the visiting teachers with whom he had worked over some time.

Six teachers from Datong High School in Shanghai (China) visited Princes from Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th June. Several potential means of co-operation were discussed, including short-term student exchanges, teacher exchanges, friendship visits, thematic group tours, Theory of Knowledge exchanges of ideas, study at PAC by students from Datong High School and opportunities for Princes students to study in Shanghai. Following the visit, a memorandum of understanding was negotiated. The relationship with Datong High School has huge potential for us as the school shares our commitment to excellence, our love of sport, and emphasised a high standard of teaching in all areas, especially English and Chinese language. With a population of some 14 million people and an extremely vibrant economy, Shanghai represents excellent opportunities for Princes students and their families in many spheres of activity. Mrs Nan Williamson has already visited Datong High School, and it is expected that Mr Roger Marshman will do so next year.

On Tuesday, 4th April a Junior Cricket team from Whitgift School in England visited us as part of an Australian tour. A highlight of their time with us occurred when Greg Chappell dropped in to speak with the group and to offer some coaching advice.

### ***Campus Development***

Much of the capital works effort early in the year was devoted to the refurbishment of the central tower of the main building, a project that began last year. This work was substantially completed by late May, and has led to a vastly improved 'welcome' for people arriving at the school as well as improved administration accommodation. The central tower was officially opened and dedicated on 15th September. During the dedication, a plaque beside the main front door was unveiled by the Moderator, the Rev Don Catford; included on this plaque was a photograph of the same building on the day it was first opened, 22nd June 1869.

Also at the beginning of the year, significant renovations and improvements were undertaken in several areas of the school. Painting was done in a number of areas within Fiddian and Hartley Wings of the Boarding House, together with painting and repair work in the residences of the Boarding Housemaster and the Assistant Boarding Housemaster. A new computer room was established in the Secondary School library, air conditioning was installed in several Preparatory School classrooms, one of the science laboratories was upgraded and repainting occurred inside the Waterhouse Wing Tower. Shade sails were erected around the pool area, repairs to paving immediately surrounding the pool were undertaken, and repairs and maintenance of the pool tiling were completed. Installation of Stage 2 of the computer network was completed, linking the student computer facilities onto the main school computer system. Major pruning was also undertaken of the fig, gum and elm trees at the front of the school.

The other significant capital project this year was new seating and carpeting in the Hall. Much of the funding necessary for this project, which was well in excess of \$100,000, was raised through

the Development Office, spearheaded by the indefatigable Mrs Karin Dunsford. The new seats and carpet have improved the ambience of the Hall to a remarkable extent, and this had drawn many favourable comments both from within the school community and from outside. The fixed seating commemorates many present and past members of the Princes community by the inclusion of small plaques which were donated to help pay for the new seats. Unfortunately, the loose seating that was originally installed proved unsatisfactory when several tens of seats collapsed or bent severely when used. New seats of a different design will be installed by the beginning of next year, and hopefully may appear before the end of this year.

The appearance of the hall has also been enhanced by a significant project undertaken in the first half of the year — the 'millennium hanging'. The idea was that we would capture a snapshot of the entire Princes community on the first day of the year 2000; this was done by tracing an outline of each boy's hand, each staff member's hand, and each Council member's hand on a piece of coloured material which was then cut out and arranged around the school logo. The fingers on each hand were spread out to suggest celebration, and all the fingers were arranged concentrically to point inwards towards the school logo. The concept was to suggest a diverse community (symbolised by the different colours), all working in harmony to support (or hold up) the College. Everyone signed their name with indelible ink. The hanging was unveiled at a special assembly in late May which was also attended by the team of mothers who laboured to create the hanging; their names are recorded on a plaque which is mounted beside the hanging. The 'millennium hanging', which perhaps should be more correctly be referred to as a quilt, has since become a very popular centre of attraction in the Hall. Together with the new seating, the hanging adds real brightness and flair to the hall, helping to make it a much more attractive facility.

Improvements carried out in the second half of the year include further work on the refurbishment, interior decorating and painting of the main building, recarpeting of the library corridor (middle level) of the Centenary wing and the lower level of the Memorial Wing (Hemsley) corridors in the secondary school, and reconstruction of the roundabout at the end of the main driveway to make it more of a 'first impressions feature'.

### ***Parents and Friends Association***

The Parents and Friends' Association (P & F) is an important part of the Princes community, which has made important contributions in many areas of the school. Direct improvements that have occurred as a direct result of P & F funding assistance include video editing equipment for the library, improvements to the sound and lighting of the Hall, practice cricket balls, water polo caps, equipment for the health centre and new music uniforms.

Another important aspect of the P & F's role is to assist in the building of a true sense of community within the College family, and I have been delighted with the range of initiatives undertaken by both the Preparatory School's P & F and the 'whole school' P & F in this regard — including preparation and distribution of the buzz books, running the second hand uniform shop, organising a fashion parade to provide funds to enhance the boarding house, holding an information evening for parents on drugs, fund raising through wine sales, co-ordinating family photographs, conducting the Jack de Vidas Spring Art Show for the Preparatory School, farewelling Mr Ian Penny, and so on.

I wish to record my appreciation to the President of the P & F, Mrs Meg Craven, and to the President of the Prep P & F, Mrs Sharon Pugh, for their constant support and enthusiasm. Their efforts, supported by their executive committees, sub-committees and support groups, make a

huge contribution to school life and we are always most grateful for the support they provide to the boys. They are much appreciated.

### ***Old Collegians Association***

As I often say, the measure of the quality of any school is the calibre of its former students. It is well known that PAC has the largest ex-students' association in the southern hemisphere. This fact alone says a great deal about the loyalty that the school inspires among its students and former students. Other schools may have larger student numbers, but none can match our capacity to retain the ongoing affection and loyalty of its former students.

The Prince Alfred College Old Collegians' Association (PAOC) makes an important continuing contribution to the school community. In addition to providing opportunities for Old Scholars to continue to meet through its sporting clubs, country and interstate reunions and other social functions, the Association provides seven half scholarships annually for boys who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Princes to do so.

The highlight of our relations with our Old Scholars occurs each year during the last week of July — Old Boys Week. A wide range of activities was undertaken which encouraged many Old Boys to return here to the school or to attend the many sporting matches organised during the evenings. Particularly noteworthy events included the Old Old Boys Assembly which was attended by a record number of Old Old Boys (151) and the 122nd Annual Reunion Dinner held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Although the number of attendees at the Dinner was slightly less than usual (544 attended), many of those there commented on the high standard of the speeches, especially that of the Guest Speaker, Old Scholar Brian Richardson. The Chapel was packed on Sunday morning as the 96th Annual Church Service for Old Boys was held, with Old Boy, the Rev Graham Nicholls preaching. A highly successful and enjoyable Joint Committee Dinner with Old Collegians from St Peter's College, was held on Wednesday evening.

Prince Alfred College is remarkable for the quality and quantity of the contribution which its former students have made to our society. There are very few schools which can boast the large number of Old Scholars who have made an impact for good on society in so many fields, whether it be the Arts, Commerce, the Church, Sport, Politics, the Military, Medicine, Diplomacy, Education, Engineering, Science, Aboriginal Welfare, Exploration — the list goes on and on. One of the things that is very impressive about the contributions made by our Old Scholars is that they are made not just by high profile 'flyers', but by a huge number of men serving society in a multitude of roles. I used the occasion of our Old Old Boys' Assembly at school in the last week of July to announce an important new project which will recognise these contributions to society — a well decorated and beautifully lit gallery display in one of our highest traffic areas of the school, to be known as 'Our Princes Men' gallery.

In the gallery we will have photographs and brief descriptions of the achievements of a broad selection of our Old Collegians, most of whom will appear in 'group' displays. In other words, we could have one large board with sportsmen, another with clergy, another with politicians, another with farmers, and so on, and each display could feature about 8 to 10 ex-scholars, arranged as a montage of photographs both in adulthood and while at school, with brief descriptions of their contributions. We could also include a board listing the names of every old scholar as a corner piece.

It is important that our current students are aware that they are following in the footsteps of a huge number of men whose example is worthy of emulation, and that is the purpose of the gallery

— to help the positive educational formation of the current generation of Princes boys through role modelling. Mr Craig Bowyer is co-ordinating the preparation of the display panels, and the painting and lighting work is scheduled for the forthcoming Christmas break. I expect that 'Our Princes Men' will be ready for an official opening at the beginning of next year.

Towards the end of last year, Dr Brian Webber informed the Committee of the Old Collegians' Association that the World War II Memorial Board in the Assembly Hall was in need of an upgrade. The Management Committee of the Old Collegians' Association resolved this year to provide up to \$6760 for restoration of the Board, requesting that the school arrange for the restoration work to be completed. The school made an application to the Commonwealth Department of Veteran Affairs for a grant of up to \$3,000 through the Commemorative Restoration Program, and I am delighted to report that this application was successful. The new honour board is now proudly in place in the School Hall.

On Thursday evening, 6th April, the second Annual Father and Son Dinner for upper primary boys and their fathers was held at the Next Generation Centre. Although the principal guest speaker was Darren Cahill, six tennis "greats" who are Old Collegians also spoke, and for most of the 80 people present, this provided the real magic of the evening.

### ***Enrolments and Marketing***

We began the year with 916 students, of whom 281 were in the Preparatory School and 635 were in the Secondary School. Of this total, 98 were boarders, and of the 281 in the Preparatory School, 21 were in Little Princes Kindergarten.

At the end of the year, enrolments had grown to 939 students, of whom 312 were in the Preparatory School and 627 were in the Secondary School. Of this total, 97 were boarders, and of the 312 in the Preparatory School, 33 were in Little Princes Kindergarten.

Three 'Meet the Headmaster' mornings were held this year, with average numbers of about 90 people attending. The numbers attending these mornings have been considerably higher than past years, and as the numbers at each morning are increasing, it seems to indicate a resurgence of interest in Prince Alfred College and what it can offer in the education of boys and young men. The number of applications for enrolment following these mornings has also been increasing steadily. I am grateful to the many students who have assisted with these mornings as 'tour guides', musicians and general helpers; a large part of the success of these mornings is due to the confident and positive impression which our articulate and loyal students make upon the visitors.

The school participated in three field days this year, more than previous years. Mr Grant Davis, Mrs Margaret Gleaves and Mrs Karin Dunsford assisted me at Lucindale on 17th and 18th March, Cleve from 8th to 10th August and Waikerie on 13th and 14th September. The field days proved to be to be an excellent time of promoting the College, gathering enrolment applications and maintaining contact with our wider community in rural areas.

The Sunboat attended the Australian Science Fair in Canberra in late April. The Sunboat has brought the College excellent publicity in recent years, and indeed many visitors on the 'Meet the Headmaster' morning indicated their awareness of PAC in connection with the Sunboat. Further publicity in Canberra was guaranteed as an exercise involving winching a person from the Sunboat to a Blackhawk helicopter was scheduled. This resulted in a front page photograph in the Canberra Times when the downward force from the helicopter's blades blew the sunboat across (and almost out of) Lake Burley Griffin. Mr Phil McLaughlin, Mr Gary Simcock and Mr Peter Sillett provide excellent continuing support of Princes' solar transport projects.

A new prospectus has been developed this year, together with foreign language versions in German, Czech, Russian and Chinese for use in overseas marketing. The format of the prospectus is a 16 page booklet plus cover, with most double page spreads comprising a page of photographs facing a page of text. This format has been adopted in order that the translations into a variety of languages may be printed simply and economically on to pre-printed "shells". It is expected that other foreign language versions will be produced next year.

A newspaper advertising campaign was undertaken in the first week of September announcing a new initiative to cater for the needs of high ability students entering the Secondary School. The focus of the advertisements was acceleration of high ability boys directly from Year 6 into Year 8. The advertisement, which was headed "The Einstein Program" and which featured a photograph of Albert Einstein with an ex-student who translated his work on relativity (Dr Henry Brose) attracted a very pleasing number of enquiries as well as strong statements of support from Old Collegians. Several boys starting in 2001 will be coming to us from other schools under the Einstein Program, and this program shall continue in future years also.

It is intended that the Council's marketing committee shall be reconstituted early next year, and several new marketing initiatives should arise from this in coming years.

### **Staff**

In addition to my own arrival here at PAC this year, there have been several other movements of staff, although fewer than one expect in a school with 150 staff. A wonderful group of new teaching staff arrived at the beginning of this year, having been appointed by Dr Webber before he left at the end of last year. This group included Mr Rob Andrew to teach English, Mr Dale Hobbs to run the outdoor and environmental programs at Scott's Creek, Mr Anthony Izzo as a computing teaching with a special responsibility for the Information Literacy across the Curriculum (ILAC) program, Mr Chris Moir to teach mathematics, and Mr Charles Roberts to teach Biology and to co-ordinate our Rowing program.

Ms Terry Learmonth, a teacher of Year 5 and Year 3 to 5 Coordinator, tendered her resignation in late January when she accepted a position in the corporate world as a human resources officer. She has been replaced with Mrs Vivian Rowan, who left St Peters' Collegiate School for Girls to join us. Miss Alison Hunt was appointed to fill the role of Year 3-5 Coordinator vacated by Ms Learmonth.

After serving in our Before and After School Care service for 11 years, Mrs Yvonne Johnson shall retire at the end of this year. Mrs Johnson has given wonderful service in this role, and she will be certainly missed. During the year, Ms Cate Pontifex tendered her resignation from the Before and After School Care service, and she has been replaced by Mr Ennio Luongo, who came to us with excellent background experience in this field in September. Due to expanding numbers in Little Princes Kindergarten, Mrs Penny Kerr was appointed on a part-time basis to provide extra assistance in July this year.

Ms Jane Flynn (Health Services part-time) resigned at the end of March to accept another position. She has been replaced by Ms Anna Thomson, whose strong background and experience in the Health area is complemented by her computing and general administrative skills.

At the end of term 2, Mr Jim Cameron retired after 12 years of faithful service as a member of the maintenance team. Mr Cameron was a well known and well loved member of the school community, and his broad Scottish accent, twinkle in the eye and fine craftsmanship shall certainly

be missed. Following Mr Cameron's retirement, Mr Peter Dawes commenced duties, and he has quickly earned a reputation for helpfulness and diligence.

Another person to retire after many years at Princes was Mrs Bev Huckstepp, who finished her duties as Housekeeper after 10 years of solid service during third term. New staff to the housekeeping area are Mr Ken Irvine and Miss Karen Huckstepp, the latter on a temporary basis. The kitchen has also seen some turnover of staff this year, with Ms Jan Nolan giving one month's service and Ms Meridee Nottle and Ms Jennifer Hall each giving after one term's service.

During term 1, while Mr Rob Coulls was on long service leave, Mr Sean Slade, who had worked at Princes in 1999, continued to take classes in the Physical Education area. Then, during Term 2, while Mrs Vivian Jenson was on long service leave, Ms Rose Cullen took her place. Ms Cullen had retired recently from her position as Head of Languages at Wilderness School, and was already scheduled as a leader on the study tour to France being planned for our students in January 2001.

During term 3, while the Rev. Dr Adrian Brown was on long service leave, Ms Rebecca Purling assisted us as Acting Chaplain. Ms Purling was an accredited Youth Worker, having been commissioned in June 1995, and was at the time a candidate for the Ministry of the Word, expecting to complete her studies at Parkin Wesley College at the end of 2001. Widely known at Dr Brown's request as "Rev Rebecca", Ms Purling filled her role very solidly and maintained Dr Brown's initiatives and directions most faithfully.

Mrs Danying Liu has been on maternity leave this year. During this time, we have been very fortunate to have Mrs Jane Jian teaching our Chinese language classes. Mrs Jian's husband was unexpectedly transferred to Canberra at the beginning of this year, but her commitment to our students was such that she continued to take her classes here at Princes. I know that our senior Chinese language students are deeply grateful to Mrs Jian for the personal sacrifices she has made for the welfare of her students.

Mrs Christine Cornell, a part-time teacher of English, submitted her resignation, effective at the end of Term 2. Miss Kate Harris was appointed to replace her. Miss Harris also took Dr Brown's RAVE classes while he was on long-service leave.

Mr Phil Donaldson, Director of the Scotts Creek Field Centre, submitted his resignation, effective 28th July. Mr Donaldson has accepted a position with the Department of Environment as Water Conservation Project Officer to work in the area of policy development in water management of the Murray-Darling basin. Mr Dale Hobbs was appointed Acting Director of the Scotts Creek Field Centre for the remainder of this year, and further assistance was provided at Scotts Creek by Mr Simon Young in term 2, and by Mr Brett Standford during terms 3 and 4. Mr Graham Hall also provided some extra help at Scotts Creek as well as assisting with some Health and Physical Education teaching in terms 3 and 4.

We will be sorry to lose several highly valued members of staff at the end of this year. Miss Julia Scarff, who came to us to fill a Mathematics and Science position for one year, will leave us to take up a position at Walford. Her position will be filled by Mr Malcolm Dawe, who returns from his secondment as Director of Tunku Putra International School in Kuching at the end of this year.

Mr Andrew Reed has requested a leave of absence of one year during 2001. During this time, Mr Chris McGuire will serve as Acting Head of Economics and Business Studies.

In early term 4, Mr Michael Hissey, a PAC Old Scholar, was appointed to the administrative office of the school as a Financial Services Officer, assisting the Administrator, Mr David Stewart.

In the latter part of the year, while Mrs Megan McLaughlin was on maternity leave, Miss Teresa Timms served as receptionist.

Several movements occurred in the Music faculty. In mid-term 3, Mrs Katie Carey left us on maternity leave, and she was replaced by Miss Mary Horner. Mr Michael Storer joined the Music staff at the beginning of term 4, replacing Mr Matthew Carey as Music Assistant. Mr Andrew Newhouse has accepted the new position of bandmaster here at Prince Alfred College from the beginning of 2001, and we welcome him to the school in this new capacity.

The Head of the Preparatory School, Mr Ian Penny, retires at the end of this year. I know I speak on behalf of many in the Princes community when I say how sad we will be to lose Mr Penny's cheerful manner and helpful disposition from our Preparatory School. Many of our boys in the Secondary School began their schooling at Princes under Mr Penny, and I know many continue to feel a strong sense of affection for the quality of his input. Mr Penny has served Princes very well for ten years and has provided our Preparatory School with a strong professional, ethical and educational focus. Mr Penny has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for the needs of our Preparatory School boys and has been instrumental in driving many of the recent building improvements now enjoyed by our students.

The curriculum developments have been enormous during Mr Penny's term as Head of the Preparatory School. Although Mr Penny would be the first to acknowledge that this has been a product of dedicated teamwork by his teachers, it has ranged from changes in methodology through curriculum development and documentation, infusion of Dimensions of Learning approach, changed methods of reporting, introduction of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and work towards the introduction of the Primary Years Program of the International Baccalaureate. Our Preparatory School is widely acknowledged as being at the forefront of primary curriculum development, and Mr Penny's term as Head of the Preparatory School sees us well-placed to move ahead into a confident future.

Mr Penny is highly regarded, both at Princes and in the wider educational community, and speaking personally I will certainly miss his unwavering loyal support and hard work. I am sure that everyone in the Princes community joins me in wishing Mr Penny an enjoyable and stimulating retirement, and applaud Mr Penny for his part in developing our Preparatory School as a place where boys can genuinely delight in their education.

Advertisements were placed in several newspapers during May which resulted in almost 80 enquiries. Almost 40 firm applications were received for this position, and after extensive reference checks and interviews, the appointment of Mr Grant Nalder was announced late in term 3. Mr Nalder is currently Deputy Head of the Primary Section of John Wollaston Anglican School in Perth. He will move to Adelaide in January with his wife and young children to commence duties in mid-January. I know that he and his family will be welcomed warmly by the Princes community.

### ***Conclusion***

On Thursday, 11th May 2000 a panel from the Non-Government Schools Registration Board visited Princes. Following the visit, the panel submitted their report, noting that "the Board has decided that the school is meeting the criteria for registration and that registration should continue". The Registrar of the Board, having received the report from the panel, also noted "I would like to congratulate you, the College Council, your staff and parents on the developments that have occurred at the College since the previous panel visit. You have much to be proud of."

It is true that there is much to be proud of at PAC. We share a wonderful school, and we must never take it for granted. The sense of professionalism and the affection for Princes that I have struck with everyone I have met since my arrival has been staggering, but also deeply encouraging. We are clearly blessed with a wonderful sense of community, and credit must be paid to my predecessor, Dr Brian Webber, for that. During his term as Headmaster of Prince Alfred College, Dr Webber was very highly regarded within educational circles in Australia, and he has clearly bequeathed a great school in strong working order to me. Dr Webber's influence on the school during the years of his headship was profound and positive, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. I am delighted that we continue to work with Dr Webber in his new capacity as Chair of the Uniting Church Commission on Education.

It is important to recognise and acknowledge the strengths of our school, because it is these strengths that provide the foundation for our future. We are rightly known as a school that encourages excellence in studies, on the sporting field, in music and the arts, in spiritual formation and in moral and ethical development. We encourage creativity while nurturing each individual in a strong system of pastoral care. As we adapt to the changing demands of our society, we must always ensure that these foundations, which are timeless in their importance, are never diluted. Any change must strengthen the great school that we are, not dilute our vision.

This year, as part of the consultation process in developing the new strategic plan, survey forms were distributed to the school community seeking views on what are these strengths of Princes. Almost 200 members of the Princes community submitted responses, enabling us to obtain a statistical snapshot of perceptions of the school and aspirations for the future. In the survey, respondents were asked to nominate which areas they saw as being a special strength of the School, and to identify those areas which they would like to see boosted or emphasised.

The results showed that our school community holds a very positive view of PAC for a very wide variety of reasons. This is a most encouraging result as it demonstrates the breadth of the school's strengths. It is interesting to note the differences in strengths that are seen by different elements of our school community. For our parents, staff and old scholars, 'independent schooling' was identified as the greatest strength of Princes, and for students this was the second most important strength. Our students identified our information technology facilities as the main strength of Princes. Other highly important strengths of Princes were our all-boys' environment, caring teachers, academic stretching, Christian education, emphasis on sports, the Old Collegians' network and high teaching standards.

However, the survey results also showed that we are neither complacent nor narcissistic as a school community, and that we can clearly identify the areas we wish to strengthen to make our great school even better. Important areas identified for improvement included the canteen, access to computers, the library and the absence of wet weather cover between some classrooms. These and other issues shall certainly be addressed in the years ahead.

What, then, do we wish for the future of Prince Alfred College? The school began in 1869 as a place committed to educate young men to the highest standard possible within a strong moral and ethical base founded on Christian beliefs and values. That original purpose is still our number one objective. We want to equip every student here with the abilities to become men of discernment who value integrity, excellence and Christian faith in all aspects of life, and who will serve in the world as confident, competent and compassionate adults. A strong independent school where the specific academic, social and emotional needs of boys can be met effectively still fills a real need in Adelaide. We believe that in quite a literal sense, schools such as ours hold the future of society in

own classrooms and corridors; if we do our job properly and fulfil our vision, then we believe that we can make a real impact and transform society for the better.

We live in an age when it not the Christian outlook that dominates opinion-making in our country. We have leaders in society — politicians and business leaders — who think that there is only one real sin, and that is to be found out when they have done wrong. If you can get away with something or keep it a secret then everything is all right. The examples we see in public life, in business and in the media are not always models of moral, upright and self-controlled behaviour. We have to be on guard that we do not become so seduced by what our society sees as normal that we come to accept such behaviour too. Our role is to form society, not just reflect it.

We have a staff of highly committed teachers who are as professional as one would find anywhere. They translate the rhetoric that a Princes education should be different from and better than the education offered anywhere else into everyday practice. I commend my staff to you as a group of dedicated professionals dedicated to nurturing the talents of each and every student as fully as possible, in whichever area these talents might lie. We try to lead by example — probably the most challenging and demanding task any teacher can set for themselves — leading students in love towards a life of excellence and service for others. We strive every day to get that elusive balance between providing abundant pastoral care while challenging students to their limits. We may not always succeed as well as we would hope, but we will never stop trying.

These are what I like to call the 'true north principles'. In other words, these are the things which remain true and unchanging whatever our disposition or opinion, just as true north remains north and never deviates. As a book called 'First Things First' expressed it, principles 'don't depend on the behaviour of others, the environment, or the current fad for their validity. They aren't here one day and gone the next. They can't be destroyed by fire, earthquake or theft.' They are the things that inspired the establishment of Prince Alfred College over 130 years ago, and they are as relevant today as they were in 1869 when we opened.

But it is one thing to have principles. More important is the way these principles are put into practice. We can have the greatest principles in the world, but if they are not part of the daily life and the culture of the school then they mean nothing. The way we conduct ourselves and treat others, and the things we recognise and reward do reflect our priorities — our 'true north principles'. I know that in the learning our students have undertaken this year there have been ups and downs, good times and disappointments, the contesting of ideas and so on. Amidst all this, it is often difficult to know whether we have succeeded or not — how do we define success, let alone measure it?

In the really important things, we cannot ever know whether we have really deserved the prize. As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote, the important things are not those that can be seen; the important things are those which are invisible. And so the greatest prize in learning may be persistence, the quiet achievement, the fundamental integrity and reliability, the unrecognised loyalty.

All this was summed up by the great American civil rights activist, Martin Luther King. Two months before he was assassinated in 1968, he wrote something very powerful, based upon Jesus' words in Matthew 25. I want to conclude by leaving you with his words:

*"If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral... Tell the preacher not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize — that isn't important. Tell him not to mention that I have 300 or 400 other awards — that's not important... I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jnr tried to give his life serving others."*

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*I'd like somebody to say that Martin Luther King Jnr tried to love somebody... I want you to be able to say that I did try to feed the hungry... I did try in my life to clothe the naked... I did try to love and serve humanity...*

*I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind.*

*And that is all I want to say."*

My prayer is that as our boys and young men travel through life's journey, that is the most important thing that they would wish to say too!