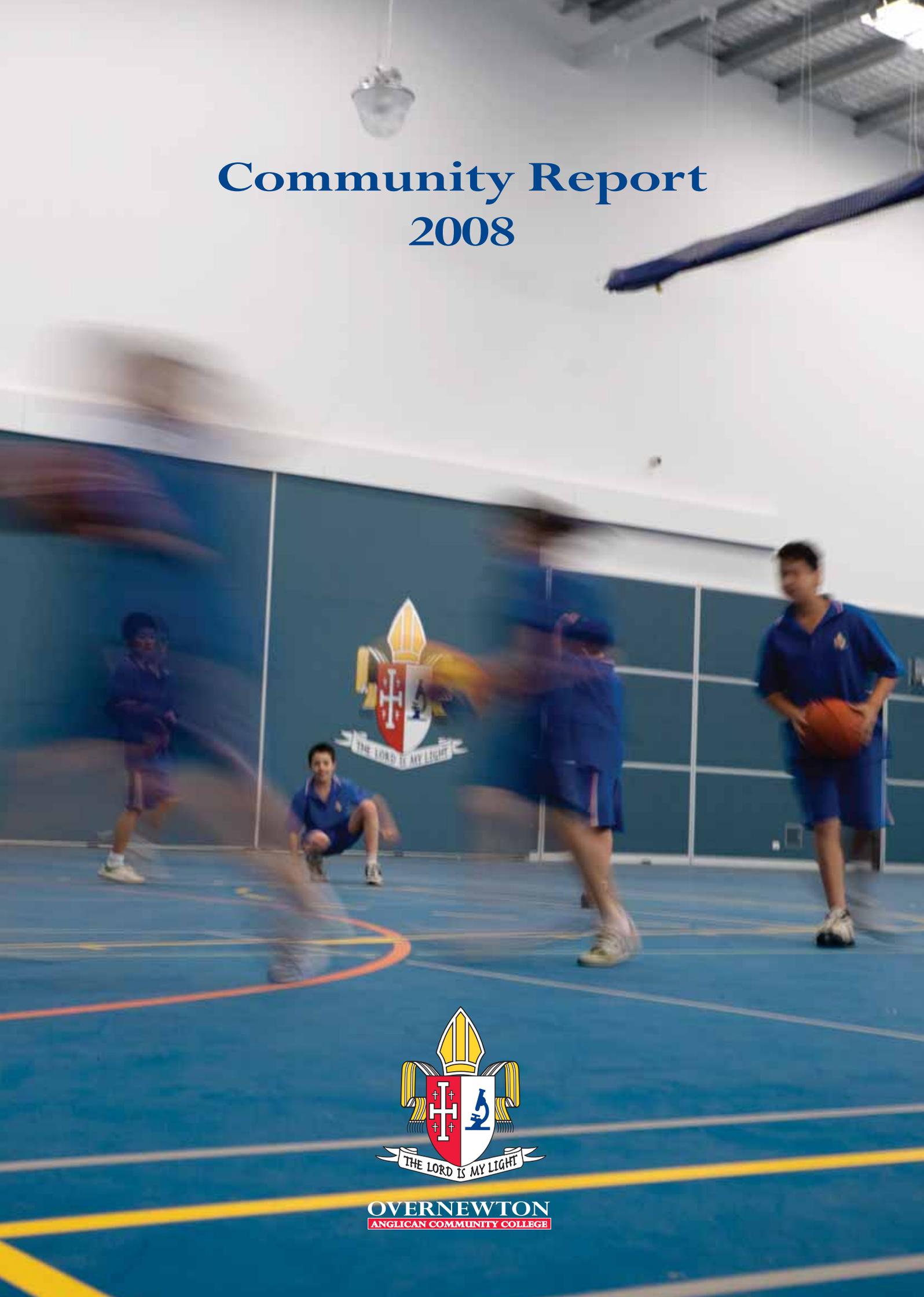


# Community Report 2008



**OVERNEWTON**  
ANGELICAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## OVERNEWTON COMMUNITY REPORT



**“Do all the good you can!”**

In 2008, this theme was explicit in the daily language, conversations and actions of all members of the Overnewton Community.

Each year, the College sets a theme. There is a common denominator in all of these themes: it is to have the strength of our own character to look beyond ourselves and our own needs and seek to support the needs of others.

Whilst academic and financial success is important, they are nothing if we are not doing all the good we can by respecting ourselves and those with whom we have day to day contact; by speaking to each other, our colleagues,

peers, teachers, and families with respect and kindness and by valuing our relationships with everyone we meet as the most important things we have.

It is our hope that the mark of an Overnewton student will be the relationships that they develop and the respect that they show for all of the people with whom they interact each day.

In our Community Report for 2008, we trust that you will find evidence not only of the good that we continue to do in providing an outstanding academic education for Overnewton students but in the important actions of our community in ‘doing all the good it can’ for others too.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Laussen".

Jim Laussen, Principal



## COLLEGE BOARD

### BOARD

*Manny Stamatopoulos (Chair)*

*Andy Matiszak (Deputy Chair)*

*Sue Bell*

*Don Hilton*

*Bishop Philip Huggins*

*Peter Lee*

*Michelle McLean*

*Robin Ould*



Mr Manny Stamatopoulos has been associated with the College since 1992, having two sons who are now Old Collegians. Initially serving on the P&F Committee for a number of years, including two years as Chairperson, Manny was appointed to the Board in 2000, has been Board Chair since 2003 and sits on all Board committees. Manny is the CEO of a company in the automotive industry.

Mr Andy Matiszak AIBS, MIE (Aust), DIP.CE, BSC, BIC, SIC, is a foundation parent of the College, with his youngest child in his final year, and three other children who are Old Collegians. Andy has served on the Board since 1993, the last seven years as Deputy Chair and is also the Chair of the Capital Projects Committee. Andy has his own consultancy business in the building and construction industry.

Ms Sue Bell HDT(S) MEd was appointed to the Board in 2007. Sue is a member of the Education Ethos and Culture Committee and holds a senior role in the education sector.

Mr Don Hilton BCom, MBus (Finance), Grad Dip Fin, CA, CPA, FCIS, MAICD, CFTP was appointed to the Board in 2003, and is the Chair of the Finance Committee. Don has a daughter at the College and two sons who are now Old Collegians. Don is the Finance Director of a large retail group of companies.

Bishop Philip Huggins, BEc Monash, GradDip Welfare Admin, Master of Arts, CertTh is Bishop of the Western Region of Melbourne, was appointed to the Board in 2007, and is a member of the Appointments Committee. Bishop Huggins' other community involvements include Chairperson General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission, Chairperson Mission of Seafarers State Council Victoria, and Chairperson Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Mr Peter Lee B.Bus (Accounting), CA, FCIS, MAICD, has been a Board member since 2004, and is a member of the Finance Committee, the Appointments Committee and the Governance Committee. Associated with the College since 1996, Peter's children are now Old Collegians. Peter is Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of a group of listed public mining companies in Australia and North America.

Ms Michelle McLean, B.Comm, FCIS, was appointed to the Board in 2004 and is Chair of the Governance Committee. Michelle is the Managing Partner of a Melbourne CBD based law firm and has had family involved in the school community for the last 18 years.

Mr Robin Ould, LLB (University of Melbourne) has been a parent of the College since 2000 and has three children enrolled at the College. Robin, who was appointed to the Board in 2007, is the Chair of the Education, Ethos and Culture Committee and the CEO of a large not for profit organisation in the health industry.

### FINANCE

*Don Hilton (Chair)*

*Paul Clements*

*Gayle Farrugia*

*Peter Lee*

*Anthony Newton*

*Victor Peplow*

*Manny Stamatopoulos*

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

*Andy Matiszak (Chair)*

*Tony Cunsolo*

*John Papworth*

*Mark Ruff*

*Manny Stamatopoulos*

### EDUCATION, ETHOS & CULTURE

*Robin Ould (Chair)*

*Fred Ackerman*

*Janine Hilton*

*Anthony Newton*

*Manny Stamatopoulos*

### GOVERNANCE

*Michelle McLean (Chair)*

*Peter Lee*

*Manny Stamatopoulos*

*Dorina Stancu-Bontorno*

## HEAD OF CAMPUS REPORTS

### Keilor Campus

2008 was a year in which new positions in our staffing structures have enabled clearer development of curricular, co-curricular and pastoral care processes.

The new Deputy Heads of School responsible for teaching and learning are setting the path for curricular and pedagogical improvements and I look forward to ongoing work on these areas in 2009. There has been a huge impact in the development of the College intranet in 2008 and this has built up a significant on-line learning tool that can be accessed from both school and home very efficiently.

A new co-curriculum structure has seen the appointment of a Head of Co-curriculum, who together with the Campus Heads of Sport will develop the whole scope and sequence of College Sport from Junior to Senior School.

All College activities need to occur in a safe environment and to ensure that this is the case, our newly appointed College Risk Manager ensures that we maintain safe processes, correct documentation and a collective understanding of risk analysis. This is an important duty of care for any school and, at Overnewton, it extends beyond the students to the staff and the College families.

Pastorally, a significant addition to the College this year has been the new Head of Student Services, who has led the Wellbeing Team and is developing a range of important personal development programs that will be of enormous benefit to our students and College families. This year the Senior College Chaplain, has done an outstanding job developing a staff team working on Values that has helped us all confirm our beliefs about the spiritual character and ethics of an Overnewton education.

*Rob Huntington, Head of Keilor Campus*

### Taylors Lakes Campus

Each year the Campus continues to develop and provide the students with as many rewarding learning experiences as possible, both curricular and co-curricular, all of which contribute to the development of a well rounded Overnewton student, ready to become a citizen of the world.

Our Year 9 program at Canowindra continues to go from strength to strength. This year's group has many achievements to celebrate, including finishing in fifth place overall in the Premier Division Grand Final of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, the RACV Energy Breakthrough triathlon at Maryborough, Rock Band performances, City Experience, Outdoor Education Camps, Voluntary Service, Focus Weeks and Drama performances.

Middle School had a magnificent transformation in 2008. The generosity of the Parents and Friends Association enabled the installation of artificial turf to the entire Middle School court yard area. This project that was completed by parents over a number of Working Bees, has given the Middle School students a wonderful courtyard area. So much goes on in Middle School and it is always pleasing to see the students engaged in all of the learning activities that are taking place.

For our youngest members of the Campus in Junior School, 2008 was a rewarding year for them as well. The myriad of curricular and co-curricular activities ensure that our Junior School students have a rich learning experience. Planning continues for the development of the Junior School courtyard to be completed in 2009.

The College Musical "Honk" was a tremendous showcase of the talents of so many of our students across the College, as were the Founders Day Concerts and the various instrumental concerts. The Founders Day Services and the Junior School Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral are always wonderful College events as is Presentation Night at Hamer Hall. The Country Fair is a fabulous community event that is not only for the Overnewton community but the broader community as well.

After months of planning, the much needed new Administration Building was opened at the beginning of Term 4. It is a brilliant addition to the Campus and provides an inviting and welcoming first impression to visitors to the Campus as well as being a wonderful facility for staff.

*Gabe Alessandrini, Head of Taylors Lakes Campus*



*Reception in the new Administration Building, Taylors Lakes Campus*

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Jim Laussen	Principal
Gary Bonello	Business Manager
David Cole	Senior College Chaplain
Andrea Dart	Head of Curriculum
Gary Fielding	Head of Staff
Tim Jezard	Head of Student Services
Sean Kaule	Head of Information Services
Di Nunan	Head of Human Resources
Shirley Seit	Head of Community Development
Rob Huntington	Head of Keilor Campus
Ian Thompson	Head of Junior School Keilor Campus
Susan Andrews	Head of Middle School Keilor Campus
Lauren Old	Head of Senior School
Gabe Alessandrini	Head of Taylors Lakes Campus
Nancy McCracken	Head of Junior School Taylors Lakes Campus
Tim Mahon	Head of Middle School Taylors Lakes Campus
Derek Summerton	Head of Canowindra

## STAFF

2008 saw the full implementation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) in the College, and this was the main focus of teaching staff from Prep to Year 10 across the College as they worked in teams to develop and deliver new curriculum. Professional learning undertaken by staff reflected this focus, and also the introduction of the You Can Do It! Program and the development of the use of restorative practices.

On average, staff undertook 24 hours of professional development, with teaching staff averaging over 30 hours for the year. This included sessions held at the College for teams of staff, as well as opportunities to learn and share knowledge with teachers from outside of the College.

■ Average expenditure for 2008 on professional development was \$654 per staff member.

■ 31% of teachers have postgraduate qualifications beyond what is required to gain registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Areas where a number of teachers have extra qualifications include special education, student welfare and information management.

■ 16% of teachers have degrees at Masters level or higher; many of these degrees are in various aspects of curricular or educational leadership.

■ The staff retention rate for 2008 was 98.2%, whilst the attendance rate was 95.9%.



**SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM 2008**

*BACK: Derek Summerton, Rob Huntington, Gabe Alessandrini, Gary Bonello.*

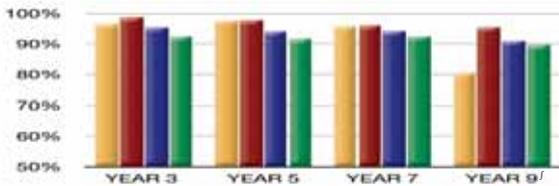
*2ND ROW: Gary Fielding, Susan Andrews, Sean Kaule, Tim Jezard, Jim Laussen, Shirley Seit, Tim Mahon.*

*FRONT: David Cole, Dianne Nunan, Lauren Old, Andrea Dart, Nancy McCracken, Ian Thompson.*

## NUMERACY AND LITERACY BENCHMARKS

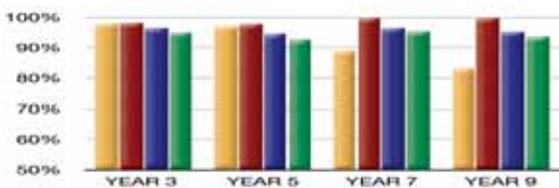
The tables below outline the proportion of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students meeting National Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy benchmarks. Data for 2008 also includes (for the first time) the proportion of students meeting Grammar and Punctuation benchmarks as part of the expanded National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

### READING



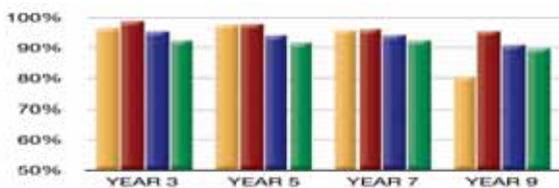
READING	YEAR 3	YEAR 5	YEAR 7	YEAR 9 <sup>†</sup>
OACC 2007 *	97.30%	97.10%	94.70%	93.50%
OACC 2008 *	98.20%	96.10%	100.00%	99.40%
VICTORIA 2008 §	95.20%	93.70%	95.80%	94.70%
AUSTRALIA 2008 §	92.10%	91.00%	94.20%	92.90%

### WRITING



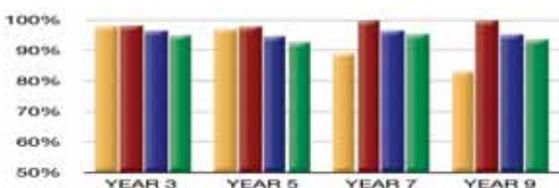
WRITING	YEAR 3	YEAR 5	YEAR 7	YEAR 9 <sup>†</sup>
OACC 2007 *	99.30%	100%	100%	95.30%
OACC 2008 *	98.80%	98.30%	97.20%	95.50%
VICTORIA 2008 §	96.20%	93.90%	93.40%	90.10%
AUSTRALIA 2008 §	95.40%	92.60%	91.80%	87.20%

### SPELLING<sup>†</sup>



SPELLING	YEAR 3	YEAR 5	YEAR 7	YEAR 9 <sup>†</sup>
OACC 2007 *	96.60%	97.70%	95.90%	80.60%
OACC 2008 *	98.80%	97.80%	96.10%	95.50%
VICTORIA 2008 §	95.40%	94.10%	94.20%	90.90%
AUSTRALIA 2008 §	92.50%	91.70%	92.50%	89.80%

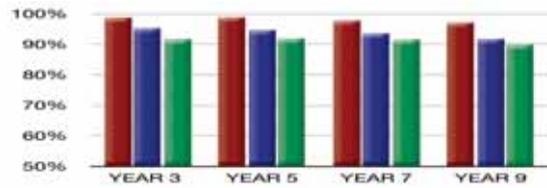
### NUMERACY



NUMERACY	YEAR 3	YEAR 5	YEAR 7	YEAR 9 <sup>†</sup>
OACC 2007 *	98.00%	97.10%	89.10%	83.20%
OACC 2008 *	98.20%	97.80%	100.00%	100.00%
VICTORIA 2008 §	96.50%	94.60%	96.50%	95.20%
AUSTRALIA 2008 §	95.00%	92.70%	95.40%	93.60%

■ OACC 2007 \*    ■ OACC 2008 \*  
■ VICTORIA 2008 §    ■ AUSTRALIA 2008 §

### GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION



GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	YEAR 3	YEAR 5	YEAR 7	YEAR 9 <sup>†</sup>
OACC 2008 *	98.80%	98.90%	97.80%	97.20%
VICTORIA 2008 §	95.30%	94.70%	93.60%	91.80%
AUSTRALIA 2008 §	91.70%	91.90%	91.60%	89.90%

■ OACC 2008 \*    ■ VICTORIA 2008 §  
■ AUSTRALIA 2008 §

\* Source: AIM results (2007); NAPLAN results (2008). The results reported are for assessed students. This includes students who sat the test and students who were formally exempted. Because exempted students are reported as falling below the benchmark they are included in the benchmark calculation. Students not included in the benchmark calculation are those who were absent or withdrawn by parents/care-givers from the testing.

§ Source: MCEETYA 2008 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (Full Report)

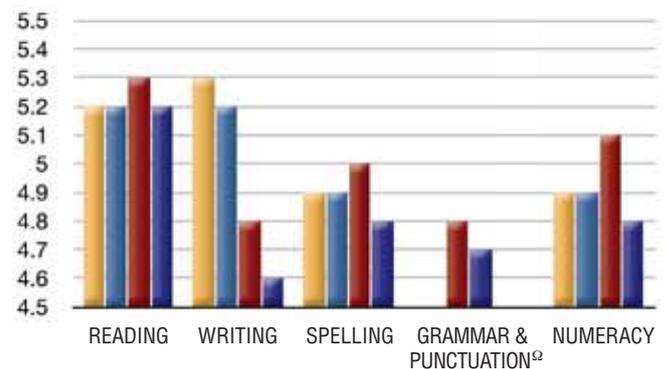
† No national benchmarks for Spelling have been established yet; figures for spelling indicate the percentage of students achieving VELS level 2 or above for Year 3, level 3 or above for Year 5, level 4 or above for Year 7 and level 5 or above for Year 9 at the time of testing.

‡ No national benchmarks for Year 9 have been established yet; figures for Year 9 indicate percentage of students achieving VELS level 5 or above at the time of testing.

### AVERAGE STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT

#### RESULTS FOR YEAR 9

The average standardised assessment results for Year 9 are based on AIM results from 2007 and NAPLAN results from 2008. These results indicate that Overnewton students are performing at or above state averages in all areas assessed by the AIM and the NAPLAN.



AVG. STANDARD ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR YEAR 9	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION <sup>Ω</sup>	NUMERACY
OACC 2007	5.2	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.9
VICTORIA 2007	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.9
OACC 2008	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.7	5.1
VICTORIA 2008	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.8

■ OACC 2007    ■ VICTORIA 2007  
■ OACC 2008    ■ VICTORIA 2008

Ω Source: AIM data (2007); NAPLAN data (2008) – School Summary Report, using Estimated VELS Equivalent Scale.

Ω Grammar and Punctuation were assessed for the first time by the NAPLAN in 2008.

## VCE RESULTS 2008

In 2008, all 165 of our students successfully completed their VCE. The final VCE results are a key indicator of success; however, they are by no means the only indicator, as each student enjoyed success in a broad array of sporting, artistic and performing arts related fields in their time at Overnewton. Our results are particularly pleasing when we consider that Overnewton encourages all students to complete the VCE regardless of their academic ability.

Over 96% of our students received first round offers at tertiary institutions in 2009.

A number of highlights associated with the final results include:

- 55% of students attained an ENTER in the top 30% of the state.
- 10% of students received an ENTER in the nineties placing them in the top 10% of the state.
- 34% of students received an ENTER in the eighties placing them in the top 20% of the state.
- 61 individual study scores over 40 placing these students in the top 8% of the state in a given subject.
- 23% of all examinations results were either A or A+.

The 2008 academic year finished superbly for our VCE students again, with the College retaining its position within the top 20% of schools across the State.

The Overnewton community congratulates the Class of 2008.

Of course, the dedication and commitment of the school's teaching staff and the support of parents has been critical in achieving such outstanding results and, as always, their valuable contribution is gratefully appreciated.

*\*ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Enter Ranking) scores are used for tertiary entrance and provide a percentile ranking for all students statewide.*



## ENTER SCORES OVER 90

ANDREW TRAN	97.55
KISHAN LIYANAGE	97.10
ASHLEIGH HAWKINS	97.00
MELISSA RAMOV	96.90
MATTHEW LAM	96.80
GRAEME WARD	95.90
PETER MICHAIL	95.80
ADAM LOPEZ	95.20
SAMMUEL WHERRETT	93.90
THOMAS HEDGER	93.80
DAVID YACOUB	93.80
SHARMEEL SUKA	93.50
TESSA STOGIAN	92.80
THUY-LINH NGUYEN	91.05
JAMES ALLEN	90.15
KHALIL IBRAHIM	90.10

## FIELDS OF STUDY & TERTIARY OFFERS

### EDUCATIONAL FIELD



## CAREERS AT OACC

Students at OACC have access to a wide range of careers information in both printed and electronic format in the state of the art careers centre. Throughout their years in Senior School, students are supported by the LifeChoices Coordinator in their ongoing career research activities. The LifeChoices Coordinator also works closely with the students assisting them with the important decisions about their individualised VCE program and future study or employment options. This individual support is aimed at ensuring students reach their full potential and make decisions that lead to fulfilling and rewarding careers.

The LifeChoices program at OACC encourages students to develop the skills and confidence to make numerous career decisions required throughout their lifespan. In addition, the LifeChoices program further develops student understanding of careers through Work Experience, annual Careers Expo and employability skills workshops. Fortnightly careers newsletters disseminated to all Senior School students ensures students are fully informed of relevant careers activities and opportunities.

### TERTIARY OFFERS BY INSTITUTIONS



## SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP

This year saw the introduction of our first Senior School Leadership Camp. On Friday 30th January at 2pm, after our Senior School Orientation Day, 40 student leaders (Student Executive and House Leaders) and 8 staff headed off to The Summit Camp in Trafalgar East, roughly a 2 hour drive away.

The purpose of the camp was to extend and develop the leadership skills of the students, teach them more about the importance of teamwork and to discover the inner strength that lies inside us all when we don't allow fear to rule our judgements and decisions.

The students and staff were involved in various activities across the two days that both allowed them to work together and encourage one another as they completed individual and group tasks. Everyone faced their own fears and challenged themselves beyond what they thought was possible, and did so amongst the hot summer temperatures of that weekend. All arrived back at school at 7pm on the Saturday night all exhausted, but exhilarated by what we had achieved.

It was an amazing camp and one that staff enjoyed as much as the students.



### *Student Reflection - Leadership Camp*

*I've been on many camps over the years; from those whole-year-level, two-night away, always over-packed type deals that used to occur in Middle School to the ever so slightly out-of-our-comfort-zone Duke of Edinburgh camps in Year 9. With all of them in mind, I still have not even the slightest regret in saying the 2009 Leadership Camp was the best camp I've ever been on. Even more impressive, it wasn't the best camp just because of the people, it wasn't the best camp just because of the activities, it wasn't the best camp just because of the self-progression, it was the best camp because every single one of those reasons were there, seemingly as one. It was the first time I didn't rely on close friends to motivate me, but I relied on both my still untapped inner strength and the unexpected aura that is, teamwork. I've never known what it's like to actually contribute to something as an equal to all others, to pull my end, using what I'm best at and at the same time, embracing what my fellow team members excel at, but I feel like I might just have scratched the surface of it with this experience at Leadership Camp.*

*I think the huge number of activities happening and the almost chaotic, yet completely organised feel of the camp, was a huge plus. Before we even got to sleep on the first day, it felt like we'd done more in that one camp than we had on previous, three-day camps. The facility itself was, in my eyes, an amazing one. The hosts were super-friendly and ridiculously encouraging, appearing not to let anyone leave without having first pushed themselves beyond the norm. The activities we undertook were at just the right level in terms of our comfort zones and the level of progression.*

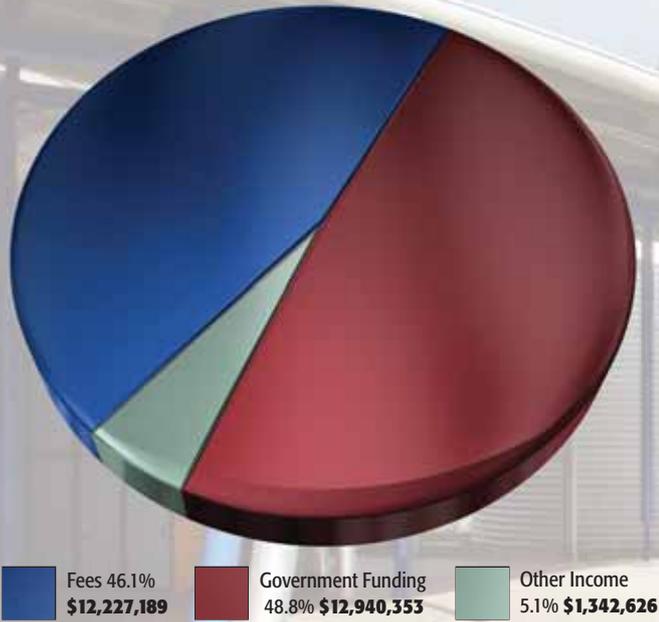
*I really do mean it when I say it was the best camp I've ever been on. I was inspired. Thank you so much for the opportunity. I couldn't have asked for more (actually... can I go again?)*

*Damon Berghan-Carrick, Yr 11 Newton House Leader*

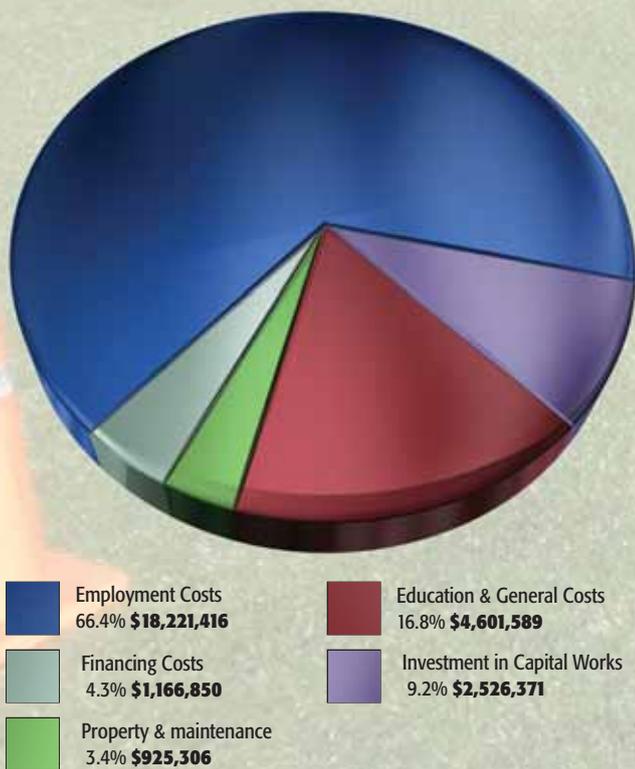


## COLLEGE FINANCES

**Income:** The two major sources of income for Overnewton Anglican Community College in 2008 were government funding of \$12.9m and tuition fees of \$12.2m.



**Expenditure:** Employment costs of \$18.2m for the year represented 66.4% of the Colleges expenditure for 2008, while education and general costs were 16.8% of total expenditure at \$4.6m. Investment in capital works amounted to \$2.5m or 9.2% of expenditure for the year, with the College spending almost \$1.2m on financing costs, and a little over \$0.9m on property & maintenance expenditure for the year.



## OLD COLLEGIANS

2008 was a big year for the Old Collegians Association with growth in a number of areas. The committee grew in size and saw the resignation of the valuable, long serving committee member and President, Victoria Macky. For the past 10 years she has participated on the College Board and the Old Collegians Association. Victoria was President of the association since 2000. She saw the association through many changes and has been instrumental in its growth. The committee and all old collegians would like to thank Vicky for the time and effort she has put into the community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Taking over the role as President is Andrew Matiszak, closely supported by Treasurer, Lisa Field and Silvia Smarrelli as secretary.

2008 proved to be a successful year for the Association with the planning and organisation of a number of projects and activities which proved to strengthen the involvement and membership of Old Collegians' community.

The year saw the number of old collegians registering on 'Old Collegians Online' increase considerably. The number of students registered currently exceeds 600 which is approximately 30% of all past students. The website facilitates easy communication and networking amongst past students.

The Old Collegians' Online site also facilitated the 2008 footy tipping competition which was greatly received by old collegians, with monetary prizes thanks to Spotlight Stores. The competition will continue for the 2009 season.

The committee also hosted their annual 10 Year Reunion for the class of 1998, along with the recently initiated 5 and 1 year reunions. In 2009, plans are in place to continue these traditional annual events which provide a great opportunity for past students to catch up with friends from the past and witness the constant growth and development of the College.

The Old Collegians Association also participated in other activities including the running of a stall at the annual Country Fair, the production of the Old Collegians' newsletter and participation in the annual Careers Night, held at the Senior School. Via its activities and online networking capabilities the association hopes to provide a basis for both fun and serious interaction between past students. The committee is committed to expanding its activities and involvement within the constantly growing community. Whilst we are still a relatively small and young community compared to larger and longer established schools, our percentage of past students involved in activities, events and registered online, well exceeds many such schools.

The new committee would like to thank Victoria Macky for leaving the association in such good stead. The Old Collegians' Association hopes to continue to provide a means by which past students can interact, network and reap the rewards of the strong community feeling and link which is felt throughout all facets of Overnewton college life.

*Andrew Matiszak, President – Overnewton Old Collegians*



*10 Year Reunion*

## PARENTS & FRIENDS

Due to the support of families the Parents and Friends Association has again been able to contribute funds for many projects for the College. These include Smartboards and the funding of the artist in residence programs at both campuses.

In 2008, the students enjoyed working with artists on an African savannah painting and a series of six acrylic collage paintings. Also funded was the pergola at Middle School, Taylors Lakes, the purchase of an industrial fridge for the catering group, and the artificial grass for Taylors Lakes Middle School courtyard.

Parents and Friends have donated funds to Year 9 and Junior Rock Eisteddfod, RACV Challenge and Chibobo Orphanage. Bibles have been bought for our Year 12 students and Bursary awards for Year 8 students have also been funded.

Our families enjoyed a wonderful day at our annual Country Fair. The team worked hard all year to ensure the day is a success. Not only Overnewton families, but the wider community enjoyed the rides, stalls, activities, entertainment and fabulous food on offer.

The fundraising teams have had a very successful year. Parents have generously supported the Easter raffle, drives, stalls, annual dinner dance and Hollywood trivia night.

Thank you to all our parents and coordinators and to the Parents and Friends Committee of 2008 for all their work throughout the year.

*Janine Hilton, Chair – Parents and Friends*



*Artist and students working on the African savannah mural*



## OVERNEWTON COLLEGE LIBRARY

The significant College document Overnewton 2020: Our future in Focus, includes the statements that Overnewton aims to develop a reputation for excellence in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and that Overnewton will continue to build a curriculum that recognises the needs of students in the 'Knowledge Age'. These statements shape our vision and direction for the College library. The libraries are an engaging and vibrant physical space for our students, and importantly, they are also an emerging and dynamic online space. The redevelopment of the digital library site in 2008, accessible via the Intranet at school or from home, has enabled us to make this vision of meeting our students 'Knowledge Age' needs a reality.

Why does the 'Knowledge Age' make a difference to the College library?

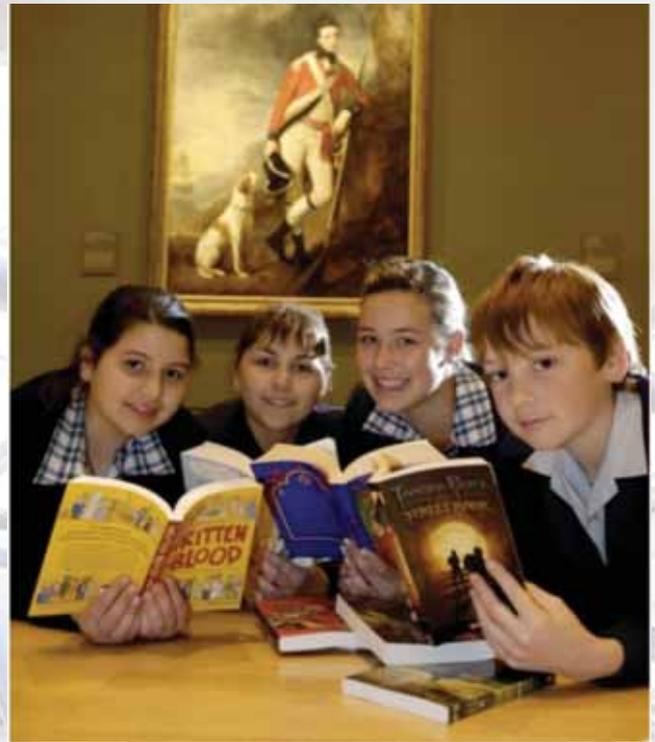
Students have, and expect, immediate access to an ever-expanding quantity of information and resources. Will our students know which of the 45,000,000 search results to select if they use a search engine such as Google? Is the best and most reliable information amongst the results to the search? To provide for the 'Knowledge Age' learning needs of our students the College online library site has excellent, relevant reference resources at an appropriate reading level. Students will not spend valuable learning time wading through irrelevant search results.

The online College resources on the library site include:

- Access to Encyclopaedias such as World Book and Britannica Online
- Journal databases and news sources such as eLibrary and Echo
- Organised Internet sites and search engines for further research
- Research guides that support information literacy development

The online library also includes specialised school pages with details of new books, genre lists, research guides and library news. This virtual library is wherever our students have online access.

The College library will continue to develop as we move towards 2020 and beyond, and our students are encouraged to use the online College library resources as the resources of choice for all of their learning needs.



Marie, Kristina, Stefanie and Callum at Premier's Reading Challenge reception

### Amlib Library and Knowledge Management System

A new library system, Amlib, was installed in the library in 2008. Amlib has a user-friendly search facility and students are able to

- Access the catalogue from home via the library site on the Intranet
- Access and manage their own borrower details
- Reserve and renew resources.



### Premier's Reading Challenge

A record 255 students across the College successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2008. These students were congratulated by Mr George Seitz, Member for Keilor, at celebrations held at each campus.

On Friday November 17 2008, Premier John Brumby hosted a reception at the National Gallery of Victoria to celebrate the end of the 2008 Premier's Reading Challenge.

Overnewton's Marie, Kristina, Stefanie and Callum, with their teachers, were among students and teachers from twenty-four schools in the state who attended to represent all who had participated in the Challenge.

Joy Whiteside, Head of Library, Keilor

## OUR YEAR 9 PROGRAM

### WHY CANOWINDRA?

Consider the following statements coming out of recent research into adolescents.

- ■ By 14 testosterone in boys increases by 800% and is the highest it will ever be
- ■ During adolescence students lose coordination and concentration
- ■ Things they could do at 12 now become difficult
- ■ They tend not to manage extended tasks well
- ■ After 0-4, adolescence is the biggest growth time for the brain
- ■ Brain chemistry during adolescence leads to emotional responses to seemingly low level incidents
- ■ Risk taking behaviour increases, particularly in boys
- ■ Motivation drops and learning requires relevant, up to date and novel challenges

What are the implications for our Year 9 program? Luckily the research also provides us with a number of recommendations. Over the past few years we have been ensuring we implement as many of these practices into our educational program as possible. We are able to put a tick next to each of the recommendations below.

- ✓ Provide structures that enable a strong bond to be developed between staff and students
- ✓ Provide opportunities for students to experience adult like roles
- ✓ Provide classroom organisation and teaching and learning practices that are conducive to the social and emotional needs of young adolescents.
- ✓ Provide a program that facilitates deep engagement with learning
- ✓ Adopt student grouping arrangements
- ✓ Engage students in authentic tasks
- ✓ Engage with the broader community
- ✓ Acknowledge or celebrate student contributions to the College
- ✓ Provide a distinct physical environment dedicated to Year 9
- ✓ Provide opportunities for special events or programs of substantial interest or challenge
- ✓ Devote one or more weeks to a specific focus or activity within the term
- ✓ Break learning down into broad areas of focus
- ✓ Provide opportunities for volunteer work
- ✓ Duke of Edinburgh Award
- ✓ Adventure Camps
- ✓ Enterprise activities
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Integration of ICT

We are confident that the Canowindra program meets the educational, social and emotional needs of our students.

*Derek Summerton, Head of Canowindra*

## LOTE (Languages Other Than English)

### EXPANDING HORIZONS

Overnewton College provides our students the opportunity to study Indonesian from Year 3 and German from Year 5. The ability to deal with people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds is becoming an essential skill in an increasingly globalised society.

The schools of today need to prepare the students of tomorrow to operate effectively for this culturally diverse and multilingual future, and the Overnewton College LOTE Program aims to develop Academic, Intercultural and Information Technology Skills by;

- ■ assisting students to become more flexible learners
- ■ developing students' aural, oral and memory skills
- ■ teaching students about their own language
- ■ building a sense of personal achievement, confidence and self-esteem
- ■ assisting in academic achievement - developing literacy, mathematical, cognitive and thinking skills
- ■ developing student understanding and respect for other cultures
- ■ enhancing student interest and enjoyment in foreign film, literature, music and art
- ■ providing opportunities for exchange/overseas study tours
- ■ providing skills to compete in a global, multilingual job market

With a view to extending the cultural and language experiences of students, the LOTE Faculty has for sometime now offered opportunities for students to travel abroad and to stay overseas with families for a short period of time. In doing so, our students have the opportunity

- ■ to practise their language skills in German and Indonesian-speaking environments
- ■ to engage and interact with the locals and experience their way of life
- ■ to visit some of the countries' culturally and historically significant tourist attractions

During these trips, students participate in language classes, school visits, live with host families, visit markets, participate in cultural workshops, complete language trails and challenges and use blogs and other forms of communication to enhance their cultural experiences abroad.

Education in a global community brings with it an increasing need to focus on developing intercultural understanding. This involves the integration of language, culture and learning. Ultimately, by offering overseas study tours to students, learners will view the world, not from a single perspective of their own first language and culture, but from the multiple perspectives gained from a variety of authentic and real life experiences.

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