

Bathurst Christian College

Annual Report

2005



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Principal's Report

Orange Christian School and our Bathurst Christian College campus were each inspected during 2005 for registration and accreditation under the new Board of Studies requirements. While these requirements do not significantly impact our distinctives as a Christian School, they are a change of practice, philosophy and documentation for most teachers and schools in New South Wales.

AS a result of our inspection, OCS and BCC primary programmes and practices were re-registered for five years. In common with a large number of other non-government schools, OCS secondary

department was granted a year's extension to bring programmes into line with new requirements and to give time for the new syllabi to be implemented. The secondary department will again be inspected early in 2006.

Another outcome of the inspection process has been the way it has moved us forward in our documentation processes. The additional paperwork has presented some challenges to us but we have made great progress as a team.

As always, I thank all of our teachers and, in particular, our executive team, Glen Gray, Bob Omrod, Melissa Brown and Peter Cooper, for the hard work involved in keeping the schools staffed and moving us forward with the school development process. Much thanks goes also to Mrs Cathy McPhee and Miss Rachael Steffen for their leadership and hard work on behalf of the BCC community. I also extend a warm welcome to my colleague, Andrew Kent, who joins us as Business Manager. I hope you will get to know Andrew and also make him and his family welcome.

Academic Performance

During 2005, OCS students sat for the LANNA tests of literacy and numeracy.

LANNA – Our Year 3 and Year 5 literacy and numeracy results continue to develop with noteworthy results for our indigenous students. OCS and BCC continue to apply literacy and numeracy support money to assist students with learning disabilities to improve their basic skills. Our schools have always accepted students whose literacy and numeracy levels need further development, which does not help raise our statistical average but does help them to overcome their difficulties with good educational support.

Our willingness to help students with learning disabilities does not adversely affect those with higher level skills as they are still able to reach their potential. One of the worrying consequences of a society that emphasises skills testing is a tendency for some parents to not want their capable children to associate with strugglers for fear that they will under-achieve. Our committed Christian ethos rejects this as not being a God-honouring notion and also ensures that students are not disadvantaged as others are helped.

Teaching Staff

Bathurst Christian College employed 3 full or part-time teachers in 2005, which is equivalent to 2.2 full-time teaching staff. All teachers employed by OCS Ltd have diplomas or degrees in education. We employ no teachers who do not hold teaching qualifications, and all teachers are eligible for membership of the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Student Enrolments

Our total enrolment at the Commonwealth Census date, 5th August, was 470 students at Orange and 28 at Bathurst. Of these, 235 were primary students and 263 were secondary students. Our school communities included 26 indigenous students. Our schools also included many students with disabilities and we are blessed by students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

Student Welfare

The school's Student Welfare approach was enhanced in 2005 by improved anti-bullying strategies. This problem is not at all severe at BCC due to close student/teacher interaction, but students do need to be taught about bullying and its prevention. Our program helps students to identify bullying behaviour, encourages them to refuse to be a supportive audience, and provides strategies that allow the school to deal with persistent bullies.

The school's student welfare and child protection policies are available to parents who wish to peruse them.

Discipline Policy

There has been no change to the discipline policy during 2005, and that policy is available for parents to peruse at the school office. Our discipline policy continues to be based on a Biblical approach that encompasses fairness, the hearing of the student's point of view, counselling and, where necessary, consequences. Those consequences do not include any form of physical punishment and comply fully with child protection guidelines. The purpose of our discipline policy is the development of self-discipline and the teaching of standards. It is always our desire, therefore, that discipline should be redemptive and provide students and their parents with the right to have any matter reviewed and dealt with appropriately.

Grievance Resolution

All members of the school community – parents, students and teachers – are entitled at all times to be heard and to have matters of concern dealt with fairly and openly. To that end, the school's approach to resolving a grievance is based on Matthew 18, which directs the person who feels aggrieved to seek a meeting with the other person concerned. If it is a matter of the school's administration, that person might be the Business manager or Principal. If the matter is not resolved, members of the school community are free to take the matter to the Principal. If still unresolved, it may be put in writing to the Board. By following

this process, people can retain their dignity while seeking to resolve disagreement. It also allows for the exercise of grace and forgiveness as the issue is discussed and resolved. There were no unresolved matters brought formally before the Board in 2005.

Improvement Targets

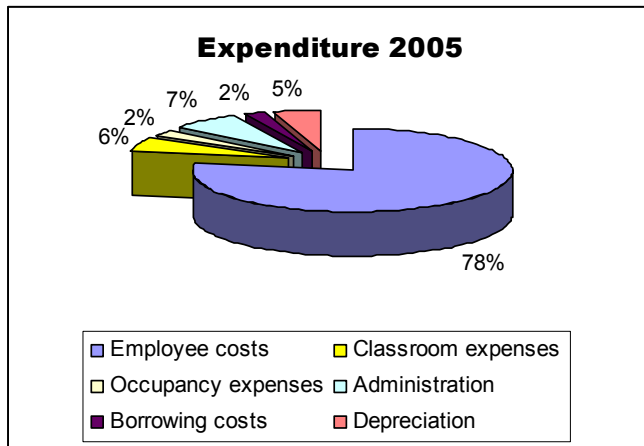
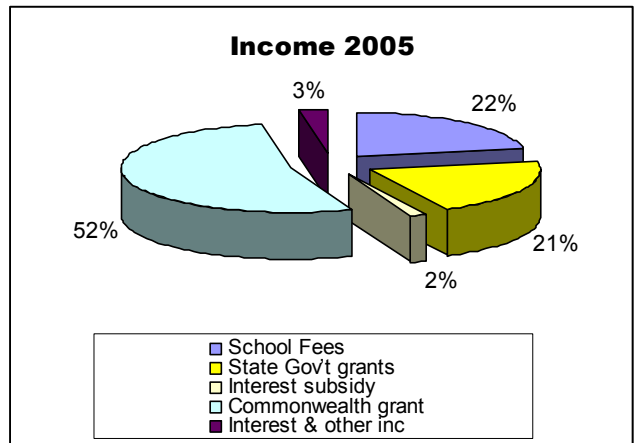
During 2005 improvements were made to student safety with improved bus zone access, pedestrian crossing and signage. Thanks to the RTA. Areas for improvement identified in the 2004 report continue as our priorities in 2006, and include our approach to mathematics, curriculum documentation, music and sporting programs, and playground space and facilities. Real progress has been made in each of these areas but there remains room for continued development.

Finances for OCS Ltd - 2005

Orange & Bathurst campuses combined

Income

School Fees	\$	919,168
State Gov't grants	\$	874,181
Interest subsidy	\$	72,662
Commonwealth Govt grant	\$	2,236,495
Interest & other inc	\$	117,247
Total Income	\$	<u>4,219,753</u>



Expenses

Employee costs	\$	3,118,590
Classroom expenses	\$	232,255
Occupancy expenses	\$	98,346
Administration	\$	285,488
Borrowing costs	\$	83,817
Depreciation	\$	189,345
Loss on disposal	\$	2,972
Total Costs	\$	<u>4,010,813</u>
Monies to reserve	\$	<u>208,940</u>

The Debt per student Ratio in 2005 was \$1868. This is well below the parameters set in the Financial Health Watch guidelines made available by Christian Parent Controlled Schools Limited. The school company's reserves are held for future development of school facilities, to maintain the value of assets and property, and to ensure that the company is able to pay employees all future entitlements.

Copies of this report will be available at the school office or on-line at www.ocs.nsw.edu.au

Dr David A Baker
PRINCIPAL

Mrs Laurelle Honeysett
BOARD PRESIDENT