



Bathurst Christian School

Building men & women of God

Annual Report 2006

(Bathurst Christian School is wholly owned and managed by Orange Christian Schools Ltd)

Contents:

Principal's report
Message from the Board
Message from the P&F
Academic Performance
Teaching Staff
Professional Development, Attendance and Retention

Student Enrolments
Student attendance and retention
School Policies
Improvement targets for 2007
Financial information

Principal's Report

There is much to celebrate from the 2006 school year. Although the enrolment numbers did not increase from the previous year, the quality of student achievement and initiatives by the school community were high. We can start by celebrating the academic successes achieved by the students and supported by their hard-working teachers. These prove that a comprehensive, non-selective school that concentrates on people rather than product can bring out the best in its students. Of greater value, though, is the hard-to-measure but obvious personal growth and development in large numbers of our students. Some of these students are not high academic achievers but they will make a positive difference in our community in years to come, and many already make such a difference.

As always, I thank our teachers for the hard work involved in keeping the school staffed and moving forward. These talented people challenge me often and are not afraid to look at new ways to solve old problems. They are people who look to God for solutions to the daily challenges of educating the next generation, and God is

not wanting when it comes to providing us with innovative ways forward.

All schools have been challenged by the Commonwealth government to report on the satisfaction level among students, parents and teachers. To that end we plan in 2007 to send out surveys that will measure satisfaction and seek views on a wide range of issues. In the meantime, I am very happy with the broad levels of satisfaction and participation within the school. When I frequently hear of students who enjoy school for the first time, who like their teachers and enjoy their friends at BCS, I know that the school community is ticking over well. A non-government school has a simple measure of satisfaction, tested each year – do they come back? Yes, they came back and are enjoying getting on with their education.

I would like to thank the parent body of the school for your wonderful support and your willingness to contribute to the school's well-being and development. Your quality contribution to working bees and the daily life of the school really is an investment in the lives and future of our children and is greatly valued.

A Message from the Board Chair

Bathurst Christian School is blessed with a parent group that is keen to see the school grow in quality and in student numbers. Those parents have contributed greatly to the development of the school by putting many hours into improving the buildings and grounds and by serving on the BCS advisory group. The Board greatly appreciates this level of commitment and sense of “owning” the vision and progress of the school. The Board also applauds the addition of a pre-kinder program in 2007 which should assist with future growth. We are confident in the future of BCS.

We are saddened by the serious health problems suffered by Miss Steffen this year and know that she is missed by her students. At the same time, our thanks go out to Mrs Lee for her commitment and skill in taking over Miss Steffen’s duties in the Infants class. (Tim Chapman-Mortimer)

Academic Performance

During 2006, BCS students sat for the LANNA tests of literacy and numeracy in Years 3 & 5.

LANNA – Our Year 3 and Year 5 literacy and numeracy results continue to reflect a good average result for the school compared with others across Australia. Many of our students did very well and all are above benchmarks, with almost all positioned in the range that contains 60% of students nationally. Those who have not achieved results in the average range or better are receiving some level of literacy and numeracy support or are on programs designed to address their difficulties. As LANNA is only used by non-government schools and many of those are selective high-fee schools, our students’ results are quite strong. Those children who completed Year 6 in 2005 and moved to secondary schools have reported good progress as a result of their education at Bathurst Christian School.

Teaching Staff

Bathurst Christian School employed 3 full or part-time teachers in 2006, which is equivalent to 2.2 full-time teaching staff. All teachers employed by OCS Ltd have diplomas or degrees in education and we employ no teachers who are not eligible for membership of the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Professional Development, attendance and retention

During 2006, teaching staff engaged in Professional Development provided internally through Orange Christian School and also attended external programs such as Musica Viva training days. The school is also fortunate to have numbers of teaching staff with a wide range of experience who led courses in professional areas relevant to specific needs within our schools.

The total of sick leave taken during the year was sadly inflated by the long-term illness of a teacher who remains incapacitated at the time of this report. Excluding this case, the average leave taken was less than 1% of expected full-time attendance.

Apart from the teacher who was incapacitated and replaced, there were no other staff departures between 2005 and 2006.

Student Enrolments

The total BCS enrolment at the Commonwealth Census date, 4th August, was 29 students, an increase of one from 2005.

Student Attendance

Attendance at Bathurst Christian School is not normally problematic. Processes for monitoring attendance include personal roll marking and follow-up from teachers where necessary. In this way, personal and group trends are monitored and addressed. The absentee rate in 2006, from Kindergarten to Year 6, was 4.3% of potential full-time attendance. At BCS we consider that an absentee rate of 10% (5 days per term) for any individual student indicates an attendance problem.

School Policies

Orange Christian Schools Ltd maintains policies in all areas required by the Board of Studies, especially those dealing with student welfare and protection, as well as policies that enable the effective administration of the school. All policies are available for parents to peruse through the OCS office. Simply contact the Principal’s PA to organise a time to look at policy documents.

Enrolment Policy

Bathurst Christian School is a co-educational, non-selective day school, and this is reflected in our enrolment policy. Enrolment is open to all families that desire the educational opportunities offered by the school and who express a willingness to support the school's statement of faith and overriding non-denominational Christian ethos. It is expected that families will disclose all relevant information at the time of enrolment that enables the school to ascertain its ability to meet a child's educational, behavioural, emotional and health-related needs. In all matters, the school seeks to maintain a close partnership with parents.

Discipline

There has been no change to the discipline policy during 2006. Our discipline policy is 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 to develop self-discipline and teach high 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. This process also allows for the exercise of grace and forgiveness as an issue is discussed and resolved. There were no unresolved matters brought before the Board in 2006.

Improvement Targets

Improvement targets for 2007 can be divided into three categories; educational, "client" support and facilities. Educational targets include a continued focus on literacy and numeracy to break the well-documented declining trend in student's literacy and numeracy from Year 3 to Year 7. It is our goal to provide program adjustments and remediation to help every student achieve within or above the average range in tests.

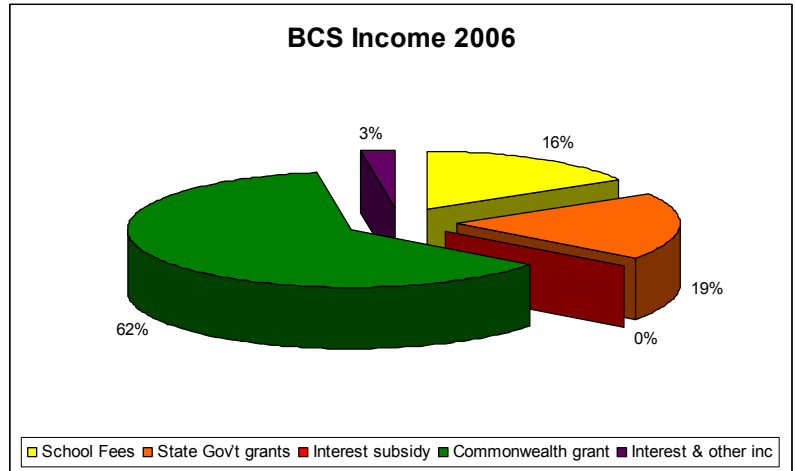
In support of families, the school intends surveying all school families in a range of areas to gauge their satisfaction with current programs and amenities and to respond to suggestions.

Our goals for developing facilities include the development of further sport facilities, computer access and library facilities.

School Finances - 2006

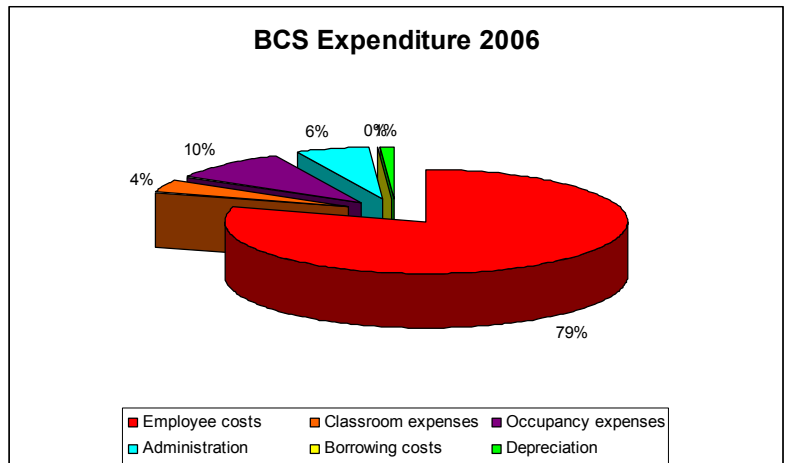
BCS Income 2006

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| School Fees | \$34,979 |
| State Gov't grants | \$40,172 |
| Interest subsidy | \$0 |
| Commonwealth grant | \$132,350 |
| Interest & other income | \$5,384 |



BCS Expenses 2006

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Employee costs | \$171,318 |
| Classroom expenses | \$7,962 |
| Occupancy expenses | \$21,201 |
| Administration | \$12,495 |
| Borrowing costs | \$0 |



The Debt per student Ratio in 2006 is zero as BCS has no outstanding loans. Orange Christian Schools Ltd 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.bcs.nsw.edu.au

Dr David A Baker
PRINCIPAL

Mr Tim Chapman-Mortimer
BOARD PRESIDENT