

FROM THE CEO



*Mr Daryl Riddle, OAM
Chief Executive Officer*

This year has proven to be a year which has had both important challenges and excellent achievements.

Building Challenges

With the significant task of implementing the most significant building program Christian College has ever undertaken (\$14 million) which spans across three campuses as well as four more minor building projects each valued at approximately \$100,000, it was not surprising that we were bracing ourselves for a busy start to the 2010 year. With the generous help of the Federal Government's 'Building Education Revolution' funding and significant loans from the Bendigo Bank, the opportunity and challenge to create three major pieces of infrastructure for our College and students was accepted. Whilst we have experienced some delays this year as a result of significant rains (a welcome sight anyway), all the projects will be scheduled to finish in 2011. It is also pleasing to see the Senior School Library and Administration building nearing completion and I look forward to seeing the students at Senior School using this facility in February next year.



Grounds Development

Along with the building developments, you will also

see a great improvement in the ovals and grounds at all the campuses as we work with Barwon Water in the implementation of strategic water management plans which involve the harvesting and storage of storm water on each College campus. This collection of significant water harvesting will allow us to water our gardens throughout the drier periods of the year. As a result of these measures, we have undertaken the restoration, resurfacing and re-sowing of the ovals at Bellarine and Highton Middle School, both of which will be allowed to be watered throughout the summer. Water management plans will also be undertaken on the other campuses as well.



Water collection at Middle School.

'Back Creek' Rural Farm Experience

The farm rural experience has again provided our Year 9 students with the unique opportunity to spend five weeks living and learning at 'Back Creek', a real life dairy farm experience. Along with the dairy herd, our Farm Manager Lachlan Howard has introduced about fifty beef cattle onto the farm so that the students can gain an understanding of another form of farming enterprise.

Whilst the year has been a difficult one for dairy farming, the season has begun to show some promise with plenty of rain falling in the last two

months providing plentiful feed and pasture growth. Coupled with a slight increase in milk prices, many of Australia's farmers will be thankful for these blessings.

East Timor Excitement

The past twelve months has also seen a great deal of activity in our special working relationship with our friends in East Timor. A number of trips to East Timor have occurred throughout the year, allowing us to again re establish our important bonds of friendship with these gentle and warm people. I had the opportunity to take eight of our College students to our Friendship House in Viqueque along with a doctor, senior nurse and another teacher. The trip was a memorable one with all our students developing life-changing relationships with the students and people in our tiny village in Viqueque. It was wonderful to see and take part in the opening of a new school at Kraras (for which our staff and students had raised funds to help build) and to experience the joy and happiness of the people in this town.

The wonderful success of these trips will pave the way for future trips for our students with plans to send a group in July 2011 (Prefects) and another for Year 10 Our World (2nd Semester 2011). It is also envisaged we will invite four members of our Friendship House staff, Aze - General Manager, Aki - IT Manager, and Lucia and Nurlinda, both kindergarten teachers to visit our campuses in Australia.

I would like to thank all the members of the Christian College East Timor Committee for the incredible work they accomplish. 'Thankyou' to Colin Pearson, Deb Singleton and Chris Maddock for their tireless leadership in this special and inspiring work.



Opening of Kraras School.

Surf Coast Campus

With continued growth in the Surf Coast Shire and the growing numbers of children who wish to come to Christian College, the need to develop another campus at Jan Juc is increasing each year. Over the past twelve months we have not been idle as we have made application to the Shire for special rezoning applications for a school development and spoken at public and council meetings of our need to move the project forward. The Shire continues to develop its "vision" for this area; however, there is a growing need for Council planners and Council Members to make important strategic decisions concerning this area as discontent grows. Many Surf Coast parents are deeply concerned at the overcrowding of their current educational offerings in Torquay and with more than 150 students travelling to Christian College by car or bus each day, the need for another school is apparent. We will continue to work with Council in creating the positive vision for the Spring Creek area.

In closing this report, I would like to express my gratitude to our retiring Head of Senior School, Mr Stephen Warden. Stephen has been a member of our staff for 8 years and has made a significant contribution to the life of our students and College, especially as Head of Senior School. I wish you God's richest blessings Stephen as you move into your new field of endeavour.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Principal, Mr Glen McKeeman and the various Heads of Campuses, Deputies, Directors and teaching staff for their enthusiasm, care and skill in teaching and mentoring our students. Your great work is continually reflected in the positive and talented lives of your students. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the team of ancillary staff who work 'behind the scenes' enabling this College to function so incredibly.

I would also wish to express my genuine appreciation to the members of the College Board and Executive Staff whose wisdom and care serve us all in so many ways.

Daryl Riddle, OAM
Chief Executive Officer