

Toowoomba Christian College
— established 1979 —

2015 Annual Report



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1 INTRODUCING TOOWOOMBA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Toowoomba Christian College is an Independent Prep – Year 12 co-educational College.

During 2015, the school has maintained its recent increase in enrolments and has finished the school year with 752 students.

New School Sign

Our new school sign on the New England Highway was installed over the 2014 Christmas holidays.



High School Laptop Rollout

This year we have rolled out laptops to all of our secondary students. This move has meant quite a change for our students as they have had to take responsibility for a \$1000 machine every day as they travel back and forth from school.

I am very pleased with the way both students and teachers have taken to the technology and how it is bringing understanding of our world to our fingertips.

The school has also worked to help students handle the issues that arise in an 'unpatrolled' internet that can have dire consequences for any user. I believe we have helped them see that the real issue of technology and its challenges is not in the technology itself but it starts with our choices and the way we manage the issues of our heart.

The school will continue to own the device that students use so that we can help them navigate the way through the minefield of the internet.

Second Science Lab Completed

Over the 2014 Christmas holidays the second science lab was installed.

This upgrade cost about \$120,000.



Change to the Library Layout

The layout of the Library changed with the area becoming much more open as the shelving was placed around the walls and more furniture was placed in the open areas.

Changes to Computer Lab 1 and Computer Lab 2.

In preparation for the rollout of the laptops to all high school students the computer labs were changed. The desktops were removed and larger monitors took their place.



Two Primary Classrooms Upgrade

During the Term 3 holidays, the current Year 5 classroom and 2015 Primary Music Room were converted into two much larger and functional classrooms. They are separated by an operable wall which can fold back to join both classrooms into one even larger area for combined assemblies and/or other Year 5 activities. In 2016 both of these spaces will be used by the two Year 5 classes.





Learning Support Classroom

The school created a new space for the Learning Support classroom. The space in the Prep Building that was previously utilised as the Sports Storeroom (and the adjoining change room) was converted into a dedicated learning support area. The new space provides a practical area to create individualised programs to support classroom learning, with an emphasis on Literacy.



School Grounds

The groundstaff prepared the new garden around the front sign and have planted over 200 plants. They also removed the fence and established the hedge on the southern side of the entrance.



The school has also installed security cameras near the car park so that we can be more aware of any issues that take place in this

2 STUDENT NUMBERS

The 2015 school year began with 740 students enrolled in the school. By the school census date in August we had 754 students.

3 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

A number of parents gave freely of their time to help in the primary classrooms and with the running of sports events. The school is extremely grateful for the assistance given by these parents.

Parents are also invited to attend special occasions such as Family Day, Festival of Nations, Sports Carnivals, and Parent Information Evenings, and all parents are encouraged to attend a parent/teacher interview at least once a year, although an opportunity is given every term. Parents also have direct access to any teachers email address if they need to make contact with any staff member.

Regular communication is provided to assist parents.

4 PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

Historically, the School has not had to deal with many Parent, Teacher or student complaints. Differences that arise are dealt with promptly.

Reasons for the low incidence would be because of the good rapport the students and parents have with the staff, the pastoral awareness and involvement of the staff, and the response to the strong Christian ethos of the school held by the students, parents and staff.



5 SCHOOL STAFF

At the beginning of the year we welcomed:

Mrs	Jessica	Albury	Primary School Teacher - Year 2B
Miss	Fiona	Sercombe	Prep Teacher Aide
Mr	Nathan	Walmsley	Primary School Teacher - Year 4B
Mr	Terry	Grieger	High School Teacher - Graphics & Junior Science
Mrs	Tina	Kennedy	High School Teacher - Maths & Physical Education
Mrs	Kristen	Rentell	High School Teacher - Year 7 Coordinator, Study Skills & English
Miss	Ashlee	Rootes	High School Teacher - English & Christian Studies

We also warmly welcomed back:

Dr	Denise	Spencer	High School Teacher - Christian Studies
Miss	Chrissy	Henderson	High School Teacher - Maths & Humanities
Mrs	Tamara	Mitchell	High School Teacher - Yr 7/8 Learning Assistance
Mrs	Michelle	Tickle	Primary School Teacher - Drama & Art (5-6)
Mrs	Judith	Van Amstel	Primary School Teacher - Music & PE (P-6)

During the year we welcomed new staff:

Mrs	Karen	Norton	Prep Teacher (Semester 2)
Miss	Lauren	England	Prep Teacher (Semester 2)
Mrs	Maria	Phillips	Business Manager
Mrs	Gayle	Dixon	Primary School Teacher - Year 3

At the end of the year we farewelled the following staff:

Mr	Edward	Lucas	High School Teacher – Art
Miss	Liz	Randall	PA to the Head of Primary
Mrs	Sharlene	Middleton	Primary School Teacher - Year 1A
Dr	Denise	Spencer	High School Teacher - Christian Studies and English
Mrs	Carleigh	Graham	Director of Student Care (maternity leave)
Mrs	Tenille	Mathison	Receptionist (maternity leave)
Mrs	Karen	Norton	Prep Teacher (semester 2)
Miss	Lauren	England	Prep Teacher (semester 2)

We wish all of the staff who are departing at the end of this year God's blessings as they move on to the next stage of their journey with Him.

6 DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

Toowoomba Christian College offers a comprehensive curriculum across the key learning areas and supports all learners via highly skilled classroom practitioners and through the following aspects:

- A Learning Support Co-ordinator and Learning Support Teacher to enhance the opportunities for students who are experiencing learning difficulties
- Tuesday after-school subject support sessions for students in Years 7 – 12



7 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Toowoomba Christian College offers a diverse and vigorous co-curricular program, managed by teachers and professional coaches, which includes:

Diverse Cultural Opportunities

- Senior High Drama Production "Taming of the Shrew"
- Year 10 Drama Production "Better Part of Me"
- High School Art Show "TCC Senior High Visual Art Show"



Taming of the Shrew



Better Part of Me



SH Visual Art Show

8 SPORTING PERFORMANCES

The school continued to participate enthusiastically in interschool sports with other schools in Toowoomba.

This year the school has been privileged to have students represent the Darling Downs region at State Championships.

Queensland Representatives:

This year the following 4 students have been selected for Queensland teams

STUDENT	Category
Baille Lammas	Queensland Representative, Shadow for State Squash
Madeline Pritchard	Queensland Schools Equestrian Team
Helen Siddans	Queensland School Sport Rock Climbing
Isabella Meiklejohn	Queensland School Sport Futsal

Darling Downs Representatives:

STUDENT	CATEGORY
PRIMARY	
Brandon Lochel	Futsal, Softball
Susan Owen	Gymnastics, Swimming
Nicole Van Rhijn	Gymnastics
Jack Reinbott	Orienteering

STUDENT	CATEGORY
SECONDARY	
Ryan Stockley	Rugby Union
Clayton Clinch	Rugby Union
Baille Lammas	Squash
Brianna Bool	Hockey
Sophie Fuller	Football
Nina Grant	Football
Grant Reinbott	Cross Country, Orienteering and Athletics
Blake Reinbott	Cross Country, Orienteering and Athletics
Dylan Yaxley	Cross Country
Cooper Taylor	Cross Country
Brody Kahler	Athletics
Madeline Pritchard	Equestrian



9 PASTORAL CARE SERVICES

Chaplaincy

A part-time Chaplain plays an active role in the welfare of the students and assists in personal, family, grief and spiritual counselling.

Counselling

Counselling at Toowoomba Christian College is offered to assist students to develop appropriate skills and attitudes, and to resolve problems in academic, psychological, emotional, and/or social contexts. The counselling offered is in-keeping with our Christian perspective. Counselling is done within the framework of the whole College community, involving staff and parents as required.

Career Pathways Counselling

Career Pathways Counselling continues to be an integral part of the curriculum at Toowoomba Christian College and the careers service includes both individual counselling and timetabled lessons.

High School Students are encouraged to undertake Work Experience throughout the year and are encouraged to try a number of different fields of interest. We have had success in some students gaining employment through these opportunities.

Students are encouraged to avail themselves of the services offered by our Careers Counsellor – writing job applications, compile and update resume, understand interview techniques, time-management skills, investigate post-graduate academic programs and for general careers advice.

Strategies to respond to bullying

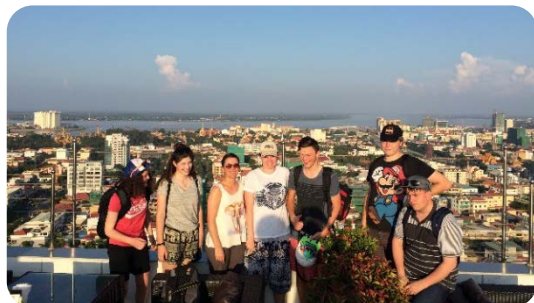
Every individual is valued and has the right to be treated with respect, dignity and understanding. The building of positive and effective relationships amongst all members of the Toowoomba Christian College community is of primary importance. Therefore, behaviours that exhibit elements of bullying and harassment will be treated quickly and appropriately.

We are committed, wherever possible, to the restoration of relationships.

10 OVERSEAS MISSIONS TRIPS

2015 Asia Experience Mission Trip:

During the September holidays, Miss Claire Whereat and Mrs Elizma Piffero took five students to Asia. They visited Siem Reap and Phnom Penh in Cambodia, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and had a rewarding time sight-seeing, experiencing different cultures and visiting local historical sites, orphanages and schools.



2015 Asia team on top of Phnom Penh



Ta Prohm Temple in Siem Reap



11 YEAR 3, 5, 7 & 9 NATIONAL TESTING RESULTS

This year saw the continuation of NAPLAN testing for all schools in Australia in Literacy and Numeracy. These results indicate that our students at Toowoomba Christian College are, in most instances, achieving above the state and national averages in Literacy and Numeracy.

READING			
Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	445.5	418.2	425.8
Year 5	510.8	494.6	498.2
Year 7	563.0	542.9	545.9
Year 9	602.1	572.3	580.4

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION			
Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	439.1	430.4	432.7
Year 5	519.5	499.9	503.8
Year 7	556.4	538.0	541.3
Year 9	589.8	565.9	567.7

WRITING			
Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	425.5	405.8	416.3
Year 5	476.4	470.2	478.1
Year 7	511.4	504.5	510.5
Year 9	570.2	537.4	546.2

NUMERACY			
Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	407.1	392.8	397.8
Year 5	501.9	485.9	492.3
Year 7	545.8	539.2	542.6
Year 9	596.3	584.9	591.7

SPELLING			
Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	416.2	396.5	409.2
Year 5	492.8	489.2	498.1
Year 7	543.7	544.3	546.4
Year 9	596.8	579.5	583.3

12 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING AND UNIVERSITY COURSES

Certificates Offered at School

In partnership with TAFE Queensland South West, 50 students were able to work towards obtaining a Certificate II in Hospitality (SIT20213), and a Certificate II in Kitchen Operations (SIT20312).

In partnership with Bakery Industry Training Australia (BITA), 27 students were able to work towards obtaining competencies in Certificate III in Retail Baking (Combined) (FDF30710).

University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Headstart Subjects

This year 13 Senior High students studied university subjects, while still at school, in disciplines including Accounting, Biophysical Foundations, Electronics, Graphic Design, Media, Contemporary Art Practice, Engineering and Spatial Science Applications, Law, Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Nursing Practice, and Music.

Certificates Studied Through TAFE Queensland South West

Five Students attended classes at TAFE Queensland South West on a weekly basis and worked towards Certificates in areas including Beauty Therapy, Community Services Work, Design Fundamentals, and Events within Certificate and Diploma programs.

Other Externally Delivered Elective Activity:

This year six High School Students engaged in other Externally Delivered Electives including the study of Chinese Language, AMEB Grade 6 and 7 Practical Piano, and Certificate III in Fitness.



School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships

This year 26 Year 10 – 12 students engaged in School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships while still at school in the fields of Business, Business Administration, Carpentry, Children's Services, Community Pharmacy, Early Childhood Education and Care, Engineering – Technical, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology, Outdoor Power Equipment Technology, Media, Property Services (Real Estate), Retail Baking (Combined), and Retail Operations.

Nine students completed their Traineeship prior to graduating from school.

Senior High Computing Studies

56 Senior High students passed 135 examinations in Adobe Certified Associate, Autodesk Certified User, Microsoft Office Specialist and Microsoft Technology Associate during their Senior Education to date.

Three have achieved their Microsoft Office Specialist Master accreditation.

2015 is the 4th successive year TCC has had students compete in the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championships in America.

This year we had 2 students attend as National Champions.

13 STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

In 2015 our School Captains and five other Year 12 students travelled to Canberra for the 2015 Compass Schools Conference. I was delighted with the impact it had on them. I strongly believe in investing in our young people's lives, and will be taking our Year 12 leaders again next year.



Mrs Grierson with Compass attendees, Abigail Wolnicki, Ebony King, James Lush, Cody Gordon, Eric Siddans, Georgia Field and Kristina McGreevy



14 SCHOOL FINANCES

Please click [here](#) to access Toowoomba Christian College 2015 Finances published on the 'My School' website.

15 THE FUTURE

I believe that 2016 will be a year when we continue to lay the ground work for our future. I am looking forward to taking steps to improve our approach to delivering Christian education. Our future however is determined by the hand and will of God and we will continue to seek to build the school after His direction. We are confident His plans and timing are right. May we continue to develop outstanding students at TCC. Please continue to pray for us.

16 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

I wish to thank our School Captains James Lush and Ebony King for the wonderful job they have done this year as the school's leaders. They have performed their tasks admirably and I am sure many students are very grateful for the friendship and example they have given throughout the year.



Ebony King & James Lush

17 STUDENT LEADERS

I also wish to thank all the students in leadership positions this year. I am delighted with the quality of young people who lead our school and set a fine example for the rest of the student body to follow.

POSITION		MALE	FEMALE
SCHOOL CAPTAINS		James Lush	Ebony King
ACADEMIC CAPTAINS		Christopher Chapman	Cassandra Moore
ARTS CAPTAINS		William Jurgs	Courtney McKenzie
EVENTS CAPTAINS		Jayden Peters	Annie Wauchope
HOSPITALITY CAPTAINS		Benjamin Reinke	Fiona Greer
HOUSE CAPTAINS	Chisholm	Shaquille Haegler	Louise Simpkins
	Graham	York Lewis	Elizabeth Wallis
	Lewis	William Mengel	Jakita Edney
	Taylor	Christian Madden	Madeline Trimmer
PREFECTS	Year 7	Eric Siddans	Kristina McGreevy
	Year 8	Caleb Bunch	Paige Du Toit
	Year 9	Jake Smith	Taryn Rattle
	Year 10	Sam Copland	Madison Reinbott
PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSISTANCE CAPTAINS		Trent Sheehan	Louise Hewitt



18 APPARENT RETENTION RATES

The Queensland Government requires the school to publish our Apparent Retention Rates. These rates have been calculated using the nationally agreed methodology which is defined as the number of full-time students in Year 12 in any given year, expressed as a percentage of the number of students who started in Year 10 two years previously.

The calculations are based on enrolment data collected from the school by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) as part of the annual National School Statistics Collection.

Year	Year 10	Year 12	Retention rate %
2006	38	28	80.0%
2007	46	32	94.1%
2008	47	35	92.1%
2009	44	35	76.1%
2010	50	39	80.6%
2011	55	41	93.0%
2012	50	44	88.0%
2013	55	53	96.0%
2014	74	61	82.4%
2015	74	67	90.5%

19 STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders
Doctorate	2%
Masters	10%
Bachelor Degree	84%
Diploma	4%
Certificate	0%

20 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2015	\$56,878
The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2015	100%

21 STAFF COMPOSITION, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS STAFF

Toowoomba Christian College employs a diverse range of teaching and administrative staff, all of whom are active Christians.

Part Time Staff	12.4
Full Time Staff	61
Administration	20.3
Teaching	53.2
Indigenous	0

22 STAFF ATTENDANCE

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97.6% in 2015.

23 STAFF RETENTION

Proportion of teaching staff retained from 2015 was over 92%.



24 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The Semester 1 attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2015 was 93%.

25 HOW NON-ATTENDANCE IS MANAGED BY THE SCHOOL

Attendance in the High School is recorded each day during Pastoral Care Groups. Each Grade has 2 groups of males and females.

Attendance in the Primary School is recorded each day at the beginning of class. The Electronic roll system called "ERoll" is used by all class teachers accessed by remote desktop on the school staff computers.

"ERoll" can be accessed by any teacher at any time to confirm absences and reasons for absences as well as departures during the day.

To ensure the rolls are completed each morning the Student Receptionist sends out an email with a tracking function recording the teacher's response of yes to the completion of the rolls. Any emails that have not been responded too by 9:00am are followed up with a phone call from the Student Receptionist.

The Student Receptionist is responsible for recording and monitoring students arriving late, departures and absences.

The Head of Secondary compiles a list of students that are regularly absent due to TAFE courses, University subjects, School-based Traineeships and Work Experience.

When a student is ill or unable to attend school, it is expected that parents notify the school via phone or email before 9:00am. On the student's return, all notes from the parent explaining absences (including medical certificates) are retained.

Once all absentees have been recorded and explained, any student that is away without explanation will be followed up with a phone call to their parents. Any continued absence is also followed up with a phone call to the parents of the student to offer support and enquire as to the student and family welfare at that time. Any student that is missing from class is reported to the Student Receptionist immediately to follow up on their whereabouts.

In the case of prolonged absence, parents are asked to request planned absence of their student with the Heads of Primary and Secondary in advance. This information is then communicated to the student's teachers.

Junior High Student absences during examination/assessment blocks are managed through the school's *Absences of Junior High Students from Class tests and Exam Policy*, which is made available through the School website.

Senior High Students' absences during examination/assessment blocks are managed through the school's *Absences of Senior High Students from Class tests and Exam Policy* and Signing in and out Procedures.

From July 2015 the school used a new student management system, Edumate to record student attendance. This software greatly improved the recording of student attendance so that the school can know where a student was at any time of the day.



26 YEAR 12 OUTCOMES

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort 2015	
Total number of Senior Certificates awarded	67
Percentage of OP – eligible students with OP 1-15	Not Applicable
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded VET qualification	39.39%
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP eligibility or awarded a VET qualification	39.39%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer	100%

27 NEXT STEPS SURVEY

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2015 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available.

28 HOW COMPUTERS ARE USED TO ASSIST LEARNING

The school has over four hundred computers being used by students and they are all used to assist learning. In 2015 the school rolled out a 1:1 program for Years 7 and 12.

29 VALUE ADDING

All of the school's activities are built around the concept of value adding. The school has not formulated a method of measuring this in a way to give true recognition to the value we add to each student.

30 PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

The school receives feedback and measures of satisfaction through various ways including letters and testimonials from parents. The increasing enrolments over time are a good indicator of satisfaction with the school and its offering.

31 TEXTBOOKS

A text book hire system operates for students in Years 7-12. The school also has electronic copies of some textbooks on student laptops through Learning Field. This allows students to loan text books for the year without parents having to go to the expense of purchasing them. The text book hire system is funded by the State Government Text Book Allowance which is paid directly to the school. The full price of a replacement text will be charged if hired items are not returned or are returned in poor condition.

32 CONCLUSION

I would particularly like to thank all the people who have stood with the school in prayer this year. I am very conscious that the Lord is building this school and I know how important it is that we continue to look to Him for His blessing and guidance.

I wish to thank the parents who have entrusted their children to Toowoomba Christian College and assure you it is our deepest desire to keep giving your son or daughter the training in their formative years so that they will be prepared to serve the Living God in the world they face.

Our mission is to prepare young people for service in today's ever-changing world by grounding them in the unchanging person of Christ and His unshakeable kingdom.

I would like to thank the talented and hardworking admin team that currently serves our school so well each and every school day.

I would also like to thank the Head of Primary, Mrs Lodder and Head of Secondary, Mrs Budden for the dedication and professionalism they bring to their roles. I am truly blessed to have such a great team to work with.

Richard Brown
Principal



Mission Statement

**Toowoomba Christian College exists to
provide a Christian education
that will prepare students in spirit,
soul and body,
to serve the Living God
in today's world.**