



Toowoomba Christian College
— established 1979 —

2013 Annual Report

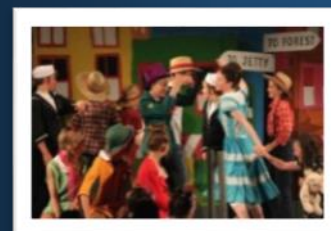
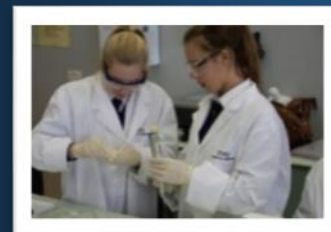




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1 INTRODUCING TOOWOOMBA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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

During 2013, the school has maintained its recent increase in enrolments and has finished the school year with 629 students.

2013 has seen the continuation of a second stream in our primary school into Year 2. The school took possession of its new primary classroom block and undercover area at the beginning of the year and have used it for a number of activities and functions, including Grandparents Day. The new classroom block and undercover area is a wonderful addition to the school and the primary students have enjoyed using them. The build's total cost of \$1.4m was supported by a \$340,000 grant from the Commonwealth Government and a \$335,000 grant from the Queensland State Government.

The school has begun building the new high school classroom block in readiness for Year 7 moving to High School in 2015. This development is expected to be finished by Christmas this year. The State Government has pledged \$500,000 towards this building. The overall cost is expected to be \$850,000.

We are truly grateful for the financial investment from all levels of government and look forward as to how these facilities will benefit the students of the school. The school is planning to establish its new car park on the land it has purchased next to our driveway. The new parking arrangement will hopefully be operational by the end of Term 1, 2014.

1.1 STUDENT NUMBERS

The 2013 school year began with 625 students enrolled in the school. By the school census date in August we had 629 students.

1.2 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

A number of parents gave freely of their time to help in the primary classrooms, the Library 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.

1.3 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.



1.4 SCHOOL STAFF

In 2013 we welcomed:

Mr Michael Eley	Year 5 Teacher
Mrs Caralynn McGrath	Year 2 Teacher
Mrs Wilna van Rhijn	Year 7 Teacher
Dr Denise Spencer	English and History High School Teacher
Miss Tegan Mayer	Maths and History High School Teacher
Mr Dennis Lockhart	Year 4 Teacher
Mrs Kaye Lockhart	Primary Receptionist and Administrator
Mrs Tamara Mitchell	High School Teacher
Mrs Kate Cook	Year 1 Primary Teacher
Mrs Sharon Seccombe	Year 4 Primary Teacher
Mr Andrew Slyderink	IT Support Technician
Mr David Sretenovic	English, Maths and History High School Teacher

We farewelled:

Mr Dennis Lockhart	Year 4 Primary Teacher
Mrs Emma Gray	Prep Teacher
Mrs Gayle Hine	Secondary Student Receptionist and First Aid Officer
Mr Bruce Cook	Head of Primary
Miss Charlene Cowan	Library Assistant
Miss Chrissy Henderson	English High School Teacher
Mrs Kaye Lockhart	Primary Receptionist and Administrator
Mr David Sretenovic	English, Maths and History High School Teacher
Mrs Jennylyn Phillips	Prep Teacher
Mrs Kate Cook	Year 1 Primary Teacher
Mrs Tammy Mitchell	High School Teacher

1.5 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 Enrichment Co-ordinator to meet the needs of gifted and talented students
- 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 3 – 12

1.6 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

- Year 10 Drama “CrabPuffs”
- High School Production “Hamlet”
- Senior High Art Show



1.7 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 14 students represent the Darling Downs or South West Queensland region at State Championships. These students were:

Meselech Tyson	Year 5	Girls Rugby League
Meselech Tyson	Year 5	Netball
Blake Reinbott	Year 6	Cross Country
Blake Reinbott	Year 6	Orienteering
Grant Reinbott	Year 6	Cross Country
Grant Reinbott	Year 6	Orienteering
Grant Shelton	Year 7	AFL
Baille Lammas	Year 8	Squash
Casey Pierce	Year 8	Athletics
Georgia Butlin	Year 8	Athletics
Brendan Shelton	Year 9	AFL
Imani Holloway	Year 9	Girls Cricket
James Lush	Year 10	Boys Hockey
Anthony Grant	Year 11	Football

1.8 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 valuable 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 seriously.

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



1.9 OVERSEAS MISSIONS TRIPS

2013 Fiji Mission Trek:

This year, during the June holidays, Mr Edward Lucas, Mrs Felicity Wauchope, Mrs Carleigh Graham and Miss Tegan Mayer took 14 students to Fiji. They had a thoroughly rewarding time visiting villages and speaking at church services and schools. This trip was a great success and is scheduled to run again next year.

2013 Asia Experience Mission Trip:

During the September holidays, Miss Chrissy Henderson and Miss Claire Whereat took five students to Asia. They visited Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines and had a rewarding time sight-seeing and visiting local churches, orphanages and schools.

1.10 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES

This year the school once again entered students from Years 4-12 in the International Competitions in Science, English and Maths.

I am pleased with the results in the following competitions:

Students from Years 4 – 12 participated in the 2013 International Maths Competition.

Maths Results:	2 High Distinctions	15 Distinctions	54 Credits
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Students from Years 4 - 12 participated in the 2013 National English Competition.

English Results:	29 Distinctions	78 Credits
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Students from Year 8 participated in the 2013 National History Competition.

History Results:	3 Distinctions	7 Credits	7 Merits
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Students from Years 8 - 12 participated in the 2013 National Science Competition.

Science Results:	2 High Distinctions	12 Distinctions	55 Credits
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1.11 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 students at Toowoomba Christian College are on many occasions achieving above the state and national averages in Literacy and Numeracy.

READING

Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	425.0	407.6	419.1
Year 5	516.0	496.8	502.2
Year 7	551.0	533.3	540.4
Year 9	588.0	572.4	580.4

WRITING

Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	434.0	406.5	415.6
Year 5	474.0	469.9	477.8
Year 7	534.0	514.8	516.9
Year 9	569.0	548.3	553.9

SPELLING

Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	395.0	396.2	410.7
Year 5	495.0	485.3	494.0
Year 7	566.0	542.0	549.2
Year 9	592.0	578.2	582.7



GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	422.0	419.3	428.2
Year 5	510.0	494.8	500.8
Year 7	567.0	531.7	535.4
Year 9	606.0	568.2	572.9

NUMERACY

Year	Average (TCC)	Average (State)	Average (National)
Year 3	404.0	386.2	396.9
Year 5	504.0	481.3	485.9
Year 7	581.0	538.5	542.2
Year 9	601.0	573.3	583.7

1.12 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING AND UNIVERSITY COURSES

- **Certificates Offered at School**

Working in partnership with SQIT, 54 TCC students were able to work towards obtaining a Certificate II in Hospitality (SIT20207), Certificate II in Hospitality Operations (SIT20307) and Certificate II in Food Processing Baking (FDF20111).

- **University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Headstart Subjects**

This year 24 TCC Senior High students studied university subjects while still at school in disciplines including Business, Biological and Physical Sciences (Health), Education, Engineering and Spatial Sciences, Law, Maths and Computing, Nursing, and Sciences.

- **Certificates Studied Through the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT)**

8 TCC Students attended classes at SQIT on a weekly basis and worked towards Certificates and a Diploma in areas, including Automotive; Beauty Services; Children's Services; and Engineering (Diesel Fitting).

- **School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships**

This year 21 TCC Senior High students engaged in School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships while still at school in the fields of Agriculture, Automotive Mechanical, Automotive Vehicle Body (Panel Beating), Baking (Combined), Business, Business Administration, Carpentry, Children's Services, Commercial Cookery, Dental Assisting, Floristry, Hospitality, and Warehouse Operations

1.13 STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

2013 saw 11 of our Year 12 students travel to Canberra for the Compass Schools Conference. I was delighted with the impact it had on our students. I strongly believe in investing in our young people's lives, and will be taking a group of Year 12 students again next year.



1.14 SCHOOL FINANCES

Please click [here](#) to access Toowoomba Christian College 2013 Finances published on the 'My School' website.

1.15 THE FUTURE

I believe that 2014 will be a year when we continue to lay the ground work for our future and in particular the move of Year 7 to High School.

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.

There are a number of initiatives the school plans to introduce next year including teacher evaluation process in line with the government's expectations. I am looking forward to seeing the Prefects being more involved with the High School students and calling them up to greater responsibility.

The school will also have to prepare for the changes involved in Year 7 moving into High School and for the increase of students in the Primary section of the school. In light of the changes taking place it is important that we make sure we continue to build upon the values and ethos that have made this school what it is.

1.16 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

I wish to thank Brittany Briskey and David Weekes 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.

1.17 PREFECTS

I also wish to thank Marissa Shelton, Madison Turton, Amy Walker, Amy Willadsen, Nicholas Crowther, Daniel Lever, Abraham Slatter, and Tyler Neuendorf for being our school Prefects for 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.

1.18 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%



1.19 STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders
Doctorate	2%
Masters	9%
Bachelor Degree	83%
Diploma	0%
Certificate	7%

1.20 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2013	\$42,041
The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2013	100%

1.21 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	15
Full Time Staff	53
Administration	24
Teaching	42
Indigenous	0

1.22 STAFF ATTENDANCE

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97.7% in 2013.

1.23 STAFF RETENTION

Proportion of teaching staff retained from 2012 was over 87%.

1.24 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2013 was 95.06%.



1.25 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.



1.26 YEAR 12 OUTCOMES

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort 2013	
Total number of Senior Certificates awarded	Not Applicable
Percentage of OP – eligible students with OP 1-15	Not Applicable
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded VET qualification	Not Applicable
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP eligibility or awarded a VET qualification	11.32%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer	100%

1.27 NEXT STEPS SURVEY

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2013 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available.

1.28 HOW COMPUTERS ARE USED TO ASSIST LEARNING

The school has over two hundred computers being used by students and they are all used to assist learning.

1.29 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.

1.30 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.

1.31 TEXTBOOKS

A text book hire system operates for students in Years 8-12. 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.

1.32 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.

Richard Brown
Principal