Principal Report 2016

It is with a real sense of gratitude and thankfulness before God that I am able to present this 2016 Principal Report. As I look back on the year there is just so much to be thankful for. The momentum for growth commenced at the beginning of the year with 37 new enrolments in our Day school. This growth has been sustained this year and we are already looking at another 25 students starting next year.

Growth in Distance Education (DE) student numbers: Linked with this growth in the Day school has been a dramatic growth in our Distance Education (DE) program. In May this year the Department of Education Services approved our new DE program and so this enabled us to take on new DE students. Since this period we have had a 147% increase in numbers (as at 1/12/16). I recognise that this is testimony to the exceptional curriculum package which has been developed by our ACC curriculum team and the outstanding contribution of our DE team led by Mrs Terry Phipson.

Only last week one of our DE Year 10 students made an important speech at the end of year Presentation Night. In her speech she said, “ACC has given me a new found confidence in life and has equipped me with the right knowledge to be able to face whatever life throws at me. DE has taught me to be disciplined, organised and committed. It has also given me the opportunity to be able to pursue my passions and interests. Something that I will also remember and cherish is that within the content of lessons we explored … acknowledgement and honour is given to God and the truth.”

A year of growth and consolidation
This year has seen continued improvement in student learning as reflected in our ACER testing and Naplan results. (The collection of student achievement data to guide our teaching is such an important issue I have included a special section on this at the end of this report). In our day school we have continued to ensure that student learning is the focus for each day. Our testing at the start and end of the year assists us in measuring student growth in learning. Having Mrs Sarah MacMillan join our learning support team this year made a significant difference as she was able to develop specialised programs to support our students.

Parents will have also noticed that we have changed the template of our Student semester reports in order to assist parents in better understanding the learning achievements of their students. These reports specifically note the Achievement Standards required for each grade as
well as the learning tasks covered. We also introduced a Student Learning Profile report which we sent out at the end of term 1 in order to give parents an early awareness of their student’s attitudes and practices towards learning.

Another key aspect of student learning which we have been working on is encouraging all parents to recognise the importance of the parent/teacher interview or the student review meeting. These are held twice a year and parents can book in online. We encourage all parents to attend and for those with student in high school to bring them along as well. These interviews are not just for struggling students but for parents of all our students so we can continue to learn how to work together.

**Enriching experiences for our students**

Our classroom learning has been enriched this year with a wide variety of extension activities. Some of these have included:

**K-PP**
- Visit to Animal Farm & Alpaca Stud near Denmark
- Visit to Kwoorabup Nature based adventure playground in Denmark
- Visit to Cleanaway recycling centre
- Visit by City of Albany’s CEO, Andrew Sharpe, learning about ‘The place where we Live’
Year 1-2
- Emu Point Beach Project over two terms… involving Science, HASS, literacy and Visual Arts components.

Year 3-4
- Sustainability bush care project
- Visit by local author Sian Turner

Year 5-6
- Eco Tour at Walpole
- Forestry visit excursion to examine the wood chipping and exporting processes
- Visit by local author Dianne Wolfer
Year 7-8
- 6 day trip to Canberra
- Operation Christmas Child Project- School wide coordination and putting together shoeboxes
- Salvation Army Christmas Appeal Hamper Project

Year 9-10
- Attended UWA Albany campus Open Day events
- Planning 10 day Vietnam trip for 2017

Year 11-12
- Outdoor Ed students completing two 3 day expeditions
- Attended UWA Albany campus study skills workshop
- Year 11 nine day Cambodia trip to assist in humanitarian work.
Distance Education

- Attended Sci-Tech excursion in Perth
- Attended an Indigenous workshop at Kings Park
- Attended an Indigenous Botanical Walk through Kings Park
- Explored Naturescape at Kings Park
- Students able to attend Year 7-8 Canberra trip
Whole school

- Junior school participated in three categories in Albany Schools Music Festival at Albany Entertainment Centre
- School marched in community Anzac Day march
- Book Week celebrations
- Music a Viva visit
- Students of all years undertook a St John’s First Aid course
- Piano performance by Shuan Hern Lee for whole school. Shuan is the leading youth pianist in WA, who has attained the The Fellowship in Music, Australia (FMusA) which is the highest qualification offered by the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) and he is one of our DE students.

Student Achievements:
This our students had the opportunity to be involved in further extension activities. These included

**Australian Mathematics Competition**
- Year 10 student (Henry) - Distinction award

**ICAS English Competition**
- Year 6 (Xiaofu) - Distinction award
- Year 10 (Henry) - Distinction award

**ICAS Mathematics Competition**
- Year 6 (Xiaofu) - Credit award (Top 24% of Year 6 participants)
- Year 7 (Ewan) - Participation certificate (Top 49% of Year 7 participants)
Four students deserve a special mention for their willingness to extend themselves in the Arts and Sport.

- Shuan Hern Lee: In 2016 won piano competitions in Netherlands and Italy. Has been awarded highest level of recognition - the FMusA.
- Matthew Baragwanath: Equestrian Albany Show - South West Reserve Champion
- Emma Baragwanath: Equestrian Albany Show - First Rider Class and Third overall
- Caitlin Hartley: State Trampolining and mini tramp finalist

**Saturday Soccer (Football)**

Special mention also needs to be given to the success of the school soccer teams. The school had four soccer teams participating in the Albany Junior Soccer Association league this year and they were the:

Under 7s, Under 11s, Under 12s & Under 13s
Under the guidance of Mr Wing Kuen Wee we are developing some exciting plans for the next years. These include:

- Creation of a committee from the parent community to assist with the growing student participation. Committee will liaise with the college’s P & F committee. Teaching staff Wing Kuen will oversee the soccer committee.
- Professional development of senior school students to coach junior teams via Football West endorsed course.
- Courses to train senior school students in order to serve as linesmen and referees.
- Setting up of a soccer academy which serves as an avenue for a holistic development of students from Kindy right up to Year 12.
  - Avenue for junior school students to be physically active and represent the college in a local grassroot sport.
  - Opportunity for senior school students to serve the wider student community through coaching, linesman and refereeing opportunities.

**Technology:** This year we have produced a new technology device policy and guidelines for introduction in 2017. The world of technology and devices has been changing rapidly over recent years and so it was felt that the time was right to re-examine this whole issue and come up with new guidelines which would benefit students, parents and teaching staff. The active involvement and encouragement from our school parents played an important role in this review and I especially would like to acknowledge the parents who participated in our three workshops. The new culture we are endeavouring to develop revolves around empowering parents to be active in managing their student’s Apple devices (the school will provide technology training to parents). The other key issue is having practices in place to ensure that student devices at school are for educational purposes only. The new policy and guidelines have been circulated to parents and more copies are available from the office which include ensuring all students from Year 9 in 2019 have an Apple Mac laptop.
This past year has seen an expanded involvement with the **UWA Albany campus**. Following our request to UWA Albany, a learning skills day was held in February where senior students from all schools were invited to participate. This proved to be a most inspiring day for our students. Our school also attended the Open day in third term as well as had a visit from their Director to talk to our students about post school options. As well as these important awareness building opportunities our senior Chemistry students attend the UWA laboratories for their practical work.

**Parents and P&F Involvement:** One of the outstanding features of our college has been the continuing active involvement of parents in our school life. This can sometimes appear to be a thankless task but our volunteers do provide an invaluable model for our students by giving them the opportunity to discover that they can trust the adults in their world – adults who demonstrate love through being willing to serve others. Adults who know what it means to live with a volunteer spirit. This makes it possible for our students to not only learn about the value of having a volunteer spirit but to also “catch it”. It also is a huge encouragement for students to know that their parents actively support the school. This can have a major positive impact on student learning. I would encourage all our parents to make every effort to support our P&F whenever they can.

This year our parents have been involved in regular community Bunnings Bar-B-Q as well as running the Saturday soccer canteen when rostered on. Other fund raising included the Sausage Sizzle & Milos every Friday, Father's Day soccer match and BBQ and Mother's Day stall. These activities contributed:

- New athletics equipment including high jump mats
- Running the Junior School Disco
- Supporting the Senior School End of Year Celebration
- Contributed to Canberra Excursion
- Contributed to Eco Cruise for Year 5-6
- Provided Soccer equipment and training for coaches

**Expanding opportunities in 2017:** Next year we will be introducing single stream classes for core subjects in Years 7-12. This represents a major step forward and reflects the continued growth of our school.

We will also be introducing a new Personal and Community Skills (PACS) course for years 9-10 which will provide a wide range of skill options for each term. This course will provide not only a range of taster course options but allow students to gain recognised skills in a number of areas. E.g. Senior First Aid.

In order to further develop the sporting opportunities for our students we have joined the Associated & Catholic Colleges of WA. This will enable our school to have more options for involvement in regional and state events with a special focus on athletics.
We are also planning a number of building projects for next year. These include a new toilet facility for the High school and a covered outdoor area near the oval.

Distance Education will also be expanding their opportunities for students. In 2017 we will be introducing Year 11 courses at the general level. When students combine this with a VET Certificate II they will be eligible for their WACE at the end of year 12. Year 11 subjects for DE will include English, Maths essentials, Religion and Life, Human Biology, Health Studies, Accounting and Finance and Children’s Services. A new Year 2 course is nearly completed and work has already commenced on a Year 1 course.

We are also working on developing more scope for students in our Distance Education program to integrate with our Day students. This year as we have already mentioned our DE students in Years 7-8 were able to attend the six day Canberra trip. This will again be held in 2018.

Arrangements are also being made to provide scope for our DE students to be involved in swimming and athletics carnivals.

**2017 Vietnam Trip.** This is a combined Day school and DE event and will occur in the last week of third term. I have taken students on this trip before and it is such a wonderful experience and for many students it can be life changing. We will be looking at aspects of Geography (Hoi Ann and the Mekong delta) and also history in terms of the Vietnam war. We will also be visiting a number of orphanages where our students can assist. Mrs Phipson will be going and we will be finalising our team going at the start of Term 1 next year.

**Staffing:** I am thrilled to report that there will be minimal losses within our teaching staff next year and so we can continue to build on the strengths of our current staff. New staff include:

- Damon Sokolowski who is replacing Mrs Merril Graham who is retiring.
- Ms Michelle Dragan: High School Science
- Mrs Marilyn Myhill: Day school English and DE
- Miss Bronwyn Jansz full time in DE
- Jill Staats: Educational Assistant

Some staff are moving on. We acknowledge the wonderful work Mrs Sarah MacMillan did this year in her role as an educational assistant. Her contribution to literacy improvement in the Primary school was excellent. Mrs Ilonka Du Toit is also finishing up at the end of this year and so we want to acknowledge the vital contribution she has made in administration over the past five years and especially in enrolments and Distance Education. As indicated above Mrs Merril Graham is retiring after sharing her great wealth of experience as our Special Needs Coordinator for many years.
As I reflect on this year I particularly want to thank our Board and especially Mr John Crooks and Ken Sheehy who were involved in our End of Year Presentation events. They also contribute a lot of behind the scenes work and their constant encouragement is very much appreciated.

So, in conclusion I am also thankful for our loving God who continues to inspire our College in Faith, Hope and Love.

Faith: as we explore the depths of faith we will discover a reason for living
Hope: as we discover the hope we have in God we find a purpose or motivation for living, and
Love: as we discover more of God we find love as a way of living

My prayer is that our College will be
● A school where people can see Faith, Hope and Love in action.
● A school that inspires Faith, Hope and Love in all the people who we come in contact with, and
● A school that produces students who will make a positive impact in our world in the years ahead.

And so to the great team we have here at Australian Christian College in Albany, congratulations for what you have achieved and the wonderful love you demonstrate every day to our students. To our College Board, the wider ACC family and our supporting churches please accept my thanks also. To our mums and dads, my heartfelt thanks from all the staff for your continued support and faith in us.

R. Malcolm Bromhead
Principal
December, 2016

N.B. See attached Student Achievement Data report.

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Achievement Data and Differentiation:
Australian Christian College in Albany is committed to developing an environment where students are “well known, well loved, well taught”. This is all part of our understanding that education is about developing the whole child in every aspect of life, i.e. mentally, socially, physically and spiritually.

Australian Christian College also acknowledges that part of being “well taught” includes the need for evidence based teaching with data being available at the classroom level to improve teachers’ understanding of learners’ needs so that effective differentiation in teaching can take place. As Carol Ann Tomlinson wrote, “At its most basic level, differentiation consists of the efforts of teachers to respond to variance among learners in the classroom... Teachers can differentiate at least four classroom elements based on student readiness, interest, or learning profile:

- **Content** – what the student needs to learn or how the student will get access to the information;
- **Process** – activities in which the student engages in order to make sense of or master the content;
- **Products** – culminating projects that ask the student to rehearse, apply, and extend what he or she has learned in a unit; and
- **Learning environment** – the way the classroom works and feels.”

The achievement data which was collected in 2016 included:

**Day School Achievement Data:**
- ACER Pats Test Math - Percentile (Feb and Nov)
- ACER Pats Test Comprehension - Percentile (Feb and Nov)
- Fountain and Pinnell Reading level - (Feb and as further needed)
- NAPLAN results
- PP and Year 1 On Entry Assessment for Learning

Based on these tests and other reports teachers are able to differentiate their learning. This may include extra support work or an extension program. Students who are significantly different from the norm have a Documented Plan developed for them.

**Distant Education (DE) Achievement Data:**
- ACER Pats Test Math - Percentile/Stanine
- ACER Pats Test Comprehension - Percentile/Stanine
- NAPLAN results
On enrolment each DE student sits ACER Tests and from those results and other relevant information (e.g. NAPLAN, other reports etc) their courses are modified on point of need.

- Gifted and Talented students can have the opportunity to work at higher year level
- Social and Emotional difficulties may require a reduced workload
- Students with documented disability are given Documented Plans
- Students with difficulty in mathematics are offered a specialised online course to build skills (Mathsonline and Studyladder)

**NAPLAN Results for 2016**

1. The number of students who sat the test by learning mode:

   ![Bar chart showing the number of students who sat the test by learning mode for Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, and Year 9.](image)

2. NAPLAN results and the comparison between ACC and the State.

   Year 3: (2 DE and 4 DS - total 6)

   ![Bar chart showing NAPLAN results for Year 3 for ACC and the State.](image)
Year 5 (2 DE and 9 DS - total 11)

Year 7 (5 DE and 9 DS - total=14)
3. Students achieving Band 8 or higher in Year 9 NAPLAN (Category 3 OLNA)

- Numeracy: 65%
- Reading: 70%
- Writing: 50%

ACER Testing:
As noted above ACER testing is now conducted twice a year by class teachers. Australian Christian Colleges also have access to a national consultant who visits each school and reviews all testing. In her most recent report she noted:

**ACC, Albany Results November 2015 -16**
At this stage two years of data has been collated.
- November 2015, 57% of students demonstrated 12 months or more growth in reading comprehension
- November 2016, 65% of students demonstrated 12 months or more growth in reading comprehension - an increase of 8%
ACER Comprehension tests 2015-2016 progress

**By Grade**

- Year 1: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 2: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 3: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 4: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 5: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 6: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 7: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 8: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 9: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%
- Year 10: % 12 months or better: 75%, % above grade: 90%

**Total School**

- Comprehension: % above grade: 60%, % 12 months or better: 62%