



REPORT TO THE 40TH ANNUAL SYNOD
of the
UNITING CHURCH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



METHODIST
LADIES'
COLLEGE



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1. INTRODUCTION

Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) is pleased to report on the advancements of the College over the past 12 months through key activities and decisions. This report affirms membership of the School's Council and its continued commitment to the College's vision to be *an international leader of holistic learning and teaching*.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL

Moderator, as visitor:	Reverend Steve Francis
Chair:	Dr Penny Flett
Members elected by Synod:	Mr Nick Brasington
	Mr Craig Colvin
	Prof. Phillip Dolan
	Ms Prudence Honey
	Mr Dan Minchin*
	Ms Diane Mony de Kerloy
	Mr Ralph Moore
	Dr Anne Passmore
	Mr Grant Robinson
	Ms Diane Smith-Gander
	Ms Tanya Trevisan*

There have been changes to the College Council during the past twelve months with the retirement of Mr David Singleton (a member since 2006). Mr Singleton was an impressive contributor to the success of the College as Deputy Chair of Council and the Chair of the Strategic Asset Planning and Management Committee. David was integral to the significant improvements in the College's facilities and remains a great friend and supporter of MLC.

* The General Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Dan Minchin and Ms Tanya Trevisan in April.

3. MLC'S VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

MLC continues to implement our Strategic Plan *Towards 2025* which commenced in 2015 and will lead MLC over the next 9 years to deliver on its Vision, Mission and Values.

Living Our Values:

Integrity - Seek truth

Mastery - Seek expertise

Enterprise - Seek resourcefulness

Justice - Seek fairness

Integrity

In 2016, Reverend Hollis and two staff will lead 18 Year 9 students on the five day Salvado Pilgrimage. As a recognised walk of prayer and spiritual reflection, the Pilgrimage was established and inspired by Bishop Salvado, a Spanish Benedictine who came to serve the indigenous people in the early Swan River Settlement in 1846. The walk offers students who have articulated their own sense of spirituality, a deeper understanding of God and an appreciation of the tradition of pilgrimage and through this they are also actively living our MLC value to *seek truth*.



The girls applied to participate by reflecting on their life through the themes (and days) of the Pilgrimage:

- Salvado and Service - the commencement of the walk
- Chocolate - and all it represents
- Perspective - looking back at the city from atop the escarpment
- Water - a river crossing and all that water represents
- Community - arrival into the community of New Norcia
- Home - after the Pilgrimage

Mastery

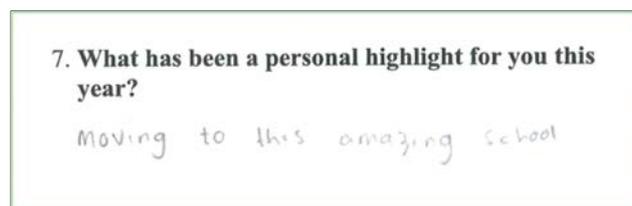
The opening of the Yvonne Palmer Biological Sciences Laboratory in 2016 was a dual celebration for the College. Celebrated firstly as a tribute to an extraordinary Deputy Principal who retired in 2015 after more than 38 years of dedicated service with MLC; and secondly, as an upgrade of our biological sciences laboratory to achieve a state of the art laboratory for our budding scientists and to inspire all students to appreciate the wonders of our marine and biological worlds.

Wise and courageous, thoughtful and curious, Yvonne personified for our girls what it means to *strive to the heights* by giving of herself wholeheartedly and always with the motivation of shaping great learning experiences.

The Yvonne Palmer Biological Sciences Laboratory was funded by the Circle of Success (community members collectively giving and bringing to fruition changes that impact the College). One of our 2015 WACE graduates received a Certificate of Distinction for Biological Sciences, and MLC was rated in the top performing schools for Human Biological Science and Marine and Maritime studies.

Enterprise

Our Boarding House Transformation is now completed, offering our girls a boutique style of residential care in a homestead environment with rooms that offer the girls privacy for study and relaxation and common areas which are warm and homely, ensuring a safe and friendly sanctuary for the girls living away from home.



From one of our new Year 8 Boarders

Justice

By implementing our Strategic Project to create and nurture new and existing relationships with indigenous communities, we are living our value of justice with the commencement of our Year 7 entry indigenous scholarships. By 2020, ten students will each have received a five year scholarship to study at MLC through our



relationship with Yalari, a not-for-profit organisation supporting education for indigenous children from regional, rural and remote communities. The first girls, who are from Broome, are enjoying their MLC experiences and progressing well in their studies.

Further, our Chatterbox initiative has commenced which is linking MLC students with Fitzroy Valley District High School (FVDS) students in a literacy support programme. Each week seven Year 10 girls Skype with students at FVDS and share reading and literacy support. This initiative was identified in 2015 by two MLC students during their visit to the Kimberley and FVDS with Reverend Hollis.

Plans are underway for three of the Year 10 Chatterbox participants to travel to Fitzroy Valley during Work Experience Week (August/September) to meet the children that they have been mentoring.

4. BRINGING MLC'S VISION AND ASPIRATIONS INTO LIFE IN 2015-16 THROUGH OUR ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS.

MLC's significant decisions in 2015-2016 have been:

- The introduction of the provision of limited co-education in the early years.
- Commencement of the exciting redevelopment of the Junior Years which will be a state-of-the-art learning and teaching environment to open in January 2017 (Stage 1) and 2018 (Stage 2).
- Appointment of our Deputy Principal, Dr Maree Baddock and Assistant Principal - Academic Strategy, Mrs Mary Hoffman as key members of the College Leadership Team.

MLC's key activities in 2015-16 included:

- Commencement of Pre-Kindergarten classes.
- Continuing academic achievements evidenced by our 2015 leavers who, in addition to their personal development and contributions across performing arts, community projects and sporting pursuits, achieved fantastic WACE results with:
 - 99.01 per cent secondary graduation;
 - A median ATAR of 91.3 percent;
 - 93.75 per cent of the students attained an ATAR of 66.6 and above, putting them in the top third of the Western Australian WACE population;
 - 56 per cent of the students achieved an ATAR of 90 and above;
 - 32.44 per cent of the students studying a 3A/3B course achieved one or more Scores of at least 75;
 - 1 General Exhibition;
 - 3 Course Exhibitions;
 - 13 Certificates of Distinction; and
 - 18 Certificates of Commendation



- Commencement of the Walton Leadership Institute, offering specific curriculum to enhance leadership development as part of MLC's holistic education.
- Successful implementation of a new on-line reporting process to parents.
- An outstanding response from students, staff and the community, captured by MMG Education's research. An example is that 92% of parents rated the focus on student wellbeing, providing a safe and caring environment as expectations met or exceeded, and 95% rated the College's Values as expectations met or exceeded.
- Continued recognition and success with our Inclusive Learning programme.
- Ongoing community projects, including aged care volunteers at Mont Clare.
- Expansion of our service learning programme:
 - relationship with a school for disadvantaged learners in Hanoi;
 - relationship with a Bethany Home outside Kuala Lumpur for learners with disabilities;
 - partnership with the Elephant Conservation Trip to Thailand; and
 - Week of Amazement.
- Donation of over 100kg of 'old' uniforms to Global Hands Charity for communities in Laos and Kenya.
- Development of a positive and mutually respectful relationship with the Australian Islamic College commencing with a day visit by students to MLC.
- Fundraising activities throughout the year have provided over \$45,000 for a number of organisations: Bethany Home (Malaysia), Cancer Council of WA, Compassion Australia, Fair Game, Nulsen Haven Foundation, RSPCA, Uniting Care West, and OneGirl.
- IGSSA basketball successes for our Year 7/8 teams.
- Community music performances included the Fremantle Eisteddfod, Joondalup Eisteddfod, WA Schools' Orchestra Festival, WA Schools' Jazz Festival, WA Schools' Band Festival, Cottesloe Christmas Markets, Transforming Claremont Festival and Young Women in Jazz. MLC musicians regularly perform for charity events throughout the Perth Metropolitan area.

As evidenced through this brief snapshot, MLC continues to live the intent of its motto: Per Ardua Ad Alta; through striving to the heights.

Ms Rebecca Cody
Principal
July 2016