REPORT TO THE 39TH ANNUAL SYNOD OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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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. This report affirms membership of the School’s Council and provides comment on three aspects of the Strategic Plan, as well as listing key activities and significant decisions to 30 June 2015.

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
Ms Diane Mony de Kerloy
Mr Ralph Moore
Dr Anne Passmore
Mr Grant Robinson
Mr David Singleton
Ms Diane Smith-Gander

There have been no changes to the College Council during the past twelve months.

3. MLC’S STRATEGIC PLAN: TOWARDS 2025

A significant achievement for the College was the robust development and introduction of MLC’s Strategic Plan, Towards 2025. Towards 2025 commenced in 2015 and will lead MLC over the next 10 years to deliver on its new Vision, Mission and Values.

Our Vision
An international leader of holistic learning and teaching.

Our Mission
Mentoring motivated learners to choose purposeful futures.
Our Values
Integrity - *Seek truth*
Mastery - *Seek expertise*
Enterprise - *Seek resourcefulness*
Justice - *Seek fairness*

Our Inspiration and Motto
*Per Ardua Ad Alta*; through striving to the heights.

Towards 2025 is framed within four Key Focus Areas (Our Students, Our People, Our Resources and Our Community), which act as the reporting quadrants for the eight Strategic Priorities.

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<td>5. Ambitious governance and planning.</td>
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These Priorities are achieved through the delivery of 30 Strategic Projects. Three Strategic Priorities have been selected for this annual report to outline MLC’s progress over the period, namely:

1. Energising and equipping girls to lead.
2. Embedding a buoyant culture.
3. Perpetual Flourishing.

**Strategic Priority 1 - Energising and equipping girls to lead**

A key focus area for MLC is *Our Students* and Strategic Priority 1 is *energising and equipping girls to lead*.

The *Walton Leadership Institute (WLI)* was launched in 2015 to enable MLC girls to imagine, motivate and lead change. The WLI focuses on development of the character strengths, understandings and skills that contribute to growing every girl’s capacity to be an effective leader. In line with the principles of the Uniting Church’s Education Charter, the field of leadership has much to offer in terms of equipping our girls to make positive contributions to their communities, as well as enhancing their preparation for future endeavours.
The WLI is named in honour of MLC’s visionary and long-serving Principal, Gertrude Walton. It offers a specific curriculum that enhances leadership development as part of MLC’s holistic education. MLC girls have access to a wide range of opportunities, including the co-curricular domain, which engage them to inspire and motivate others to work towards a common purpose. Girls are supported to transition from imagining to exercising their leadership in authentic contexts for decision-making and effecting change. The mentoring environment encourages girls to reflect on their experiences, skills that will be carried into adulthood.

**Strategic Priority 2 - Embedding a buoyant culture**

MLC’s Strategic Priority 2 is *embedding a buoyant culture*, which also focuses on Our Students. There are three strategic projects nominated to deliver on this priority. In this period, there has been progress in two projects: the Academic Help Centre and The Thrival Curriculum.

Senior Years’ students at MLC are benefiting from the Academic Help Centre where they receive assistance with their studies. MLC’s Academic Prefect and her Executive assumed responsibility for the space, in relation to décor, work/office furniture arrangements and educational and motivational posters. The Centre is staffed by a full-time teacher, as well as recent MLC graduates and peer coaches. These academic mentors work with girls on study skills individually and in small groups. Students are also offered academic and leadership coaching to support them through their learning journey.

*The Thrival Curriculum* provides access to all MLC learners from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 to develop their resilience through the College’s positive psychology curriculum. It has been influenced greatly by international thinkers in the field. It teaches explicitly what it means to be a motivated, solutions focused learner and encourages girls to thrive in every aspect of their life choices.

*The Thrival Curriculum* has been aligned with the Health Education Curriculum for students in Senior Years and is being implemented, with students in Years 7-9 participating in acclaimed sub-programmes Brainology: BRAVE and Stand Up.

**Strategic Priority 6 - Perpetual flourishing**

Another key focus area for MLC is Our Resources and Strategic Priority 6 is perpetual flourishing.

Since the adoption of the new MLC Constitution in 2013, there has been a revitalisation of programming. The Giving 2025 project has been developed, with the introduction of the Circle of Success in 2015. The Circle of Success engages community members to collectively give and bring to fruition impactful change at MLC on an annual basis. The College Leadership Team presented a suite of projects that require investment and Circle of Success members had the opportunity to vote on the initiative that they choose to support. In 2015 the Circle of Success had 76 members and raised $85,000. The selected project is to upgrade the Biological Sciences Laboratory with works to be completed immediately.
The *Foundation Future Levy* continues to establish an inter-generational source of independent income to advance the educational offerings for MLC girls. The long-term goal of the funds is to supply monies in perpetuity, to be used to advance the education offerings for current and future MLC students, to support a variety of College projects and to ensure diversity within our community through our scholarships and bursary programme.

Further to this, the *Alumni Annual Giving Initiative* is another chance to retain and build strong relationships with Collegians who successfully support MLC’s philanthropic endeavours. Coinciding with the end of the financial year, annual requests are called for from alumni to contribute to the girls’ education now and in the future, via MLC Foundation Inc. Scholarships are the main feature of the 2015 initiative, with the option for alumni to support the Building Fund.


MLC’s significant decisions to 30 June 2015 are:

- Introduction of the new MLC Strategic Plan, *Towards 2025*. A note from a parent captures the sentiment of feedback received upon launch:
  
  “I can’t thank you enough for the careful thought, positive energy and endless hours that you’ve put into the strategic plan. It is a dynamic recipe that will take our school to new heights...Generations of women and the lives they touch will benefit from the strategy.”

- Revitalisation of the Boarding House, with stages one to three complete of the Boarding Transformation Project.

- Restructure of the College Leadership Team, to be implemented fully over the next three to five years.

- Partnership development with Christ Church Grammar School for student benefit, to enhance the service offered by the schools.

- Commitment to design documentation for the Junior Years’ Redevelopment Project.

Some examples of MLC’s key activities to 30 June 2015 include:

- Introduction of the new MLC uniform, proudly donning the colours and symbolism of International Women’s Day in green, white and purple.

- The vast academic achievements of our 2014 leavers, as well as their personal development and contributions across performing arts, community projects and sporting pursuits. MLC’s 2014 graduating Year 12 cohort achieved strong results in their WACE and vocational courses. A summary is provided below:
  
  • 98.84% achieved secondary graduation under WACE guidelines;
  • A median ATAR of 85.5%;
  • 93% of students attained an ATAR of 66.6;
  • 40.5% of the students achieved an ATAR of 90 and above;
  • 24.6% of the students achieved a WACE course score of at least 75;
  • 2 Course Exhibitions;
  • 7 Certificates of Distinction; and
  • 8 Certificates of Commendation.
- Introduction of the Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD) initiative: a personalised and mobile approach to technology integration enabling better access to learning materials.
- Language Perfect World Championships: top school for Chinese in Western Australia; ranked 5th nationally and 7th internationally.
- Introduction of Leading Teacher Award: MLC’s celebration of and support of exemplary teachers (five appointments thus far).
- Expansion of service learning programme: relationship with school for learners with disabilities in Malaysia and Week of Amazement.
- Appointment of Head of Inclusive Learning to better cater for full spectrum of learning needs.
- Appointment of Academic Mentor in boarding to support rural student learning.
- International Future Problem Solving Awards celebrating MLC’s academic rigor.
- Launch of MLC Dance Theatre (MLCDT) for Year 7 to Collegians (up to 24 years of age) to experience professional dance practices through an extension and enrichment model.
- Head of the River Victory - MLC regains title 20 years after first win.
- Opening of the Aileen Bennett Archive and Resource Room. The Archivist works with Junior Years’ students to embrace MLC history and women’s education.
- An outstanding response from students, staff and the community, captured by MMG Education’s research. One example is 93% of parents had their expectations met/ exceeded.
- Launch of the MLC brand refresh: new website, intranet and refreshed publications to reflect our Live life on purpose campaign.
- One of four schools nationally selected for participation in the iBooks Programme with Apple.
- Community performances included the Cottesloe Village Carnival, Fremantle Eisteddfod, Joondalup Eisteddfod, WA Schools' Orchestra Festival, WA Schools' Jazz Festival, WA Schools' Band Festival, and Young Women in Jazz. MLC musicians regularly perform for charity events throughout the Perth Metropolitan area.
- Fundraising activities throughout the year have provided over $25,000 for a number of organisations consisting of Bethany Home, Cancer Council of WA, Compassion Australia, Fair Game, Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Leukaemia Foundation, Love Angels Foundation, Nulsen Haven Foundation, RSPCA, Uniting Care West, World Vision and Zero to Hero.

On behalf of the College Council and Principal, this report was collated by:

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