

St Stephen's School

<i>Moderator, as visitor</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Chairperson</i>	Kevin Smout
<i>Principal</i>	Donella Beare
<i>Council Secretary</i>	Robin Parsons
<i>Members elected by Synod</i>	Tim Brewer
	Michael Charteris
	Brian Handley
	Michael Lynn
	Jenine Owen

St Stephen's School is a multi-campus independent co-educational Christian School of the Uniting Church for Kindergarten to Year 12 students. Our campuses are located in Perth's Northern suburbs of Duncraig and Carramar.

The School grew from a vision to nurture people. Our Christian faith lies at the very heart of our understanding of what it is to be human as well as our understanding of education. People of innovation, creativity, integrity and faith. People who value community, are equipped with a positive attitude, and above all, live to serve.

The School consistently ranks in the top fifty schools for WACE and is equal number one ranked vocational education and training school in the State, however, we are much more than buildings, books and tests. All teaching and learning experiences at our School are relationship centred, inspiring staff and students to explore their place in the world.

Life-long learning is encouraged and modelled at our School. Our learning and working environment is based on five core values; faith, learning, service, care and community. These values form the foundation of the School's vision and culture. Quite simply, a St Stephen's School education is Christ centred, student focused and community based.

This year has also seen the significant appointments of our new Chair of Council Kevin Smout and new Principal Donella Beare.

I. CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

The School's partnership with the Uniting Church remains strong with the new Chair of Council and new Principal continuing to build on our valued relationship. General Secretary, Rev David de Kock, has been working on research over the past few months around the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the Uniting Church in WA and our Principal has been invited to be part of a UCA group who provide input to the process of turning vision into practice. The School is also working with its local congregations (Carramar and Trinity North) in celebrating the Uniting Church Australia's 40th anniversary.

2. UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL CHILD SAFE POLICY FRAMEWORK 2017

This year the Uniting Church issued a Safe Church Policy and a National Child Safe Policy Framework to all Uniting Church schools and colleges to provide a framework within which child safe policies in Uniting Church entities are to be developed.

Further, in relation to child protection and safety, our School conducted an audit in April 2016 due to the changes in the 'Guide to the Registration Standards and Other Requirements for Non-Government Schools' published by the Department of Education Services (DES) in February 2016 and the 'Children and Community Services Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2015'. The '2017 Guide to Registration Standards and Other

Requirements for Non-Government Schools' came into effect from 1 January 2017 and a gap analysis was conducted to ensure we can continuously demonstrate compliance.

The School continues to review, and update where necessary, its relevant policies and procedures in relation to the Uniting Church's National Child Safe Policy Framework including ensuring they align with the commitments outlined in the Framework.

3. SERVICE LEARNING:

St Stephen's School motto, Serve God, Serve One Another, is reflected in the service learning program of the School. The program offers students from Years 6-12 opportunities to engage in a range of service learning experiences at local, state and international levels.

An exciting opportunity to partner with WA Charities Direct has emerged for our students centering on leadership and service in action. The key focus of WA Charities Direct is to ensure that all those who are helped by the charity are WA based and 100% of all funds raised go directly to the individuals and families in need and to assist young charities get off the ground. St Stephen's has been selected as the pilot school for this program (secondary based). The framework revolves around working with a group of students, cross campus, to develop their leadership, team building and philanthropic skills through a variety of activities. This pilot program begins in Term 3, 2017.

A new Service Learning tour to India has also been added aimed at Year 12 'leavers' students with a commitment to service and will be run in conjunction with Woodstock School in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India. The inaugural tour is planned for 18 November to 1 December 2017.

Our Service Learning tours also include Bethany Home Malaysia, Cambodia and South Africa as well as two of our indigenous sister schools in the East Kimberley - Purnululu Aboriginal School and Yiyili Aboriginal School. A further tour to Indonesia is also being planned.

Our students continue to serve their community in local and regional areas as part of our School's homeroom directed service program. Over the past year this has included Uniting Care West Food Rescue, Red Cross Soup Kitchen, knitting for Uniting Care West Winter Appeal, Easter Egg Appeal for Tranby Day Centre, visits to a range of aged facilities and supporting local residents through gardening and other maintenance projects.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS:

For the first time, St Stephen's School will be offering scholarships from 2018. These will begin with four academic scholarships for each campus for Year 7 and the school hopes to expand this offering into other areas into the future.

5. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Our students' entrepreneurial and innovation skills were given a major boost earlier this year following the announcement of a partnership with Curtin University. As part of Curtin's Innovative Schools Consortium, our students will now be able to participate in workshops, and game-based learning to develop new skills and attributes valued by universities and employers.

Curtin University will also provide support to St Stephen's School to enable staff to develop new curricula applying STEM approaches and transdisciplinary thinking to address real-world challenges.

The School will also host the 2017 First Lego League (FLL) at our Carramar Campus this November. The First Lego League is a worldwide phenomenon which sees more than 250,000 young people aged 9 to 16 research, design, program and build autonomous robots in a competitive challenge.

More than just a competition which builds STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) competencies, teams have to demonstrate values including gracious professionalism, encouraging high quality work, unqualified kindness, respect and learning.

Our School also won the esteemed WA Teacher Librarian of the Year Award for the

second year running recognising the positive effect it is having on student achievement and information literacy.

In conjunction with Edith Cowan University (ECU), the School has also developed a new maths game which has improved Perth primary school students' knowledge of fractions. The Abydos app uses the theme of ancient Egypt to teach students about fractions. Research results have shown that a group of year 6 students who used the app scored 10.5 per cent higher than those who didn't after just two sessions a week for four weeks using the app.

6. MOVING FORWARD:

St Stephen's School is currently developing the next iteration of its Strategic Plan (2018-2020) which has included holding consultation sessions with staff, students and our community. The plan is being built around a theme of 'Staying True and Moving Forward' - as the School stays true to its founding vision of nurturing people who live to serve whilst moving forward in providing an outstanding Christian education.

The above information is far from exhaustive but provides a 'snapshot' of some of the issues and areas of interest and focus for St Stephen's School over the past 12 months.

**Mr Kevin Smout – Chair of St Stephen's
School Council**
**Mrs Donella Beare – Principal, St
Stephen's School**