

## Tranby College

*Moderator, as visitor*

*Chairperson*

*Parents*

*Members elected by Synod*

Rev Steve Francis

Lynne Woolfenden

Karen Boyce

Tonia Brown (resigned October 2016)

Catherine Walker

Dr Kyle Hoath

Dr Srinivas Shastri Sitharamarao (resigned June 2016)

Steve Kempin

Robert Grover (resigned June 2016)

Jaime Southam (resigned June 2016)

Wendy Malcolm (resigned November 2016)

Dr John Gountas

Elisa Hylton-Potts

Dr Susan Roberts

Craig D'cruz

2016/17 has been a period characterised as a year of continued consolidation. The financial management of the College is much improved, with 2017 'year to date' budget being delivered to forecast. However, these achievements are set against a local economy and community that continues to experience great financial hardship through loss of employment, redundancies and relocation. Enrolments continue to decline.

### **I. COLLEGE FINANCES**

Tranby College managed through extremely difficult financial circumstances in the second half of 2016. Working closely with the UCA, and College bankers Westpac, the Board, under a new Principal and Business Manager, concluded the year without the necessity to call upon a \$1 million Letter of Comfort provided by UCA in June 2016. At various times multiple meetings were held with the Moderator, General Secretary, Chief Financial Officer and General Manager (Resources) of the Uniting Church of Western Australia to consider the financial predicament caused by the Breach of Banking Covenants (during 2015) and the withdrawal of 223 students.

Under new financial management, solutions enacted included stringent accounting procedures, and a reduction in labour costs. Supplementary funds were also accessed from Tranby's associated Childcare Centre.

The Letter of Comfort remains a backstop for a College experiencing significant enrolment decline. Banking Finance Agreements have been renegotiated twice, and a Business Plan has been enacted. In addition to withdrawal from the International Baccalaureate program, the College has also suspended four specialist sports academies, and no longer participates in the Outward Bound camp experience. The Uniform Shop and cleaning contracts have been outsourced.

Short and medium recovery strategies have commenced, however circumstances make it challenging to mitigate against the local economy and the opening of new government and independent schools in close proximity.

The Board stands by its responsibility to the students of the College and is completely committed to trading out of this current financial situation. The Board commends and will support the Principal and Business Manager in operational matters and assist

them in maintaining the integrity of the classes and the education of Tranby College students.

Through staff attrition, non-replacement, and a variety of leave, salary costs have been reduced by more than \$1 million in 2017. Led by the Principal, College staff are focusing on ways to attract and retain students utilising existing facilities, programs and areas of strength.

## **2. RE-REGISTRATION OF THE COLLEGE BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES**

The College was independently reviewed for the purpose of re-registration, on Thursday 22nd September 2016.

Concluding comments from the Registration Panel were that they saw a school running cohesively and smoothly, and functioning very well. They commended the staff and students on multiple levels.

Their assessment was submitted to the Director General of the Department of Education Services who renewed registration for the maximum period of five years. Due to the current financial situation of the College, DoE requested the presentation of the audited accounts on an annual basis, as well as a copy of the 'Letter of Comfort' provided to the College by UCA.

## **3. WITHDRAWAL FROM CANDIDACY – INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**

Following a comprehensive community consultation process conducted at the end of Semester One 2016, the College took the decision to discontinue its candidacy in International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years and Middle Years programmes at the end of 2016.

Consultation with all concerned informed a new focus on five key areas:

- Developing a sequential and progressive K-12 curriculum
- Maintaining a focus on robust, student-centred, inquiry-based learning
- Embracing 21st century skills: particularly involving problem-solving, teamwork and co-operation, creativity,

global connections and the skilful use of technology

- Exploring ways to continue to challenge and extend students, as individuals
- Committing to teacher development, with a 'continuous improvement' mindset

This direction gives rise to a Five-Point Focus which Tranby will use from 2017 onward to consider our performance, growth and development as a College.

## **4. 2016 ACADEMIC RESULTS**

Year 12 WACE students achieved outstanding results, consolidating the College's place as the highest performing school in the Rockingham/Mandurah areas.

### **2017 College Leadership Structures**

In light of reduced student numbers, and following the resignation of the Head of Senior School (Students), the position of Head of Senior School (Teaching and Learning) was made redundant at the end of 2016. In 2017, the College remains well supported by 25 middle management leadership positions, with a review of this structure pending in the second half of 2017.

## **5. UNITING CHURCH FAITH COMMUNITY**

Service continues to be at the foundation of College life with students contributing over 20,000 hours to community initiatives such as visiting aged care homes, teaching senior citizens IT skills, participating in soup patrols, giving blood donations, supporting shelters and external service agencies. The College's annual fundraising day 'Tranby Day' raised \$5003 for UnitingCare West and the Salvation Army.

Tranby College featured in the January Uniting Care West magazine, recognised for fundraising and support of the annual Uniting Care Christmas Appeal.

Uniting Church Moderator Reverend Steve Francis also attended and spoke at the Year 12 Valedictory Evening.

## 6. STEAM INITIATIVE 2018/19

The Board has approved the Principal's recommendation to adopt STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) as the strategic direction of the College post International Baccalaureate.

This decision defines the future educational focus of Tranby College. Since 2013, Baldivis and its surrounds have changed dramatically. Prior to this time, Tranby was the sole secondary school in Baldivis. Tranby was (and largely remains at present) the school that offered everything to everyone, from academic to vocational. By comparison, new competitors have specialised.

The proposal to pursue STEAM builds on the existing strength and capacities of Tranby College, uniting a range of areas valued highly by the community, and provide a vehicle for the College to communicate and promote 'what we stand for' in the new specialised marketplace.

The proposal also addresses significant factors that currently have effect on enrolments, including attrition at the transition from Junior School to Senior School, and an increasing lack of appeal in the generic Junior School educational offering.

Reduced enrolments have provided capacity, in existing Science and Technology rooms, to conduct Junior School classes in specialist rooms with specialist teachers. It is a unique opportunity for a primary school to be able to offer such educational experiences, and the College plans to capitalise on this opportunity.

## 7. TRANBY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 heralds the twentieth anniversary of the College. House BBQ's launched the first celebration, with the cutting of a cake by the Anniversary Prefects. A celebratory event each term will be held with the intention of involving the whole community.

Events will include occasions such as Commemorative Tree Planting, a Car Rally and a Staff Anniversary Ball.

## 8. 2016 COMMUNITY SURVEY – RESULTS

In November 2016, the National School Satisfaction survey was conducted within the

College community. Results indicate strong support for the staff and the pastoral care programs that are in place.

Tranby College's top five results in the survey items were:

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|---|--------|
| 1. Children feel safe at Tranby                             | 93.91% |
| 2. I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns      | 90.86% |
| 3. Teachers at Tranby expect my child to do his or her best | 90.35% |
| 4. My child likes being at this school                      | 89.85% |
| 5. Teachers at Tranby treat students fairly                 | 81.22% |

In addition, the survey identified the College's strengths as its location, the caring learning environment, quality of the teaching staff, the Arts program and the K-12 nature of the College. Parents also identified that they have the expectations that their child will realise his/her potential, develop a love of learning and achieve academic success.

## 9. UNITING CHURCH EDUCATIONAL CHARTER – A THEOLOGY OF EDUCATION

The above report, detailing the activities and achievements of the College highlight faith in action through service, self-development, student results, community involvement and the voice of the community. Through an embedded focus, both academically and pastorally, focussed on the whole child, and expressed through the lived College value of Personal Mastery, Tranby College demonstrates daily a theology of education and the Uniting Church mission.

**Dr Clayton Massey**  
Principal  
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**Lynne Woolfenden**  
Chairperson