**The School**

River City Christian College is located in the popular tourist city of Echuca in northern Victoria. It caters for students from Foundation to Year 10 in a small, caring, Christian environment. The school was established to support parents in providing a Christian education for their children and continues to provide a Christian and academic education that supports families as they raise their children today.

The students attending the school come from Echuca and the surrounding areas of Rochester, Nanneella, Tongala and Kyabram.

The school motto, “Wisdom, Integrity, Compassion” was introduced in 2014 and is something the school is enforcing in all that it does. The school encourages students to honour God in all that they do and say in everyday life.

The beauty of a small school is that all students get the chance to explore their God given talents and find talents they did not know they possessed. They also get to exercise leadership through acting as school captains, SRC representatives, house captains and other leadership roles. The school works to ensure that students are prepared when they leave the school to confront a changing world of uncertain values and be sure of what they believe and know to be true.

During the last term of 2014, the School Board, after much consideration, decided to make a number of changes to the school structure and curriculum. These changes came hand in hand with the redevelopment of the buildings. The second stage of the building program; the four new classrooms, were opened for use in term four; students and staff were very happy to move in to their new classrooms. The new science and food technology block began construction in late 2014 and is due to be opened during term 3 of 2015. The last of the old classroom buildings will then be demolished and this will mean that the whole school has been redeveloped. This is an amazing achievement, thanks to the Capital Grants provided and the forward planning of school council and principal, Bruce Hogan.

It was also decided to change the class compositions to five classes; F-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 and so there was a need to employ two new teachers. This decision was also accompanied by the decision to discontinue using the ACE curriculum resource materials.

During the year students participated in a number of excursions and activities and the school was represented in the local Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ quest and the Lions junior public speaking contest. The school was also represented at ceremonies such as Anzac Day, Sorry Day, Remembrance Day and participated in the Local Learning Network. The school participated in the ACE Convention in Rawson, Victoria and also sent a large contingent to the South Pacific ACE Convention held near Sydney in December.
Staffing during 2014 consisted of two male teachers, four female teachers, a music teacher, three teacher aides, a library assistant, administrative and grounds staff.

All teaching staff were involved in professional development, mostly run by ISV and CSA and were all registered with the VIT. Staff attendance was 95% due to some illness and leave taken. Staff retention during 2014 was 80%, with one staff member leaving in late term four to begin maternity leave and being replaced by another teacher immediately. Two new teaching staff were appointed at the end of 2014 to take up the new teaching positions made available by the restructure of classes for 2015.

The principal, Mr Bruce Hogan, resigned as principal at the end of the 2014 year and Mrs Debbie Bish was appointed to the position from the beginning of 2015. Mr Hogan remains on staff as the Business Manager and Building Project Manager.

The qualifications held by teaching staff during 2014 included the following:

- Master of Education (M.Ed)
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A)
- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and B.Ed(Hons)
- Bachelor of Health and Physical Education (B. HPE)
- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc)
- Graduate Diploma of Education (Grad. Dip. Ed)
- Graduate Institution of Fire Engineers (Lond) (Grad. I Fire E)
- Diploma of Teaching (Dip T)
- Level 2 First Aid
The school participated in the NAPLAN testing and in continual individual testing of student performance. Due to the very small size of each NAPLAN cohort group, that is less than 5, the college has adopted the Australian Government’s policy of not publishing information about student performance relative to a child’s peer group at the school, where the number of students fall below the reporting threshold of five students.

“Below reporting threshold. A school’s results are not reported when there are fewer than five students with NAPLAN results. This rule is applied for reasons of statistical reliability, as well as to protect the privacy of students in small schools” (http://www.myschool.edu.au/AboutUs/Glossary)

River City Christian College strives to ensure all students are able to reach their full potential and due to the small size of the school, this is very achievable. Due to the individualised nature of the curriculum and the ability to self-pace, students were able to progress at different speeds. This then meant that there was a wide variation in test results. The NAPLAN results, due to the very small numbers, have not been a reliable indication of performance as the result of just one student has such an impact.

Students who completed their Year 10 studies in 2014 have moved on to other secondary schools in the area or sought employment.
The overall school average attendance for 2014 was 88%.

As with other statistics in a small school, one student with a high number of absences has a high impact on the figures. One family had a large number of absences due to an overseas trip and two students had extended illnesses.

The school contacts the parents immediately in the morning if an absence is unexplained.

Absences are reported on the student’s reports and contact is made with parents about concerns of repeated absences. The school is striving to make parents more informed of the consequences of student absence on their child’s progress.
The 2014 Annual Income is depicted on the pie graph below.

Private Income = $106,212.99  
State Government Income = $282,879.41  
Commonwealth Govt Income = $668,344.19  
Capital Grants = $975,050.00

The school's accounts have been audited and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of River City Christian College Inc., the governing body of the college.

River City Christian College is extremely grateful to the Australian Government for providing the Capital Grants that have enabled the school to build new buildings and be able to create a learning environment for now and into the future that will not only provide pleasant learning spaces internally, but also means that the whole school grounds can be developed and designed to ensure the students, staff and community have a wonderful new school with many exciting possibilities for the future and future growth.
In summary, River City Christian College had a successful year in 2014 and during the year much time was spent in planning and investigating with eventually very major decisions being made about the school’s future. The decision to move away from using the ACE resources and all that goes with that has been a very difficult decision for many and for many a sad and emotional move. Change will happen at RCCC and it is for the staff and board and parents to ensure that we continue to be good stewards of the wonderful facilities and resources we have been blessed with, to honour the mission and vision of the college.

The end of 2014 saw staff changes and additions, not least of all the retirement of Bruce Hogan from the role of principal to Business Manager/Building Project Manager. The vision and management that Bruce has displayed has been wonderful and the school community has much to thank him for in helping us to obtain these magnificent new buildings and paving the way for future growth.

The school staff continue to have a great unity of purpose and their care and concern for the students in all aspects of their development is exemplary.

The school is very grateful to have had our Chaplain, Cameron Lancaster whom has been a great support to students, families and staff and his musical talents, caring nature and humour will be missed as he moves on to other things in 2015.

The school always tries to monitor the satisfaction and opinions of parents, staff and students and act on any improvements that can be implemented. Although no formal surveys were held in 2014, informal discussions were held.

The school board and community recognises that the school is entering a new phase and is looking forward to enjoying the new facilities and seeing positive changes throughout the whole school.

Debbie Bish

Debbie Bish
Principal

June, 2015