



# A Place to Flourish



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**St Andrews Lutheran College**  
**Annual Report**  
**'A Place to Flourish'**

Each year, the staff of St Andrews begin the year with a Retreat. At Retreat, we take a couple of days to renew the vision for St Andrews, establish our strategic priorities, undertake important professional learning, and reinforce the collaborative and collegial way we as staff work together for the good of the children and young people in our care. At the end of the first day while enjoying some down time I was strolling along the beach, when a Junior School teacher asked me what I was hoping for this year. My response was *'a nice, quiet year'*. That was always going to be wishful thinking on my behalf. However, any pre-tense of this was blown out of the water on the fateful ANZAC Day evening with a late night phone call informing me that *'J Block was on fire'*. As I drove to the College my thoughts were *'how bad could it really be?'* Arriving on the scene to see twenty-five fire fighters battling to bring what they would later describe as one of the worst blazes they had attended in recent years soon answered that question. Horrific, devastating, gut-wrenching – a total disaster were among my initial thoughts. I watched in disbelief. *'This doesn't happen to St Andrews', 'this doesn't happen to us'* kept going through my mind. But it did. Seven months have passed since that fateful night. It would be easy to focus on the dislocation, the stress, the grief, the anger, the loss of personal possessions, the loss of facilities, the added workloads for so many, the countless hours with insurers, project managers and builders. All this has been part of the reality for so many of us in our community; and yet, out of the ashes of J Block has arisen something unexpected. Something quite special has come forth from those smouldering embers. That something has always been there, but perhaps it took the heat of a fire to bring it back into sharp focus. That something, is the remarkable St Andrews community. What we have seen in the days and months since, is that St Andrews is more than bricks and mortar; it is people and relationships; people who have stood shoulder to shoulder, and supported and cared for each other. It is community. I could not be more proud of each member of our community, but especially our Senior Students for the resilience, adaptability and willingness to just get on with it, that they have shown day in, day out. What we have seen this year is our College at its best. What we have seen is that St Andrews is indeed a place to flourish.

The reality is that it is only out of challenge, pressure and adversity that true flourishing can occur. The most precious and brilliant of gems, the diamond is formed only after intense sustained pressure. So too, our character, our heart, our soul is truly shaped in such moments. Shaped by the fires of J Block the flourishing learning community of St Andrews 2016 has emerged.

Throughout 2016 we continued our journey of implementing both Dimensions of Learning, our teaching and learning framework in the Secondary School, and PERMA, our positive psychology approach to wellbeing; clear in our belief that both frameworks complement our aspiration to unashamedly pursue excellence and to promote flourishing in our young people. We continue to raise the bar on achievement and character development, and we do so with the hope that our young people might individually and collectively do and be at their best – that they might flourish.

The link between hard work, persistence, effort, grit and flourishing in learning is well documented. The Year 12 class of 2015 final results are testament to this. 27.3%, over 1 in 4 students were awarded an OP between 1 and 5, and 36.4% received an OP between 1 and 7 – the College’s best ever results on these two measures. Pleasingly, 98.6% of eligible students received a university offer; allowing them every opportunity to flourish in their learning journey beyond St Andrews. Flourishing in learning at St Andrews is not just about OP results however. It is about finding a pathway that suits the aspirations of each child that enables them to pursue their interests and passions. As such, the College is equally proud of the achievements of 19 of last year’s Year 12s who as part of their St Andrews education completed either a school-based traineeship, or achieved a VET qualification. For each St Andrews student present tonight, let the class of 2015 results be a constant reminder that in order to flourish; commitment, dedication and application to your studies must be a daily occurrence.

An important pre-condition for Flourishing is for students to have a variety of academic pathways to pursue. At St Andrews such academic enrichment opportunities abound for our young people to challenge themselves with. It might be a Language Study Tour to Germany or Japan as students in Year 9 to 12 experienced this year. Perhaps it is participating in the CSIRO Boot Camps, or QUT Vice-Chancellors STEM Camps, or being part of the team that placed second in the Griffith University Science Trivia Challenge. For others, it is studying a subject at university, as 18 of our Year 12 Business Studies students did this year as part of the Griffith University Business School Outreach Program. Still for others, it is honing their craft as part of the Lunchtime Writers Club, in the hope that they may be the next J K Rowling. While for some, it might be undertaking a software development or Information Technology System elective, perhaps with the idea of creating their own ‘Start Up’ in mind. The list goes on – yet they all tap into a passion in our young people and allow them to be academically enriched and extended, and by virtue of their involvement, develop into flourishing young people aware of their gifts and talents.

Across Australia, governments of all persuasions have placed a growing importance on a STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The popular discourse depicts a rapidly changing, digitally disrupted world where the 21st century values the ‘hard’ sciences above all else. Such thinking neglects the importance of the arts in education. At St Andrews we advocate for a S.T.E.A.M curriculum focus, with the arts being wedged into the hard sciences as the creative, innovative glue that actions the empirical subjects to utility.

The STEM Agenda, without the Arts is missing one of the key purposes of why education is so important. To be human is to be more than an economic producer. The arts have a value considerably more than their utility to provide innovative creative solutions to problems. The renaissance and reformation of 500 years ago was not just an explosion of science but a celebration of artistic expression.

Through the Arts, students explore and present great themes and ideas. They discover their own voice, they grow in confidence and particularly through drama they develop empathy and ethical insight into the paradoxes of the human condition. Whether or not this makes us more economically productive is greatly secondary to the riches of growing in understanding of what it means to not only be human, but what it means to be good, noble, honourable,

kind and compassionate - values that are the cornerstone to human flourishing. One needs to look no further than the Performing Arts Program of 2016 at St Andrews to be reminded of this - from 4 Highly Commended, 6 Very Highly Commended, 5 Third Placings, and 3 Second Placings at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod in August; various Drama Nights; our own in-house Photography Competition which had over 300 entries; Creative Generation Art Exhibitions; to first place in the Starbound Eisteddfod for the Combined Dance Troupe and contemporary Percussion Ensembles' performance of 'Tribal', just days after the J Block Fire when our costumes and ability to rehearse literally went up in flames. Of course the absolute highlight of the Performing Arts calendar was our first true whole of College Musical – *'The Little Mermaid'* held the Gold Coast Arts Centre. The Little Mermaid provided students with the opportunity to engage the mind, the body and the emotions into a collaborative and communal expression of all that it means to be human. As the lead character, Ariel and her aquatic friends took us on a journey, we were reminded to look at the sacrifices we all make for love and acceptance, and the need for us to push beyond known waters, outside our comfort zones, to grow and flourish.

As we have seen with the Arts, Flourishing at St Andrews involves, as our Strategic Intent suggests, *'Education of Hearts, Minds and Hands'*. This is further reflected in our strategic objective to develop the College's Sports Program, and in particular the Signature Sports of Netball, Touch and Futsal. It has been particularly pleasing to see the introduction and development of Excellence Programs in these three endeavours. The Excellence Programs involve a focus on developing high levels of fitness by a strength and conditioning expert; quality coaching by external personnel in conjunction with our own staff, and participation in external competitions. The planned expansion of the Weights Room in lower J Block in the next 12 months will only strengthen these programs. I will be a most interested onlooker in the coming years as the outcomes of the Excellence Programs become apparent.

Critics of the concept of Human Flourishing point to a focus on self and self-absorption. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth – we know from the research and from ancient wisdom passed down through the ages, that real flourishing only occurs when we use our God-given gifts and talents to help others to make a difference in the community. To this end, St Andrews continues to encourage our young people to be others-centred, and to make a difference in the world. A St Andrews distinctive is our emphasis on Community Service and Service Learning. Our Senior Students have exemplified this through their involvement with Rosie's and the Gold Coast homeless on a Friday night; Relay for Life and Shave for a Cure to the support of Cancer research; Australian Lutheran World Service Awareness Week; Visits to St Andrews Aged Care; and helping to build houses in East Timor as part of a Service Learning Trip. For so many of our young people these acts of service - both large and small, are transformational. You can see the life enlarging and life enhancing impact that making a difference to others has on our students who serve. One individual act stands out in my mind - Jack Coles, one of our Year 11 students who has faced his own significant health battles over the last two years and is bravely making a return to school, donated his electric guitar and amplifier to the Music Department in the aftermath of the J Block Fire. This act embodies our aspirations to grow 'others-centeredness' and reminds us all that it is through adversity that flourishing emerges.

Our 2016 College Captains, Izak Schache and Tia Lightbody, and Vice-Captains Ben Beggs and Khali Robins have led with distinction throughout the year. I thank them for their positive leadership and for the contribution they have made to help St Andrews be a place to flourish. They, and all of the class of 2016 leave the College with a positive legacy. I would ask this year's College Captains, to come forward to assist in the transition of leadership for next year's leaders.

I am pleased to announce:

The College Vice-Captains for 2017 are - Emily Burnell & Alex

The College Captains for 2017 are - Olivia English & Jarred Connolly

The handshakes between the outgoing Captains to the incoming Captains is a symbol of the transition of student leadership from one year to the next. Through this handshake the mantle of leadership is passed on, and our outgoing student leaders offer their encouragement to our 2017 Captains to provide leadership to the student body just as they have striven to do so this year.

As this year's Captains leave the stage they will be presented with a Captains Award to acknowledge them for their leadership and service to our community over the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students that leadership amongst the student body is not restricted to those students who have formal leadership positions. Not everyone can be in a formal leadership position, but every one of our students can influence and make a difference; each student has the opportunity to show the fine qualities that they have. Their different strengths means everyone brings something very special to St Andrews. In fact, there are hundreds of examples in the history of our College where young men and women who were not formal leaders nevertheless, had a profound impact on those around them and enabled others to flourish as part of the St Andrews community.

The end of this year marks the end of my tenure as Principal of St Andrews. Seven years ago during my Installation Speech quoting William Penn, a Quaker and founder of the US State of Pennsylvania, I made a commitment that: *'I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good things therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show a fellow being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it. For I shall not pass this way again'*. I hope that I have fulfilled that commitment. Whatever has been achieved, we have achieved together. I thank College Council for the trust and belief that they have displayed in me and for their unwavering commitment to our Mission of *'Celebrating the Gospel. Nurturing the Individual, Empowering Lifelong Learners'*. To members of the Senior Leadership Team thank you for dreaming with me of what St Andrews might be, and then ever so faithfully working to make it a reality. To the St Andrews teachers and staff, thank you for the genuine heart that you have for this community, and your willingness to put our students first. And finally, to the St Andrews Students - the reason our College exists, I thank you for the life and energy that you bring to our community each and every day. I know that for many of our students, I have been a somewhat distant figure, and the nature of the role of Principal in a second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century makes it so; but I thank each of our students for helping to make St Andrews a

place to flourish. My memories of our community will be of you – in the classroom, on the stage, on the sports field and in the playground. Your smile, your welcoming hello have meant the world to me. Seeing you develop your character and values in tough trying times like the aftermath of the J Block Fire, of seeing your servant heart in the way you cared for and supported your peers, of seeing you discover and grow your gifts and talents in order to make a difference, and seeing you grow into fine young St Andrews men and women has been an unsurpassed privilege. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey. Never take it for granted what it means to be a part of the St Andrews Community, (and I'm about to introduce a new word into our lexicon) never take it for granted what it means to be an Andrean, because when it's all been said and done, you will never really quite understand how you were ever so blessed to be part of such a special place. My undying hope for our community, present and future, is that St Andrews will always be a place to flourish.

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Year 4: Ella Baldwin, Sam Butterworth, Luca Friebel, Stella Smith, Connor Tydd, Amelia Wallace, Oscar Warner

Runner-up: Masashi Tetsuo

Top of Year: Jude Tanguy, Angus Slater

Year 5: Kirra Ashton, Charlize Butler-Smith, Jiya Donaldson, Phoebe Gibson, Ella James, Ashley Kuzmanov, Isabella Nelson, Charli Pearse, Damon Scott, Isabella Seymour

Runner-up: Anenya Kale

Top of Year: Kate Allan

Year 6: Sienna Dalby, Mya Dunn, Lily Hodge, Thomas Kilmartin, Hayley Luxton, Miko Savory, Poppy Warner, Sienna Young

Runner-up: Chloe Wallace

Top of Year: Lilah Thurbon

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Year 7:

Top of Year: Nina Hill

Runner-up: Sara Allan

Year 8:

Top of Year: Alexandra Bugeja

Runner-up: Bronte Good

Year 9:

Top of Year: Lucy Turnbull

Runner-up: Caitlin Gabriel

## **SENIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Year 10:

Top of Year: Harrison Craig-Ward

Runner-up: Hayden Verschuure

Year 11:

Top of Year: Amara Butterworth

Runner-up: Keely McVay

Year 12:

Top of Year: Samuel Irvine

Runner-up: Oliver Waddingham

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL GOLD CULTURAL AWARDS**

Giselle Courtney, Seth Marshall, Charlee Cosgriff

Overall Cultural Award for Junior School: Seth Marshall, Charlee Cosgriff

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLD CULTURAL AWARDS**

Year 7: Kiara Freeman

Year 8: Isabella Janssen, Samantha Todd

Overall Cultural Award for Middle School: Isabella Janssen

## **SENIOR SCHOOL GOLD CULTURAL AWARDS**

Year 10: Ella Atkinson, Lyle Duncan, Anita Munro

Overall Cultural Award for Senior School: Jonathon Aiello

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS AWARDS**

Junior School Sports Star 2016: Timothy Hornsey, Milla Jansen

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLD SPORT AWARDS**

Year 9: Georgia Eller, leuan Watkins

Middle School Sports Star 2016: Georgia Eller, leuan Watkins

## **SENIOR SCHOOL GOLD SPORT AWARDS**

Year 10: Kieran Croker

Year 11: William Atkinson, Katie Hayward

Senior School Sports Stars 2016: Keiran Croker, Katie Hayward

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL GOLD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

Amali Batson, Aliyah Karchinsky, Lilian Morse, Brigitte Newing, Talia Nicholas, Jack Walker

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

Year 7: Amber Chalmers, Amy Dignan, Elijah Friebel, Benjamin Long, Sarah Yates

Year 8: Callum Ahern, Lauren Barratt, Alexandra Bugeja, Annabel Rytenskild, Basia Shelly, Clare Verschuure, Kirrah Wood

Year 9: Caleb Friebel, Finn Hazir, Hannah Schooley, Lucy Turnbull

The Middle School Outstanding Citizenship Award sponsored by Cr Daphne McDonald:  
Hannah Schooley

## **SENIOR SCHOOL GOLD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

Year 10: Benjamin Allan, Holly Burnett, William Hoareau, Abbey Schumacher, Hayden Verschuure

Year 11: Kara Batchelor, Alexander, Emily Burnell, Jarred Connolly, Olivia English, Keely McVay, Liliana Mikami, Millisen Nyssen, Ambelin Rytenskild, Isobel Thomas, Anna Tyrrell

Year 12: Tristan Arnold, Elliott Baylis, Lauren Byrne, Jon-Ross Gordon, Lucy Hourn, Tia Lightbody, Paris McKay-Holley, Kalem McLuckie, Izak Schache, Ty Sheers, Oliver Waddingham, Ben Wooldridge

The Karen Andrews MP Outstanding Citizenship Award for the Senior School: Oliver Waddingham

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL SPECIAL AWARDS**

Stephen McGrath Junior Citizenship Award: Madyson Cloherty, Shae Williams

The Ruth Butler Peace Award - Junior School: Mya Dunn

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL AWARDS**

The Ruth Butler Peace Award: Lucy Turnbull

## **SENIOR SCHOOL SPECIAL AWARDS**

The MSP Photography Scholarship Award: Liliana Mikami

Gendi Moore Memorial Music Award: Elliott Baylis

Caltex Most Improved Year 10 Student Award: Tyran Sonter

Michael Hart MP Future Leader Award: Izak Schache

Condev Servant Leadership Scholarship: Anna Tyrrell, Millisen Nyssen

Bond University BPS Technology Scholarship: Oliver Waddingham

Bond University Excellence Scholarship: Charles Horsley

Caltex Best All-Rounder Award: Izak Schache

The Ruth Butler Peace Award Senior School: Jon-Ross Gordon