



**ARDEN ANGLICAN SCHOOL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2008**



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## **AREA 1 and 2: PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

2008 has been a year of great excitement with the first Year 12 Higher School Certificate being completed in our new Senior Study Centre. It has also been a year of redirection with leadership, planning for the school's future, expansion of our Christian ministry and creation of more opportunities in Curriculum and Pastoral Care within the School.

Arden seeks in its Vision Statement to remain an "unmistakeable Christian school pursuing excellence in academic and personal achievement". This year God has continued to provide Arden with families, staff, parents and students who have achieved so much under His provision.

### **New Challenges**

The Australian Government on election had an agenda for a *National Curriculum*. About 340,000 Australians move interstate each year, including 80,000 school-aged students. Working families who move their children interstate will often find difficulty in the placement and settling of children in schools.

A National Curriculum Board was formed with representatives from all school sectors. The members have been formulating through consultation what is to be a "rigorous, world class national curriculum". The plan is to have a curriculum for all Australian students from Kindergarten to Year 12 developed by 2010, starting with English, Mathematics, the Sciences and History, and underpinned by a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy. A national curriculum will be publicly available and the plan is that it will start to be delivered in all states from January, 2011.

Arden has been well represented in the process and has been a part of the consultation process through professional organisations such as JSHAA (now known as IPSHA), AHISA and HICES. Mrs Jan Brady, our HSIE Head of Department, was invited to be a part of the History Consultation committee. The resultant curriculum will have an impact on all Australian schools and we look forward to this new horizon for our nation.

This year co-educational schools in HICES (Heads of Independent Co-education Schools) have been exploring the benefits of co-education and we have produced a paper for Arden parents outlining the following ten benefits of co-education.

1. Offering of a diverse student body that reflects both genders which is natural in society.
2. Preparation for real world experiences and situations.
3. Exposure to male and female role models.
4. Exposure to different leadership styles including diversity of opinion mirroring today's workforce.
5. Exposure to diverse values and lifestyles.
6. Rich academic experiences where both sexes develop confidence in non stereotyped environments.
7. Encouragement of a wide range of opinions and ideas where both boys and girls are comfortable expressing opinions in a respectful forum.
8. Preparing both boys and girls to become leaders where collaboration and voicing of opinion with opposite sex is natural.

9. Creation of good learning and social environment reflecting the next stage in university, business and corporate life.
10. Nurturing of confidence which comes in feeling comfortable about who they are and a positive attitude towards self image.

Arden will continue to look for ways to celebrate co-education in our school environment.

## **Population**

We began 2008 with a population of 690 students, with appreciable growth in Years 7 and 8. This included 464 families across the two campuses. 53 families have at least one child in each campus. There are 148 families with two children at Arden, 40 families have three children and three families have four children (we have two families who will have five children coming to Arden in the next two years). 44 families have more than one child in the Secondary School campus. We have definitely become a more whole family-oriented school as more families choose co-education across our two campuses.

The year began with 117 staff including all of our Teachers, Tutors and Administration staff. This being 51 in the Beecroft (including our administration), 50 in Epping and 16 are cross-campus.

We honour a particular part of our school as we close 2008. Our First Year 12 in the history of Arden. Epping campus began in 2003 with 45 students in Year 7 after many years of planning and a great deal of development of the Epping site in preparation in 2002/2003. Some of these graduates began as three and four year olds at Beecroft.

This group, who graduated this year, have left a legacy for the school to admire for generations to come. Year 12 has set the bar high with their dedication and involvement in so much of the school. Through their effort and that of their teachers, they have helped create a school where students can flourish and develop in preparation for a positive future. They have pioneered initiatives, leadership, Christian service, creation of traditions and programmes right across the School. We see tangible examples in uniforms, murals at Oxford and Cambridge, Duke of Edinburgh schemes, music bands and ensembles, Sports Hills Zone, State and National champions, drama activities, technical crews, debating, mission tours, House competition, first Prefects and School Captains and so much more from our graduating 38 students. Already we have some students that have won cadetships, Rotary Exchange, University awards and Hillisip Industries partnership recognition.

Some pleasing results have been:

- 2 students received Band 6 results in all subjects which placed them in Top All-rounders list for achieving marks of 90 or above in 10 or more units.
- 12 students (32% of our HSC students) were listed in the Honour Roll for achieving scores of 90 or above in one or more subjects; achieving these Band 6 results in a total of 22 subjects.
- 76% of the Year 12s received at least one or more Band 5 ranking (scores of 80+).
- Arden was ranked in the Top 200 schools at 115<sup>th</sup>, an impressive result for our first HSC cohort.
- 15% of Year 12 achieved a UAI rank of 90 and above (with the highest ranking being 98).
- One in three (33%) of our Year 12s achieved a UAI rank of 80 and above, placing them in the top 20% of the State.

Their gift to the school of Honour Boards for Dux, Captains, Gibson Shield and Principals, will be lasting memories of these first Year 12 leaders.

### **Government Funding**

Work is now completed at Epping to a total of \$217,000 total over a two year period including disabled access, hydraulic lift, steps and ramps. Two grants of \$60,000, which were offered in 2007 for Beecroft play space redevelopment, and aspects of Epping development were applied this year. A further environment grant was also awarded which will be used in the New Year.

We have made applications to the Government for a Trade Centre and also an Infrastructure grant to assist in the redevelopment of Exeter, our music centre shared with the Epping Scouts. We await the decision of the funding committees. We have also been able to receive assistance for some students with learning difficulties, a Numeracy and Literacy grant, LOTE, an AGQTP Professional Standards grant, Quality Teaching and assistance with TAFE and Vet courses in the last twelve months. We thank the State and Federal Governments for their support through grants and recurrent funding.

### **Leadership**

The School Council have worked tirelessly to give the students every opportunity in their schooling at Arden. They met with staff in a mid year conference to consider a strategic plan for 2009 onwards. What we should confirm, what we should modify and what we should create gave a basis for a way of going forward. Two Council sub committees were created to specifically look at Marketing and Human Resources.

In Marketing, we have seen our school highlighted in so many ways through publicity, our promotional DVD, Independent School Expos, leaflet drops across North and North Western areas, weekly tours of each campus, press articles and more.

As the Human Relations subcommittee began its work, the teaching profession moved to create Professional Teaching standards including a New Scheme Teachers programme via the New South Wales Institute of Teachers and Professional Accomplishment and Professional Leadership through ISTAA. Much of this process was accepted through a new workplace agreement with the teaching staff. A course for middle management, MLM, was run for all leaders within the school as leadership roles were redefined and confirmed. The Education Committee of School Council continues to be a sounding board for senior staff as they pursue new curriculum and programmes within the School. We are also grateful to the stewardship of the Finance committee and the Property and Development committee who have made possible the developments at both campuses over recent times.

As part of the ongoing restructure of the school as we grow, we renamed the leadership of the junior and senior school. Mrs Fran Fleeton was acknowledged as The Head of Senior School and, following a welcome at the end of Term 1, 2008, Mr Dean Smith was appointed as Head of Junior School. Both of these leaders were presented with a Bible and an Anglican Prayer book to signify the clear direction for each part of the School as they continue to grow. We thank both of these dynamic leaders for their energy and wisdom in their roles.

Leadership moved to the student body electing their leaders for 2008. Twelve Prefects were elected with each taking on a leading role within the School. Our School Captains, Liam Darmody and Frances Madden, have been wonderful leaders of their team of Prefects and have led by example

throughout the year. Our Beecroft Student Council have led the Student Representative Council (SRC) to new initiatives and, along with the Epping House Captains, have maintained some tremendous competition between the Houses. Epping SRC set in place various fundraising activities, renovated the change rooms and introduced a fundraiser with the newly designed sun hat for Epping students. Beecroft SRC have organised a number of fundraising ideas and ways to publicise and celebrate future events with notice boards outside our school. These Primary School students in the SRC did an analysis of the play spaces as part of welfare, collected boxes of items for children in South East Asia as part of the Christian Support and arranged for recycling as part of their environmental portfolio.

### **Cambridge Senior Study Centre**

This centre opened on the first day of the school year. After a flurry of building activity and parent helpers unpacking and constructing furniture, Year 11 and 12 began their senior year in this most unique and stimulating learning environment. Cambridge Senior Study Centre has become a transition to university and corporate life with its glassed walled classrooms looking out onto the corporate world and with high levels of technology available in an open plan study area.

The students responded so well all year to the restrictions placed upon us by the Land and Environment Court ruling. The other tenants in the Cambridge Business Park constantly congratulated Arden students for their behaviour and maturity shown to them.

### **Christian Mission and Pastoral Care**

Rev Mark Rundle, as Chaplain, has taken a lead in so many aspects of Christian worship and fellowship within the School. Chapel and assemblies have continued to have a theme which relates to life skills and is student oriented. Each of the three Thanksgiving Services was held at St. Albans for the Houses and enabled St. Albans to be full to capacity as we heard from our three speakers and had a variety of musicians leading each service.

Year 12 final Chapel was our first full school chapel where we celebrated God's guidance to our senior students and prayed for them as they venture into university, corporate life and the business world.

Student Christian Fellowship opportunities arise at Epping through Crusaders and at Beecroft through KFC (Kids for Christ). Student Prayer and Bible study groups meet at lunch time at Epping.

Mr Adam Lear was our Christian Studies Head of Department at Epping until the end of Term 1 before moving to work in the Indigenous community Kalumburu in remote Western Australia. He is teaching in an Aboriginal school which we are hoping to link Arden with in 2009.

Arden Parent Prayer Group began each term welcoming parents to Coffee and Chat at Beecroft. They meet each month to pray for staff, students and families at the school. Staff at each campus meets weekly to pray for aspects of the school. God graciously answered the prayers of these faithful people and we were constantly made aware of His presence in our School.

Dads' and Kids' Breakfast along with Men's Breakfasts provided opportunities for fellowship with dads and male staff at the school.

Class parents are a pastoral link for the executive to the year group of parents and these leaders came to parent meetings to keep the communication within the school very open. The Pastoral Care

committee met weekly to discuss any students in difficulty, emotionally, academically or in a discipline area.

### **Tour Successes: New Zealand, Cambodia and Cairns**

All three of these tours were a resounding success and by all reports, this was due to the resilience, enthusiasm, and diplomacy of the Arden students and the support of the staff and organisers of the tours. Arden received both thanks and appreciation from those who took part and benefited from the tours. Special thanks go to all within the community who supported the fundraising for these tours. Each of the tour groups organised reports that were shared at assemblies at both campuses over Term 3.

Caring and sharing across Arden helps so many charities and organisations as students and the whole Arden community support those less fortunate than ourselves. Over \$20,770 was raised for the following groups: World Vision, RSPCA, Tabitha, Make a Wish, Cairns Mission, Crusaders, Anglicare, Red Cross, City Care, Rotary, Crossroads International, Samaritans, The Smith Family, Diabetes Australia, Estimate and the Cancer Council. Our support of Anglicare's 'Tucker Box' and the Salvation Army with Christmas gifts and food continues to grow as Arden shows its practical support to families in need.

A new initiative this year was the highly successful Beecroft "Girls Night In". This night adorned with pink and supported by almost all girls in Years 3 - 6, Year 11 girls and female staff and mothers. It was a great success and contributed a total of \$3,600 to the Cancer Council, along with the Biggest Morning Teas. Two other fundraisers were the pencil and pen drive for the Cairns Mission Tour and the 'Buy a Plank' fundraiser enabling houses to be built on the Cambodia Mission Tour. Many students at Epping took part in the 40 Hour Famine project, which raised \$1,500.

### **Growth of programmes at both campuses**

#### ***Beecroft IT***

The School Council authorised the expenditure of some \$107,000 towards the rollout of computers, data projectors and whiteboards for each classroom at the Beecroft campus. This has enhanced so much of the learning and teaching within the campus.

#### ***Epping IT***

Mr Richard Doel-Mackaway instigated systems and installation across both campuses but specifically the Cambridge centre, enabling a wireless system to operate and a link between all three campus areas of Arden. This also gave a security card system to record and track student movements in the Senior School. In Term 4 Mr Anton Kraus joined the staff and continued to develop the facilities but more specifically security and data base management throughout the School.

### **Drama and Theatresports**

Arden's inaugural Performing Arts Festival was held this year. It involved a Green and a White Junior School soiree, PANache – the Epping campus showcase of Performing Arts, Primary Evening Soiree at Epping Baptist involving the Primary Choir, Year 2 Choir, String Fever, Junior and senior bands with the percussion group. Year 12 Higher School Certificate students from both music and drama performed to their peers, parents and the local community. The Foundations of Shakespeare's Arden were rekindled in the "Will Shakespeare Saves Us" stage performances by our Epping Drama

Club. Later in the year all students from Kindergarten to Year 8 took in our Arden Gala Spectacular at the Hills Centre for a night to celebrate the theme Heroes with Dance, choreographed by Dance 2B Fit, and song.

2008 has seen wonderful and exciting growth in the opportunities offered to our students in drama, both within the curriculum as well as in co-curricular activities.

Years 9 and 10 drama students have studied a range of topics from Playbuilding to Shakespeare, Commedia dell'arte to Non Realistic Theatre, producing creative and entertaining performances, some of which were showcased at PANache.

Co-curricular drama has also proved extremely popular across all year groups during 2008. Drama club students presented two short plays: *Will Shakespeare Save Us?* and *Will Shakespeare Save the Queen?*

Students have also been fortunate to have the opportunity of participating in Theatresports workshops. These have not only been fun for all involved but are also developing the students' lateral thinking, presentation and teamwork skills. Perhaps we shall see Arden teams in the Impro Australia Theatresports Schools competition in 2009.

### **House Activities**

Each House developed a special fundraising day this year. Birnam raised funds for the Cancer Council through the Biggest Morning Tea at Epping while the Beecroft Birnamites supported Diabetes Australia. Jenolan raised funds for Crossroads International on their "J" day while Sherwood raised funds for RSPCA and Make a Wish on "Sherprize" day. Thanks to the House Patrons who have initiated these activities.

A most exciting project for each House was the design of their shield and motto for the House. Voting took place and the resulting shields will be displayed in the windows of the Oxford Hall at Epping and Amphitheatre at Beecroft.

### **Junior School Art Exhibition and Competitions**

The Arden Junior School Art Exhibition and Competitions were held in Term 3 for Years 2, 3 and Year 4 and Term 4 for Years 1, 5 and 6. Students were asked to prepare a piece of art based on a piece of literature. The art was judged by Mr John Lane and prizes and commentary shared at afternoon teas in the resource centre.

### **Year 12 Visual Arts and Design & Technology (D&T) showcase**

As a celebration of the final stages of the HSC submissions of D & T major works and Visual Arts Body of Work, an evening was held to see the works and receive comments from Mr John Lane about their efforts.

Former Arden student Chantelle Blake returned to encourage and congratulate these students. Our local member for New South Wales Parliament, Mr Greg Smith, School Council and parents were also on hand at this first Showcase.

## **Other Initiatives**

[alumni@arden.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@arden.nsw.edu.au) commenced as the Year 12's departed. This is a means of contact for not only Year 12, 2008 but also the generations of students who left at Year 6 or other years in the past, their parents and staff. This link is now available.

A Senior School Barista course, RSA (Responsible Serving of Alcohol) and Senior First aid course were held during the year. These trained students in life skills for future employment. We also held a corporate training day for Year 10 in the Cambridge centre to prepare them for their time in the Senior Study Centre and in the corporate and business world in the future.

## **Academia**

Arden continues to offer a wide range of activities and subject choices to achieve the very best academic results across the school. These are recorded in *Area 3* of this report.

## **Gifted and Talented**

### ***Beecroft***

This year at Beecroft, the Gifted and Talented Coordinator has introduced a number of new initiatives in the area of Gifted and Talented education. “Mad Science” have led a number of after school programs from Kindergarten to Year 4 in topics like ‘Rocket Science’, ‘Forensics’ and ‘Magnets’. Ten Year 5 and 6 students attended a Writer’s Workshop at Macquarie University. There was the Mathematics Challenge Camp in Term 1 for three gifted mathematicians, A Dinosaur’s Workshop hosted by the Northside Gifted and Talented Network at Abbotsleigh, a Watercolour Workshop hosted by our artist-in-residence, Minquest, Chess, Debating, Tournament of Minds and Maths Olympiad, just to name a few enrichment opportunities. As well over 110 students have been part of our own Enrichment Program and a withdrawal program which is conducted on a weekly basis. Topics have included Ancient Egypt, Australian Inventions, a new Science investigation program called SPECTRA and much more. Thirty five students entered the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry competition, with Madeleine Johnson and Jonathon Parkin from Year 2 runners-up in the Lower Primary section. Edward Koorey, Year 4, was awarded second place in the RSL “Australia My Country” competition and five of our students were also awarded Certificates of Merit.

### ***Epping***

This year the Ad Altissima programmes continued to flourish with Year 7 Cort Thinking and Year 7 English enrichment. Year 8 to 10 PIP (Personal Interest Pathways) had many of our talented students creating projects which were long term and presented in Term 4 to their peers and staff. Our Tournament of Minds teams from Years 7 and 8 were a part of the Sydney Girls’ High section. Their creative and imaginative presentations were sensational. We continue to foster our stars of the future in aspects of sport and music where they are given many opportunities to pursue excellence. 2009 provides many opportunities for expansion in the areas of Science and Mathematics.

Excursions and workshops for Gifted and talented included:

- Year 7, Year 6 and some Year 4 Amazing Brain Workshops
- Year 5 - 6 CSIRO Robotics After School Workshop
- Year 5 - 6 Let’s Go Drama After School Workshop
- Year 3 - 4 CSIRO Electric Circuits and Electronics After School Workshop
- Year 3 - 4 Let’s Go Drama After School Workshop

- Kindergarten – Year 2 ‘Mad Science’ After School Workshop,
- Years 1 - 6 Dorothea MacKellar Competition,
- Year 4 Enrichment RSL Writing Competition
- Year 2 to Macquarie University.

### **Curriculum Development and Professional Development**

Throughout 2008, we had a whole school focus called Leading from the Middle providing Heads of Department, Coordinators and Executive staff with training on leadership and management of their departments as middle managers. Ms Glynis Jones, a consultant with many years experience with Association of Independent Schools, acted as an independent consultant working along side senior staff.

Combined Staff Days had a focus on assessment across the whole school. Practices of assessment for learning were reviewed and new documentation was produced. All staff focused on assessment ‘for learning’ and ‘of learning’ to consolidate teaching and learning practices for Kindergarten to Year 12. This focus for professional learning of staff will continue into 2009. The Beecroft campus also spent some time on professional development, focusing on the areas of literacy and numeracy.

This year, Arden was awarded an AGQTP Professional Standards grant through the Association of Independent Schools. A team of four staff from the Secondary School examined materials and the requirement procedures for New Scheme Teachers to meet this qualification. A compact professional learning support pack was created for use by New Scheme staff (Kindergarten – Year 12) and those in various mentoring roles.

Staff attended a large number of workshops offered by the New South Wales Board of Studies, Junior School Heads Association (JSHAA), Association of Independent Schools (AIS), Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia (AHISA), and subject specific professional bodies for secondary staff.

### **Debating and Public Speaking**

In Term 3, students in Years 3 – 6 worked industriously on speeches to present to their class in an attempt to be chosen to go into the finals of our school-based public speaking competition. This involved both prepared and impromptu speeches. Congratulations to all students who delivered most competitive speeches.

Our Epping Debaters from Years 8 and 9 competed in the Hornsby Shire’s Great Debate in Term 3 against many local and more experienced schools. They achieved second place overall.

Arden was entered into the HICES Debating competition, which is a competition against schools that are part of the Independent Schools in the region, from as far north as the Hunter Valley, Newcastle and south to Wollongong and west to Orange. For our section of the competition, against four other schools, four students were announced as achieving Best Debater awards in their division for their age category out of about 30 students. Three Arden students were then presented with awards for their placement as Best Debaters in the All Regions category.

Beecroft JSHAA Debating had another successful year with some very young and inexperienced starters who amazed all competitors with their growth and talent as the season progressed.

## **Chess**

Arden Junior School participated well in the New South Wales Junior Chess League competition this year. We were able to enter four teams at varying levels of ability, including Rookie, Intermediate and Championship. The teams prepared with the guidance of tutors during the week at lunchtimes. Primary teams concluded the competition with a Primary Schools One-Day Chess Tournament, in which one team came sixth out of thirty tables.

## **Careers**

Our Careers Coordinator has worked tirelessly this year on a number of projects. Aspects of careers covered throughout the year include: Year 10 Career Education lessons, Individual Vocational Profiling and Work Experience Week. MHS Careers web based careers information service is available for all students. .

This year a particular emphasis has been on Year 11 and 12 post school planning interviews. A number of Year 10, 11 and 12 excursions to Career Expo events were held while many careers' guest speaker visits were arranged for school assemblies, particularly Year 12 Future Directions.

TVET has been a focus for those students wishing to study at TAFE as a part of the HSC. There was also liaison with HILLSIP, the local schools/industry partnership organisation through which a number of our Year 10 - 12 students received awards while for others liaison with universities and all tertiary education providers to promote links and raise awareness among students and the school community.

## **Sport**

### ***Beecroft***

Highlights include:

- Boys' Teeball - Both teams undefeated.
- Swimming – two students competing at NSWCIS Swimming.
- Girls' Hockey - Undefeated - A mixed Years 4 - 6 team competed against Year 6 teams from other schools.
- JSHAA Athletics - 53 students competed for Arden, one relay team, three individuals through to CIS.
- NSWCIS Athletics - Junior Girls' Relay Team, one student competed in the 8 Years 100m, one student competed in the 10 Years 100m & 200m, and one student competing in the 12 Years 100m who successfully gained entry through to PSSA.
- PSSA Athletics – one student competing in the 12 Years 100m.
- Netball - Year 4 and 5 Teams both undefeated.
- Gymnastics – Level 1 Girls – 3rd Place, Level 2 Girls – 3rd Place, Level 2 Boys – 3rd Place. One student competed at Level 4.
- Boys Teeball - A team undefeated.

### ***Epping***

Highlights include:

- Arden being the 2nd Best Performing School in Open Boys' Hockey Grand Final Winners in Hills Zone;
- One Year 10 student had success at both National Rowing and Girls' Head of River;

- One Year 11 student was selected for the CIS Opens Girls Volleyball Team;
- One Year 10 student had success as the Senior Boys' Individual Triathlon Championship at Hills Zone;
- In Athletics we had one student placed 1st in 100m at CIS AWD event while another student won 1st place in Shot Put, Long Jump, 800m, 200m at CIS;
- Arden had one student in Year 12 selected in the AICES Open Rugby team and also Under 19's Sydney rugby side;
- One Year 10 was selected as Captain of Sydney Green Shield side and another student entered a number of open water events reaching State level in 10 and 5 kilometres distances another swimmer competing in both the State and National swimming championships.

## **Excursions and Outdoor Education**

Arden Excursions for 2008 included the following:

### ***Year 12***

Design and Technology to Powerhouse, Drama to NIDA, Visual Arts to AGNSW, Careers Expo at Macquarie University, Poetry workshop with Peter Skrzynecki, Year 12 and 11 Visual Arts to Macquarie University, Geography to Hunter Valley, Biology and Senior Science to University of New South Wales Diseases Museum, Chemistry to Maritime Museum, Visual Arts Workshops in the June/July holidays, Year 12 French to Monet Exhibition with The Kings School.

### ***Year 11***

Elective TAS to The Powerhouse Museum, Retreat at Elanora Conference Centre, Elective Music to the Opera House for 'Encore', Rotary Driver Awareness, PDH Incursion – Oxygen Factory and other speakers, Biology and Senior Science to Balmoral Rock Platform, Studies of Religion to Auburn Gallipoli Mosque, Drama Incursion – Commedia dell'Arte, Visual Arts Eckerslies Art Supplies Workshop, Tertiary Awareness Market at Hills Grammar, Year 10 and 11 Visual Arts to 'Sculpture by the Sea' at Bondi.

### ***Year 10***

Visual Art to AGNSW, Geography to Long Reef, Careers Expo at University of Western Sydney (Parramatta Campus), PDH Incursion – Oxygen Factory and other speakers, Year 10 Work Experience, three day Canberra Excursion, Year 9 and 10 Drama to the Belvoir, French Day at Macquarie University, Visual Arts walking/ sketching tour of Epping, Food Technology to Cumberland Forest.

### ***Year 9***

Visual Arts to Sydney Harbour, Luna Park and Museum of Contemporary Art, Visual Arts to Macquarie University Art Gallery, French to Palace Cinema at Leichhardt, Year 9 and 10 Hospitality to Royal Easter Show, Drama to Wharf Theatre, 'City Experience', Year 9 Camp/Duke of Edinburgh at Kooloona, Cambewarra, Nowra, Surf Awareness at Manly.

### ***Year 8***

CSIRO Incursion, Year 8 Camp at Port Hacking, Geography to Mt Keira, Technology flew kites, HSIE to Epping Business District, Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen.

### ***Year 7***

Camp at Collaroy, AGNSW, Year 7 and 8 Bullybusters Program, SSO Concert at ABC Centre (Ultimo), Taronga Zoo, Skyworks Planetarium Incursion, Wade Rescue at Manly.

### ***Year 6***

Camp at Lake Macquarie, three day Canberra Excursion, Surf Awareness at Manly, New Horizons.

### ***Year 5***

Jenolan Caves & Bathurst for three days, Art Gallery of NSW, Camp at Kirrikee, Surf Awareness at Manly.

### ***Year 4***

Oz Trek (Sydney Tower) and Sydney Harbour Bridge Pylon, Cockatoo Island, Camp at Galston, Museum of Sydney, Hyde Park Barracks, Walking Tour of The Rocks.

### ***Year 3***

Sydney Skytour and Harbour Bridge Pylon, Australian Maritime Museum, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Camp at Crosslands, Captain Cook at Kurnell/Botany Bay, Gibberagong Education Centre at Ku-ring-gai National Park.

### ***Year 2***

Australian Maritime Museum, Book Launch at Children's Bookshop, Pirate Afternoon, Beecroft Local Area, Tarmac Tour, Sleepover, Jeral Puppets.

### ***Year 1***

Taronga Park Zoo, Chinese Gardens, Paddy's Market, Jeral Puppets.

### ***Kindergarten***

Fairfield City Farm, Singing at Beecroft Seniors (retirement village), Jeral Puppets.

### ***Kindergarten to Year 2***

Balloon Science Show, Oztag in PE lessons.

### ***PreSchool***

2 and 3 Day Preschool: Australian Museum

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

**Gold:** Overland Track - Tasmania, Milford/Routeburn Tracks

**Silver:** Coast Walk, Budawangs, 6 Foot Track

**Bronze:** Year 9 Kaloona

### **Other Excursions for 2008 included the following:**

- Intermediate Stage Band Workshop
- Dickson's Music Festival – Secondary Concert Band
- Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA Course)
- Epping Dance Ensemble in Hornsby Dance Eisteddfod
- Kindergarten to Year 6 French Cafe
- Infants and Primary 'Science on Show'
- New Zealand Tour
- Cambodian Mission Tour (combined with Nowra Christian School)
- Cairns Mission Tour (combined with Danebank)
- Primary Snowsports to Thredbo
- Years 11 and 12 Reviva Senior First Aid
- Dance 2B Fit
- Ryde Eisteddfod – Secondary Choir, Stage and Concert Band
- Drama Club – Theatresports
- Musica Viva for Infants and Primary
- Science Week – Cosmodome Kindergarten to Year 6
- Science Week – Secondary Get Wet Incursion
- Bookweek and Art Exhibition Years 2, 3, 4
- Epping Dance Ensemble entry into Ryde Secondary College Eisteddfod
- Milo Kanga Cricket
- Chess Gala Day at North Rocks Primary School
- Kindergarten to Year 8 Gala Spectacular at The Hills Centre
- Art Exhibition – Infants and Primary
- Year 2 swimming lessons
- New Horizons Programme week including Surf Awareness at Manly

We would like to thank the administration staff led by Mr Robert Hogg, our Administration Manager and my Personal Assistant, Mrs Ros Brachi for their support throughout this year as Arden continues to grow. The Executive of the school, Mrs Fran Fleeton (Head of Senior School), Mr Dean Smith (Head of Junior School), Mr Simon Przydacz (Senior Secondary Coordinator), Mr Matthew Mallison (Lower Secondary Coordinator), Dr Maree Skillen and Miss Marcia Richards (Directors of Curriculum) have lead with enthusiasm and energy throughout the year. We are constantly inspired by the staff at Arden and all that they can achieve on behalf of the students in a school year.

### **AREA 3: STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN STATEWIDE OR EQUIVALENT TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

#### **Literacy and Numeracy Assessments in Years 3 and 5**

Overall, students have achieved excellent results and such results are used to refine Arden's teaching/learning programs. Knowledge of School-based assessments and tests combined with these external tests assists us in diagnosing students who require support and/or enrichment in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The Basic Skills Tests track student progress from Year 3 to Year 5, revealing significant growth in Literacy and Numeracy skills for many students.

Year 3 results are reported in Skill Bands 1 to 5 with Band 5 reporting the highest achievement. 82% of our Year 3 students recorded in the top two Bands for Literacy, compared to 46% of the State. In

Numeracy 77% of our Year 3 students recorded in the top two bands compared to 46% of the State. In Year 5, results are reported in Skill Bands from 1 to 6 with Band 6 reporting the highest achievement. 92% of our Year 5 students recorded in the top Bands for Literacy compared to 53% of the State. In Numeracy 94% of our Year 5 students recorded in the top two bands compared to 55% of the State. The remaining 6% of Year 5 students scored in the overall Skill bands of 3 and 4 compared to 45% of the State.

The Basic Skills report indicated that for most of the question criteria, Arden’s overall percentage was 10% higher than the State. Arden students performed strongly across all stands of Numeracy and results in Reading and Language were particularly high.

**Table 2:** BST results – percentages in skills bands

2007 Test	Year 3				Year 5			
	Bands 4-5		Bands 1-3		Bands 5-6		Bands 1-4	
<b>Basic Skills Test (BST)</b>	School	Statewide	School	Statewide	School	Statewide	School	Statewide
<b>Aspects of Literacy</b>	82%	46%	18%	54%	92%	53%	8%	47%
<b>Aspects of Numeracy</b>	77%	46%	23%	54%	94%	55%	6%	45%
<b>Primary Writing Assessment</b>	85%	48%	15%	52%	76%	55%	24%	45%

The Basic Skills results together with the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), inform our teaching/learning programs and the intervention programs of both Enrichment/Extension and Learning Support provided by our classroom teachers and the Resource Team. To continue our pursuit of academic excellence we reviewed our approach to teaching Writing for 2008.

The following table records the number of students who achieved a High Distinction or Distinction in 2007 ICAS competitions.

	<b>High Distinction</b>	<b>Distinction</b>
<b>Computer Skills</b>	4	42
<b>Mathematics</b>	10	37
<b>Science</b>	4	36
<b>English</b>	11	49
<b>Spelling (Yr 3-6)</b>	5	27
<b>Writing (Yr 3-6)</b>	3	22

## Student Performance in Statewide Tests and Examinations 2008

For secondary student In Years 7 and 9, achievements in the NAPLAN tests were commendable. Table 1 summarise the results for each year group in relation to aspects of literacy and numeracy. Results for Year 7 students are reported in Skill Bands from 9 to 4, with Skill Band 9 reporting the highest achievement level. Similarly, for Year 9 students results are reported from Skill Band 10 which is the highest achievement level for this year group.

**Table 1:** NAPLAN results – percentages in skills bands

2008 Test	Year 7					
	Bands 9-8		Bands 7-6		Bands 5-4	
NAPLAN Test	School	Statewide	School	Statewide	School	Statewide
Aspects of Literacy	37%	26%	59%	58%	5%	16%
Aspects of Numeracy	59%	34%	35%	48%	6%	19%

2008 Test	Year 9					
	Bands 10-9		Bands 8-7		Bands 6-5	
NAPLAN Test	School	Statewide	School	Statewide	School	Statewide
Aspects of Literacy	52%	21%	44%	56%	4%	23%
Aspects of Numeracy	52%	28%	42%	49%	6%	24%

These results together with the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools), inform our teaching/learning programs and the intervention programs of both Enrichment/Extension and Learning Support provided by our classroom teachers and the Learning Support team.

### 2008 International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (Yr 7 -10)

Students from the secondary campus achieved some outstanding results in the University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. These have been summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3: The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS): Years 7-10**

	High Distinction	Distinction	Credit	Number of Participating Students from Arden
Mathematics (Yr 7-10)	2	22	49	218
Science (Yr 7-10)	4	16	59	218
English (Yr 7-10)	0	18	47	218
Computer Skills (Yr 7-10)	0	4	7	25

**School Certificate 2008**

Year 10 School Certificate results were excellent with over 55% of students receiving a Band 5 or 6 for English, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Australian Geography. For all examinations completed, Arden performed with results well above the State mean. Students within the Year 10 cohort exhibited a high level of Computing skills with 89% achieving a Highly Competent Band, which compared to the State mean of 58%. The School Certificate results are further summarised in the following tables that appear below.

**Table 1: School Certificate Test Results**

Test	No. of Students	Performance Band Achievement by %		Grades allocated by %	
		Bands 3-6	Bands 1-2	Grades C-A	Grades E-D
English - Literacy	49	School: 100% Statewide: 96%	School: 0% Statewide: 4%	School: 86%	School: 14%
Mathematics	49	School: 96% Statewide: 79%	School: 4% Statewide: 21%	School: 82%	School: 18%
Science	49	School: 98% Statewide: 87%	School: 2% Statewide: 13%	School: 82%	School: 18%
Australian History, Civics and Citizenship	49	School: 94% Statewide: 83%	School: 6% Statewide: 17%	School: 86%	School: 14%
Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship	49	School: 100% Statewide: 89%	School: 0% Statewide: 11%	School: 76%	School: 24%

**Higher School Certificate 2008**

The inaugural cohort of 2008 achieved HSC results which, in some cases, were outstanding. We had the honour of having two students from the Class of 2008 in the All-round Achievers list. These students achieved a Band 6 result (a mark of 90 or more) in ten or more units of their HSC studies. Based on the measure of excellence reported in the Press (the number of students gaining a Band 6 result in any subject) Arden ranked 115<sup>th</sup> top school overall in NSW. Table 12 summarises the % Class in the top two bands (ie. Bands 5 & 6 combined) for courses studied at Arden.

The inaugural Class of 2008 had 37 students qualify for an HSC credential. A broad and diverse curriculum was available which, allowed students to select from a large number of subjects and a range of combinations in this first HSC year. Twelve students from the Class of 2008 were listed on

the Distinguished Achievers list and a total of 26 examinations achieved a Band 6 result. Approximately 27% of our HSC candidature obtained a UAI of 80 or more, placing them in the top 20% of the State, with 11% of the candidature obtaining a UAI of 90 or more.

**Table 1: % Class in Top Two Bands (ie. Bands 5 & 6 combined)**

Course	Number of Students in Course	Units	2008	
			School %	State %
Ancient History	8	2	62.5	37.32
Biology	12	2	41.66	31.52
Business Studies	15	2	20	31.72
Chemistry	8	2	25	38.29
Design and Technology	4	2	75	35.17
Drama	5	2	80	48.42
Engineering Studies	5	2	40	31.03
English (Standard)	27	2	7.4	5.95
English (Advanced)	10	2	60	49.39
English Extension 1	2	1	100	83.91
French Continuers	2	2	100	60.86
Geography	4	2	50	47.88
History Extension	3	1	33.33	73.19
Hospitality Examination	5	2	60	23.5
Information Processes and Technology	11	2	45.45	30.99
Legal Studies	7	2	14.28	41.89
Mathematics	14	2	28.56	44.81
General Mathematics	18	2	38.88	25.67
Mathematics Extension 1	3	1	99.99	81.61
Mathematics Extension 2	1	2	100	90.39
Modern History	4	2	0	41.6
Music 2	5	2	80	78.6
PDHPE	8	2	25	32.22
Physics	6	2	33.33	32.78
Senior Science	10	2	60	38.86
Visual Arts	5	2	80	61.03

**Notes:**

This table is meaningful only for comparing School % with State % in each subject. We warn against superficial comparison between subjects and courses. Such comparisons are invalid because of different sizes of candidature and different percentages in Bands 5 and 6 awarded State-wide.

**AREA 4: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER STANDARDS**

Prior to the establishment of the proposed *Institute of Teachers*, reporting of Professional Learning and Teacher Standards should be in terms of the number of teachers in each category listed below:

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
Teachers who have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines.	60
Teachers who have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications.	1
Teachers who do not have qualifications as described in the above categories, but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context. The teachers in this category are registered with the NSW Institute of Teachers as transition scheme teachers. One teacher successfully completed the requirements.	1

## INFORMATION ABOUT SECONDARY TEACHING STAFF

Name of Teacher	Category	Formal Qualifications	No. of years teaching experience	Full/Part time	Class/Years/Subjects Taught
Mr Colin May	i	B Ed (Deakin), Dip T.G (Teachers Guild) (1976), Grad Dip Ed Stud (Curriculum) FACE, MACEL	32	F/T	Principal
Mrs Fran Fleeton	i	B.Sc. (1977) (USYD), Dip.Ed.(1978) (USYD), MLMEd (2005) (UNCLE), MACE, MACEL	31	F/T	Head of Senior School Science Y8
Mr Matthew Mallison	i	B.Ed. (Ind.Arts) (1992) (USYD)	16	F/T	Lower Sec. Co-ord, Industrial Tech Y10 (Timber) Technology Y7
Mr Simon Pryzdacz	i	B.Ed.(1997) (MQ), MLDEd (2003) (MQ), MACE, MACEL	11	F/T	Senior Sec Co-Ord., Geography Y12, Commerce Y10
Dr Maree Skillen	i	B Sc Dip Ed (1992) (UWS), MIMed (2001) (UN), M Ed (1995) (UTAS), PhD (2007) (Curtin), Cert IV Training & Assessment	17	F/T	Director of Curriculum, Maths Y10 & 11
Rev Mark Rundle	i	B.Div (1999) (Moore), Dip. Min. (1999) (Moore) B.A (1987) (USYD), Dip.Ed. (1991) (CSU)	12	0.3 Sec	School Chaplain Studies of Religion Y11 Christian Studies Y7 & 11
Miss Melissa Black	i	B HPhyEd (2005) B Ed (2006) ACPE	2	0.6	PDHPE Y7, 9 & 10
Mrs Jan Brady	i	B. A (Hons) (1988) (MQ)	22	F/T	Elective History Y9 Australian History Y10 Modern History Y11 & 12
Mr Trevor Bridgland	i	B.Ed (1993) (UniGriffith) DipT (1992) (UniGriffith)	16	F/T	Technology Y7 & 8 Design & Technology Y11 & 12 Christian Studies Y11
Mrs Deborah Cox	i	B.A (MQ), Dip Ed. (MQ) (2004), Dip. Mod. Lang (MQ)	6.5	F/T	French Y7, 8, 9, 11 & 12
Mr Peter Currie	i	B. Ed (Phys Ed) (1985) (KCAE)	21	F/T	PDHPE Y11 & 12, Maths Y9

Mr Richard Doel-Mackaway	i	B. Ed (IA) (1995) USYD	14	F/T	SDD Y12
Mrs Elizabeth Dunn	i	B. Ed (Phys Ed) (2004) (UW)	3	F/T	PDHPE Y 7, 8, 9, 10 PASS Y9
Mrs Rebecca Hall	i	M.A (1999) (USYD) B.A.(1993) (USYD), Dip Ed.(1994) (USYD)	9	0.6	English Y 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 Christian Studies Y9 & 10
Mr Rodney Henderson	i	B. A (Hons) (2003) (MQ) LLB (Hons) (2005) (ANU) Grad Dip Ed (2006) (MQ), Grad Dip Legal Practice (2002)	2	F/T	History Extension Y12 Ancient History Y12 Legal Studies Y11 & 12 Christian Studies Y7 & 10
Mrs Carolyn Imre	i	B Sc (Hons) (1982) Dip Ed (1983) USYD; COGE (2006) UNSW; Cert HR (1985) TAFE	15	F/T	Y10 Science, Y11/12 Chemistry, Y12 Physics
Mrs Debbie Joannides	i	B.Ed Vis Arts (1982) (CCA), Grad Cert D&T (2000) (USYD), Comm. Cookery Cert III (1996) (TAFE) , Human Resources Cert IV (1997) (TAFE), Workplace Assessment Cert IV (2001) (TAFE), Cert II Hospitality Operations (TAFE) (2002)	14	F/T	Technology Y7 & 8 Food Technology Y9 & 10 Hospitality Y11 & 12
Mrs Lesley Kelfkens	i	B Sc (Hons) (2005) HDipEd (1992) Wits SA	13	F/T	Science Y7, 8, 9 & 10 Physics Y11
Mrs Cathy Killin	i	B.A. Dip. Ed (1982) (UNSW)	19	F/T	Maths Y 7, 10, 11 & 12 Maths Enrichment
Mrs Susan Kim	i	B Sc (Maths) (2005) (UTS) M Teach (2008) (USYD)	1 <sup>st</sup> year teacher	F/T	Maths Y 9, 11 & 12
Miss Vicky Koletta	i	M.A (1995) (MQ), B.A Dip Ed (1988) (MQ)	20	F/T	English Y 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
Ms Janice Lawrenz	i	M.Ed (2000) (UNCLE)., B.Sc (1976), Dip Ed (1977) (UNSW)	30	F/T	Maths 7, 8, 9, 12 Science Y7
Mrs Kathryn McDonald		BA Dip Ed (1988) Macq; MA Eng Lit (1996) UNSW	20	F/T	English Y7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
Ms Samantha McGowan	i	B.A (2002) (UNE) Dip Ed (2005) (UNE)	3	F/T	English Y 7 & 11 Drama Y9, 10 & 12
Mrs Ruth Miller	i	B.Ed. (Hons) (1992) (UNSW)., B.Sc Dip.Ed., (1991) (UNSW)	15.5	F/T	Science Y 7 & 9 Biology Y11 & 12
Ms Elizabeth Moore	i	M.Mus (2001) (UNSW), B.Mus.Ed (1989) (USYD)	16	0.6	Music Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12
Mrs Karen Moss	i	B. Ed (1991) (ACU) B. Ec (1996) (MQ)	11	0.7	Geography Y 8, 9 & 10 History Y7
Mrs Victoria Nicolas	i	B. Sc., B. Ed (1994) (UNSW)	11	0.5	Maths Y8 & 12
Mrs Elizabeth Owen	i	B. Ed. (Art) (1980) (Alexander Mackie), Guild Member: Aust. Soc. Calligraphers	29	0.7	Visual Arts Y7, 8, 10 & 12
Miss Sharyn Owen	i	B Ec (1995) Macq; Member Institute Chartered Accountants (1997) DipEd (2006) UNSW	3	F/T	Business Studies Y11 & 12 Commerce Y9 Geography Y8

Mr Brian Scott Page	i	BA Dip Ed (2002) Macq	5	F/T	History Y 7 & 10 Geography Y8, 9 & 10
Ms Beverley Paskin	i	B. Ed (Art) (1984) (SCAE) Post Grad Cert Career Ed (2006) (ACU)	12	0.7	Visual Arts Y 7, 8, 9 & 11 Careers
Mrs Marion Pырlik	i	M Teach (1991) JLU Giessen	12	F/T	Music Y7 & 8 German Y7 & 8 French Y10
Mrs Ariana Ryan	i	B.Ed (Hons) (1992) (USYD)	16	0.65	English Y8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 English Enrichment
Mr Kristopher Simak	i	B A (2006) (UWS) Dip Ed (2007) Wesley	1 <sup>st</sup> year teacher	F/T	IPT Y11 & 12 SDD Y11 IST Y 9 & 10 Technology Y7
Mr Gary Watson	i	B. Ed (1998) (UWS) Cert IV Assessment and Workplace Training (2004) (TAFE)	22	F/T	Engineering Y11 & 12 Technology Y 7 & 8 Design & Technology Y9 Christian Studies Y11
Mrs Philippa Wood	i	B. Mus. Ed (Hons) (1997) (USYD)	12	0.4	Music Y8, 9, 10 & 11
Ms Andrea Young	i	B Env Sci (2005) (ACU) Grad Dip Ed (2006) (ACU)	2	F/T	Science Y 8, 9 & 10 Senior Science Y11 & 12

## INFORMATION ABOUT TEACHING STAFF – BEECROFT CAMPUS

Name of Teacher	Category	Formal Qualifications	No. of years teaching experience	Full/Part time	Class/Years/Subjects Taught
Mr Dean Smith	i	M.A. Leadership (Columbia University) B.Ed., Dip. Teach. M.A.C.E.L.	16	F/T	Head of Junior School
Mr Derek Armstrong	i	B. App. Science (Speech Path), B.Ed	7	F/T	Year 3
Mrs Tennille Arnold	i	B. Ed (Primary)	5	F/T	Year 2
Mrs Best-Clarke	i	Diploma of Children's Services	8	P/T	Preschool
Mrs Cathy Bigalow Lane	i	B. Design Communications, 1 year Design Dip. Cert TAFE, Educ.	7	P/T	Visual Arts
Miss Melissa Black	i	B. Phys Ed, Dip Ed	3	F/T	K-2 PE, 7-10 PDHPE
Mrs Marina Clarke	i	B.A. (Hons), Grad Dip. Ed. Primary, Grad Dip Ed LOTE	24	P/T	K-6 French
Mrs Wendy Coggins	i	B.App.SC (Sp Path) MSPAA, CPSP	27	P/T	Speech Pathology
Mr David Collison	i	M. Teach (Primary)	1 <sup>st</sup> year	F/T	Year 2
Mrs Marilyn Cox	i	T.C. (Balmain Teachers' College)	32	F/T	Year 6, Stage 3 Coordinator
Mrs Ruth Gallagher	i	Dip Teach UTS	20	F/T	Year 4
Miss Laura Geraghty	i	B. Teach (Primary)	10	F/T	Kindergarten
Mr James Giovanelli	i	B.A., Dip Ed.	7	F/T	Year 5
Miss Elise Girdlestone	i	B. Ed Early Childhood	10	F/T	Preschool Director
Mrs Elisabeth James	i	B.Ed. AMus A, L Mus A (Primary)	15	P/T	3-6 Music

Mrs Jo Graham	i	B.Ed., Dip Teach.	27	F/T	Resource Coordinator
Ms Blythe Ledsam	i	B. Teach, B Ed, Grad Cert ICT ED	12	F/T	K-6 ICT
Mrs Anne Low	i	T. Cert (Bathurst) Dip. Teach (Bathurst)	30	P/T	RFF
Ms Nicolette Lucas	i	B. Ed Early Childhood	9	F/T	Year 1
Mrs Shelley McKaysmith	i	B.Teach, B.Ed. (Primary)	7	F/T	Year 5
Mrs Debra Lumsden	i	B.Ed., (Special Ed) Hons	5	F/T	Resource
Mrs Lesley McCann	i	Dip Teach Early Childhood	5	P/T	Preschool
Ms Eliza Monaghan	i	B. Educ. (Primary)	1	F/T	PDHPE (Year 3-6)
Miss Angelina Panov	i	B. Teach Early Childhood, B. Ed	8	F/T	Year 2
Mrs Bernadette Pratt	i	B. Ed, Grad Dip Spec Ed, COEG	?	F/T	G.T Coordinator
Ms Marcia Richards	i	B.Ed (1997) (USYD), Grad Dip. Ed (2004)	11	F/T	Director of Curriculum
Mrs Jenny Rodgers	i	B. Ed (Syd)	20	F/T	Year 3, Stage 2 Coordinator
Rev Mark Rundle	i	B.A. (Syd), Dip.Ed, B.D, Dip. Min., M.A. (Theol)	12	F/T	Chaplain
Mrs Sibyll Russell	i	No formal qualifications	30	F/T	Pre-school assistant
Mrs Lorelle Shelley	i	T.C (Syd) Dip Teach (Mitchell)	40	F/T	Infants Coordinator, Kindergarten
Mrs Amy Smith	i	B. A, Dip Ed	4.5	F/T	Kindergarten
Mrs Kim Thompson	i	B.A. (Psych) M.A. (Pass) (Psych) BAPS	20	P/T	Counsellor
Mrs Jane Tinworth	i	B. Teach (Prim), B.Ed.		F/T	Kindergarten
Mr Luke Tooker	i	B. Arts (Syd), Grad Dip Design Sc (Syd) M. Teach (Syd), Grad Cert Pastoral Care & Boarding Management (Roehampton UK)	4	F/T	Year 4
Miss Phillippa Williams	i	B. Ed.	26	F/T	Year 6
Mrs Fiona Woodhouse	i	B.A, Dip IM (Lib), Dip Ed	8	F/T	K-6 Library
Mrs Louise Yarham	i	B.App.SC (O.T.) MA (Ed.)	24	P/T	Occupational Therapy

Throughout 2007, a whole-School emphasis was placed on the Quality Teaching and Learning Frameworks when planning units of work and using assessment. David Smith (our Educational Consultant from Sydney University) has been instrumental in bringing this professional change and challenge to the staff. Many staff were also involved in a variety of courses including: the New Scheme Teachers' Induction Program, Teachers' and Chaplains' Professional Development Day, Behavioural Management with Bill Rodgers, and Reading Recovery. Staff were also trained in IT, focusing on myArden, the new moodle web portal. Teachers were encouraged to integrate this technology into the classrooms. All staff were trained in Senior First Aid, Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Occupational Health and Safety.

To further their professional development staff attended a large number of workshops offered by the NSW Board of Studies, Junior School Heads Association Australia (JSHAA), Association of Independent Schools (AIS) and Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia (AHISA). We were delighted to have a large proportion of our Epping staff involved in both Higher School Certificate and School Certificate marking. Some have also been seconded to committees at the Board of Studies and have been writers for our major State examinations. The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning at the school was \$490.

## **AREA 5: TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION RATES**

In 2008, the average daily staff attendance rate was 97%. In 2007, the average was also 97%.

The proportion of staff retained from 2007 is 94%. The proportion of staff retained from 2006 was 85%.

## **AREA 6: STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION RATES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

In 2008, the average daily student attendance rate was 93 %. This was similar to the daily attendance rate of 2007.

Nearly 60 % of the 2006 Year 10 cohort completed Year 12 in 2008. As this was our inaugural Year 12 we are unable to make comment about retention rates for this year group.

## **AREA 7: POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS**

Based on the information provided, the following data is evident for school leavers from Years 10 - 12 over the age of 15 years in 2008:

- 50 % of school leavers over the age of 15 at the end of 2008 went to another Educational Institution such as a Public school citing family, financial or other personal reasons.
- 28 % of school leavers over the age of 15 at the end of 2008 went to another Educational Institution such as a school specialising in the Arts/Performing Arts/Vocational Training citing a shift in educational focus (specialisation) or for personal reasons.
- 22 % of school leavers over the age of 15 at the end of 2008 went to another Private (Independent or Catholic) school citing family or other personal reasons

A snapshot of the post school destinations of the Yr12 Arden class of 2008

Arden is a school that takes seriously its purpose to prepare students for opportunities in the world beyond. The whole school supports the career education that is implicit in subject areas, extra curricular and school service as well as the specific programs coordinated by the careers adviser.

During 2008 the careers adviser gathered information about the desired destinations of the year 12 class of 2008. This can be regarded as a “wish list” survey. This information was gathered with a view to provide the assistance and information needed to enable students to reach their individual goals. When the HSC results came out, the school was provided with information about university offers that were made by the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC). Early in 2009 students were invited to respond to a survey about arriving at their first post school destination. A more detailed report that looks at all of the information gathered has been prepared for the school executive, the main findings of which follow.

### **The “wish list” survey – early 2008**

At this time most students were interested in university related tertiary courses. 27 students chose university compared to 9 who chose vocational or trade courses. Of the university courses that

students expressed an interest in, the most popular were Arts and Sciences, closely followed by Business and Computer Science. There was also interest in Performing Arts, Engineering, Design/Fine Arts and Education. Of the 9 students who were interested in vocational courses, 4 were interested in Hospitality.

### **UAC offers – January 2009**

Of the 38 students who were the Arden class of 2008, 26 that is 68% received offers of places (some students received more than one offer) at universities through UAC. The offers made to 26 students compares favourably with the fact that only 27 students desired to enter universities when they completed the “Wish List” survey at the beginning of the HSC year.

### **The Post School Destination Survey February 2009**

#### **Levels of satisfaction with HSC & UAI Results**

The survey sample was fairly small with only 12 out of the 38 students responding. 75% of surveyed students were pleased or thrilled with their HSC results.

#### **Comparison of the students earlier expressed career goals with their final destinations**

The majority of graduating students were at the post school destination that they had expressed in the “wish list” at the beginning of year 12. Only 2 students had changed their career preference completely: one student from Accounting/Engineering to Information Communication and Technology and the other student from History/ Journalism to Fine Arts/Arts.

#### **Trends in the destinations of students**

Of the 12 students, 11 were engaged in full-time tertiary study, 9 were studying at university and 2 were studying at TAFE. One student was on a “gap-year” program.

#### **Proportion of students who achieved their first choice of destination**

Of the 12 students surveyed 7 were offered their first preference of Course and Institution, with one student choosing a gap year. Of the 12 students 5 were not offered their first choice of Course and Institution. Of these 5 all had accepted an offer of a very similar course at an alternate Institution.

#### **Sponsorship of students**

Of the 12 students surveyed 2 had been offered sponsorship for study/work. One student was offered a Cadetship with Price Waterhouse Coopers. One student was awarded the Academic Achievement Award scholarship with the University of NSW.

#### **Levels of engagement of students in career paths**

Of the 12 students surveyed all 12 were engaged in some career related study or work.

## **Conclusion**

Students of the of the Arden class of 2008 expressed interest in a wide range of post school destinations most of which involved tertiary study. Almost all who desired university entrance were made an offer of a place. Those students who did not receive their first choice of course were wise enough to gain a place in a similar course offered by an alternative institution. Some students had achieved awards of sponsorship for their studies. It was pleasing to note that all surveyed students were involved in some career related work or study and thus were engaged in society. It will be interesting to continue to survey our school graduands over the longer period and map the patterns that may emerge.

## **AREA 8: ENROLMENT POLICIES AND PROFILES**

Arden is a comprehensive co-educational Pre-school-Year 12, providing an education underpinned by Christian values and operating within the policies of the NSW Board of Studies. All applications will be processed in order of receipt and consideration will be given to the applicant's support for the ethos of the School, siblings already attending the school and other criteria clearly articulated in the Enrolment Policy. Once enrolled, students and their families are expected to be fully supportive of the School's ethos and comply with the School rules to maintain the enrolment.

### **Procedures**

1. All applications will be processed within the School's enrolment policy.
2. Consideration given to each applicant's supporting statement / interview responses regarding their ability and willingness to support the School's ethos.
3. Consideration given to each applicant's educational needs. To do this, the School will need to gather information and consult with the parents/family, previous school(s) and other relevant persons.
4. Inform the applicant of the outcome.

The School has 690 students of whom 340 are in the Secondary School. Overall, there are approximately equal numbers of boys and girls throughout the School. As it is a comprehensive school, the students come from a wide range of backgrounds, including language background other than English and a number of students with special needs.

## **AREA 9: SCHOOL POLICIES**

School Policies are available on our school website. Additionally, Arden produces handbooks containing policies for each family in both campuses and for the Preschool. They include Welfare, Child Protection and Discipline. These are assessed and evaluated by staff and the School community from time to time. In 2008 Discipline Policy was reviewed in the Junior Campus. OH&S policies have been developed across the entire School and are available for viewing on the School Intranet.

### **Student Welfare**

The protection of children and young people from abuse and neglect is given the highest priority at Arden. The School has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and it is the responsibility of all staff to apply its contents stringently in accordance with their legal responsibilities. The School Chaplain is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the School community, with particular emphasis



<input type="checkbox"/> Sun Safety Policy		
<i>Security Policies encompassing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Administration of Medication Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Administration of Medication Policy for Outdoor Education & Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Amenities Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Threats Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Arden Sport Transportation Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Safety Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Safety Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Staff Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Computer & Laptop Computer Policies <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Incident Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Safety Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Evacuation Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Planning Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Errands Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Excursions Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Excursions Medication Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Safety Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Incident Report Forms <input type="checkbox"/> Library Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Lockdown Procedures for each Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Management Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment Form, Matrix & Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Science Department Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers Safety Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Work Experience Policy	Nil	Full Text on School Intranet  Text of Accident Procedure & OH&S Policies in Staff Handbook
<i>Student Welfare &amp; Pastoral Care Policy encompassing</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Body Image and Eating Disorder Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection Checklist <input type="checkbox"/> Homework Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Behaviour Reinforcement Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Student Leadership Program	Nil	Full Text in Staff Handbook  Text of Bullying Policy & Homework Policy Information Booklets  Text of Positive Behaviour Reinforcement Policy in Student Diary

## Reporting Complaints and Resolving Grievances

Should a member of the School community have any concern or grievance they should follow the procedure outlined:

1. In areas related to classroom they should speak with the staff member concerned in the first instance.
2. Should the matter not be resolved then the matter should be referred to Stage Co-ordinator/Lower Secondary/Senior Secondary Coordinators.
3. If a satisfactory solution has not been reached the Head of School at either campus should be informed.
4. If the situation is still unresolved the matter should be referred to the Principal.
5. Matters of continued concern should be referred, in writing, to the Chairman of the School Council who will refer the matter to one of the following:

- Education Committee of School Council
- School Council
- Department of Community Services Met. North (in the case of Preschool)
- Community Services Commission (in the case of Preschool)

## AREA 10: SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

### Priorities for 2008

Arden began its secondary school in 2003 as a result of the continued demand for a school which could accommodate students in Year 7-12. As a result, we are progressing each year through to Year 12 in 2008. A property was purchased at Epping and now leased at Cambridge has allowed this development to occur. We have been progressively seeking accreditation for each year level with the Board of Studies. Each Year has been approved by the Board of Studies. In 2007, our first group of Year 12 commenced with the writing and teaching of our HSE programmes. Obviously the secondary school development has been a priority within the community.

### Achievements of priorities for 2008

Area	Priorities	Achievements
Teaching and Learning	Assessment	Ongoing discussions were held during full school professional development days for staff, at Curriculum Committee meetings with Heads of Departments and Stage Coordinators, and at department level. Discussions focused on assessment 'for' learning, and assessment 'of' learning. Review of assessment structures, student tasks and feedback were a focus in workshops and at department level.
	AGQTP Professional Standards	A team of four staff from the secondary school examined materials and requirement procedures for New Scheme Teachers to meet the Professional Competence qualification. A compact professional learning support pack was created for use by New Scheme staff across K to 12. Additional materials were developed to assist those in various mentoring roles within the school.
	ICT	The School Council contributed some \$ 107,000 towards the roll out of Computers, data projectors and whiteboards for each classroom at the Beecroft campus. This has enhanced so much of the learning and teaching within the campus. Ms Blythe Ledsam co-ordinated staff training and establishment of Computer programmes at Beecroft. Our IT manager Mr Richard Doel Mackaway instigated systems and installation across both campuses but specifically Cambridge centre enabling a wireless system to operate and a link between all three campus areas of Arden. This also gave a security card system to record and track student movements in the senior school. In Term 4 Mr Anton Kraus joined the staff and continued to develop the facilities but more specifically security and Data base management throughout the school.

<b>Student achievements</b>		<p>As well over 110 students have been part of our own Enrichment Program, a withdrawal program led by Mrs Pratt which is conducted on a weekly basis. Topics have included Ancient Egypt, Australian Inventions, a new science investigation program called SPECTRA and much more. Thirty five students entered the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry competition with Madeleine Johnson and Jonathon Parkin from Year 2 runners-up in the Lower Primary section. Edward Koorey, Year 4, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the RSL “Australia My Country” competition and five of our students were awarded Certificates of Merit.</p> <p>Approximately 80 students are a part of enrichment programmes at the Secondary campus. We continue to foster our stars of the future in aspects of Sport and Music where are gives many opportunities to pursue excellence.</p>
<b>Student Welfare</b>	The weekly meeting of the Pastoral Care Committee. Strong development of the Student Representative Council from K-11.	Individual needs were addressed through our Counsellor, our Resource Team, and our Chaplain.
<b>Staff Training</b>	Combined Staff Development Days	<p>Combined Staff Days had a focus on assessment across the whole school ,first aid and teaching practice . Practises of assessment for learning were reviewed and new documentation was produced. The Beecroft Campus also spent some time on professional development, focusing on the areas of literacy and numeracy. All staff focused on assessment 'for learning' and 'of learning' to consolidate teaching and learning practices for K to 12. This focus for professional learning of staff will continue into 2009.</p> <p>Staff attended a large number of workshops offered by the NSW Board of Studies, Junior School Heads Association (JSHAA), Association of Independent Schools (AIS), Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia (AHISA), and subject specific professional bodies for secondary staff.</p>
	Leading from the Middle	Throughout 2008, a whole school focus called ‘Leading from the Middle’ was provided for Heads of Departments, Coordinators and Executive Staff. This was an opportunity for Arden to review the management practises so as to be most effective for organisational decision making and policy formation. Ms. Glynis Jones, a consultant with many years experience with Association of Independent Schools, acted as an independent consultant working along side senior staff.
	Staff Accreditation	This year Arden was awarded an AGQTP Professional Standards grant through the Association of Independent Schools. A team of four staff (Mrs Jo Webb, Mrs Victoria Nicolas, Ms Sharyn Owen and Dr Maree Skillen) from the secondary school examined materials and the requirement procedures for New Scheme Teachers to meet this

		qualification. A compact professional learning support pack was created for use by New Scheme staff (K-12) and those in various mentoring roles.
<b>Facilities and resources</b>	Launching of the Senior School Years 10, 11 and 12.	Establishing the Senior Studies Centre at Cambridge for students in Year 10, 11 & 12. This centre opened on the first day of the school year. After a flurry of building activity, parent helpers unpacking and constructing furniture Year 11 and 12 began their senior year in this most unique and stimulating learning environment. Cambridge Senior Study centre has become a transition to University and corporate life with its glassed walled classrooms looking out onto the corporate world with high levels of technology available in an open plan study area .
	Secondary Facilities	Work is now completed at Epping to a total of \$217,000 total over a 2 year period including- Disabled access, Hydraulic lift, steps and ramps.
	Primary Facilities	A grant of \$60,000 which were offered in 2007 for Beecroft Play space redevelopment.
	Grants	We have made applications to the Government for a Trade Centre and also a Infrastructure grant to assist in the redevelopment of Exeter, our music centre shared with the Epping Scouts. We await the decision of the funding committees. We have also been able to receive assistance for some students with learning difficulties , a Numeracy and Literacy grant , LOTE , a AGQTP Professional Standards grant, Quality Teaching and assistance with TAFE and Vet courses in the last twelve months. We thanks the State and Federal Governments for their support through grants and recurrent funding.

## **AREA 11: INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY**

When a child enters Kindergarten, a Year 6 girl or boy is designated as 'Godparent'. The older ones help the younger ones settle in and there are special occasions arranged during the year between the Kindergarten children and their 'Godparents'.

In the Secondary School, Year 10 students undertake Peer Support leadership training and elect to take on this role in Year 11. Year 7 students are divided into small groups and are mentored by two Year 11 Peer Support Leaders through a series of sessions related to belonging, self discipline and respect of others. Year 11 Peer Support Leaders also develop through regular visits to junior Tutor Groups on a weekly basis. Prefects and other senior students regularly visit junior Tutor Groups to develop links between junior and senior students that will reinforce the Christian values of the School and support the development of House spirit.

Sharing with others is a practical outworking of the School's Christian ethos. From voluntary giving or special efforts, money is collected and placed into a Charity account. Some of the charities we assisted in 2008 were: *Anglicare, World Vision, Variety Club, Tabitha Foundation, Exodus Foundation, Cancer Council, Crusader Union, Church Missionary Society, Jeans for Genes, RSPCA, CanTeen and TEAR.*

From a very early age the students are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility. The theory is

brought into practice by allocating students duties and providing situations where they are placed in positions of responsibility. Library Monitors are selected from Year 6 students. In Terms, 1, 2 and 3, Year 6 students are given the opportunity to carry out monitors duties which involve a variety of important organisational tasks around the School. The highest level of responsibility at the Beecroft campus is seen in the Year 6 Student Council which is elected by a consensus vote from their peer group and staff at the end of each year. Announcement of Student Council Officers for the following year is made towards the end of the year.

Student Representative Councils at both campuses continued to work on a variety of projects. The purpose for setting up the SRC is to empower Arden students to actively participate in Target Projects in which they feel they are able to make a constructive difference to the school and wider community, fostering a lifelong desire to be citizens who contribute positively to society as a whole.

**The SRC membership consists of:**

- 1 member per Year per House in the Secondary School, and the School Vice Captains (2) from Year 12 who Chair this group of students
- 1 member per Grade and the Student Council in the Primary School

Beecroft Campus has focused on recycling, the ‘Friend-ship’ program and arranging a visit from St Lucy’s Special School.

**Target Areas:**

- Christian Outreach
- Environmental Issues
- Community Service/Action
- Student Welfare

Epping Student Representative Council was responsible for initiating the new School Cap, and supporting the Sri Lankan orphanages through fundraising.

Meetings are regularly arranged by the coordinators of the SRC at each Campus.

One House Captain will be elected each year from Year 11 students and they will work with the SRC to provide leadership within each House. Year 11 students also nominate to be Peer Support Leaders for younger students within the School.

**AREA 12: PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION**

**Parents’ Activities**

This year Arden parent bodies moved their Annual General Meetings to Term 4. This was done to enable the incoming community to become established before the commencement of Term 1 and the many events of welcome and organisation for the school year.

Thanks to the outgoing leaders of each of the parent groups, namely Parents and Friends, Mothers Club and Epping Auxiliary. These three leaders have for some time lead each of these groups by great example and enthusiasm as they have upheld the three pillars of the Arden parent activities

being Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising last. We congratulate the new leaders of the Parents and Friends, Mothers Club and Epping Auxiliary on their election as our Presidents for 2009 – an Arden Fair year.

The Parents and Friends committees arranged for a number of family activities this year, with the Arden Picnic and Ball being the highlights. The picnic had a new venue which allowed for all activities and games in the one area. The new House coloured tents were displayed for the first time and the bike races were great fun, as always. The Ball was held at the the Crown Plaza at Parramatta and was a wonderful success. Many people commented on the great atmosphere and service on the night.

Working Bees were amazing in the later part of the year as many parents came to beautify both campuses but specifically to excavate under the Epping wood work room for future storage areas. Over 50 tonnes of earth has been removed and we hope this will continue in the New Year, enabling much needed storage for all school activities in the future.

Whether it is in the classroom, reading groups, on the sporting fields, canteens, clothing pool, working bees, transport and coaching, parents are valued for all their help.

Formal communication between parents and teachers is encouraged through the school newsletter, semester reports, parent-teacher interviews and communication in the School diary.

Informal feedback from teachers and discussions with Heads of Department and Stage Coordinators provide opportunity for staff feedback in terms of morale, school operations, work roles and recognition. There has been little movement of staff to other schools and Arden continues to attract staff with experience and a desire to be a part of a new and developing school.

**AREA 13: SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION**

