“I was extremely proud of our senior students who organised and supported a number of combined initiatives.”

From the Principal

Usually, when reflecting on the year that has been, there are a number of memorable events that are easy to recall. For me, 2009 will always be remembered for a catastrophic event which happened many hundreds of kilometres from Genesis. I refer, of course, to the Victorian bushfires.

Who will ever forget the haunting pictures that for days were beamed into our living rooms? A visit to the ABC news website, even nine months after the event, is still a harrowing experience. The space on this page does not permit an exposé into our admiration for the brave men and women who were either victims or the heroes that fought the fires. However, the human response to the scale of the tragedy, confirmed that the resilience of the Australian spirit is awe inspiring.

It was this spirit, fight and determination that touched the hearts of people right across our great nation. Similarly, our students demonstrated an inspiring level of enthusiasm and empathy in their attempts to fundraise for all those affected. Almost every class submitted ideas and requested support. It took careful coordination to ensure that all fundraising ideas were considered and that the best were implemented. In the end, I was extremely proud of our senior students who organised and supported a number of combined initiatives.

As a result, generous cheques were sent to the Red Cross, Country Fire Authority and two Christian Schools. A cheque was also sent to the North Queensland Flood Appeal. This tangible and willing support characterised so many of the values that our students are being presented with. In James 2:14-17 we read about faith and actions. It was, therefore, very pleasing to see our College community not just professing to have faith but putting faith into action by responding to the needs of others.

2009 QUT Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship Recipient Daniel Mellish

Daniel Mellish (class of 2008) was amongst three Pine Rivers students to be awarded a $6000 scholarship to study at QUT. Daniel was honoured to receive the scholarship and planned to study a Bachelor of Engineering. This select group of first-year students who receive the scholarship from QUT’s Vice Chancellor Peter Coaldrake, achieve the scholarship by attaining an OP score of 1 or 2 and excelling in leadership, community service and extracurricular activities.

Well done! QUT Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake presents Daniel Mellish with his Vice-Chancellors Scholarship with Genesis Christian College Principal, Brian Barker

Find old friends and new on the Genesis Alumni Facebook Group. This Group has been set up specifically for Genesis Christian College alumni. We are continually trying to improve and sustain contact with our alumni and have found many of you would like us to bridge the generation gap and use the internet.

We believe that using Facebook will aid us in our quest to stay in contact with you and allow for fast, efficient communication.

We will be able to give you up to date information and inform you about upcoming events. This will also give you the opportunity to maintain contact with Genesis Christian College, informing us of important milestones or change of address. This group will allow you to stay in contact with your peers long after you have left school.

Where to find us: www.facebook.com Genesis Christian College - Alumni. You can also search for us in student groups/alumni groups. There is also a Fan page for our past students as well as alumni of Genesis Christian College.
Ben Warren

Former Genesis Christian College student, Ben Warren, made his Australian Football League (AFL) debut on Sunday 19 April 2009. Ben a Genesis student for 9 years, held and still holds many athletic records at Genesis.

Drafted by the North Melbourne Kangaroos just over 2 years ago, Ben played his first game for the Kangaroos against Essendon. His jumper number is 35.

Ben is the first student from Genesis to play at an elite professional level in any sport. Having to replace the player who taught him the most, veteran player Corey Jones, Ben spoke respectfully of him in a May interview.

“For the last two years he has watched nearly every one of my VFL games with me and gone through and given me little pointers here and there and you can’t buy the experience he’s had. During the week we have to go through our vision with the coach and he always sits in with me and has been a massive help, a massive reason why I’ve improved.”

Ben, affectionately known as “Milky” to the club, played 9 games before suffering a serious leg injury in late June. After returning from a fractured cheekbone, Ben broke his right ankle during round 13, ruling him out for the remainder of the 2009 season.

Want to follow Bens career? Just head to the North Melbourne Kangaroos website: www.kangaroos.com.au

Wendy Keeble

Teaching Staff 1999-2009

Mrs Wendy Keeble retired from full time teaching during June 2009.

“I have really enjoyed my 10 years at Genesis and I have seen many great changes. I have had the privilege of working with some really lovely people and have enjoyed teaching numerous students, not to mention encouraging parents along the way,” explained Mrs Keeble upon announcing her retirement.

Now she’s excited about the prospect of working for God in a different area of life, we wish Mrs Keeble all the best for her future.

Wendy Keeble

The Pastoral Care Team: (Left to right) Jane Beaumont, Sherrie Brook, Faye Kirkham, Adam Schoenmaker and Jason Sharrock

Returning to Genesis

Adam Schoenmaker (Class of 2004) has returned to Genesis to work in our Pastoral Care department.

Adam who also uses his musical talents in the worship team at his church, is looking forward to working with the young people at Genesis and bringing God’s word to life with practical applications for today’s generation.

Completing a Bachelor of Business from QUT in 2009 Adam’s passion for youth has led him back to Genesis while he undertakes a Master of Divinity.
Chairman’s Report

Mr Rob Schoenmaker NBCSA Chairman

The 2009 year was another successful one for Genesis Christian College. Enrolment growth during 2009 continued from previous years and our numbers hovered around 1050. Despite the difficult economic climate Genesis has not only been able to grow, it has also expanded future school capacity to cope with the expected enrolment growth in the future.

Five Year Strategic Plan: Genesis conducted an extensive process over several months to update our Strategic Plan and present a forward looking plan for the next five years. A consultative process involving parents, staff, students and Board with the assistance of an experienced facilitator resulted in an extensive plan with its key statements as follows:

Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide high quality education that develops a passion for lifelong learning, Christian character and a desire to serve God in the wider community.

Vision Statement: We deliver innovative, relevant education that develops personal excellence and school pride within a safe Christ-centred environment.

New Head of Secondary School: Our new Head of Secondary School, Mr Angus Martin has stepped up to the role at Genesis and has settled well into the leadership team.

Farewell Class of 2009: It is again a proud moment for the College to witness the graduation of 58 Year 12 students from the Class of 2009. Many of the students have been with the College since Preschool.

Property News: The opening of the new Administration Building in May has been long awaited and a tremendous addition to the facilities at Genesis providing a central service area for both students and parents.

Considerable time has been spent on a new multipurpose facility to be completed during 2010. The building will consist of a drama theatre with in-door sports capabilities and additional classrooms for drama, music and dance.

Trent Grimsey

Trent Grimsey was selected to represent Australia at the 2009 FINA World Championships in Rome. Trent was in Rome to compete in the 5km and 10km races but after a disappointing finish 16th and 8th respectively he decided to enter the 25km open water swim.

Despite never having swum further than 10km Trent almost stole Gold on debut! Although conditions were difficult for swimming, with heavy cross-shore winds creating waves at turning buoys and jellyfish constantly harassing the athletes at Ostia beach, Trent took the lead into the final lap and looked on track for Australia’s second gold medal of the open water competition.

After 5 hours 26 minutes 31.6 seconds Italian hero Valerio Cleri charged home in the final 400m to secure Gold, only 19.1 seconds ahead of Trent. “I was feeling pretty good until about 400m to go but once I saw the gap open up I knew I couldn’t catch him. It was the first time I’ve swum anything more than 10km so I’m pretty excited,” said Trent, of his first ever International medal.

Class of 2009

Brita Berggren
Hayley Blain
James Brent
Tayla Corrie
Alicia Cripps
Belle Cubillan (Dux)
Chloe Dahlin
Cormac Doyle
Christopher du Plessis (Dux)
Nathalie Fay
Matthew Fein
Kacie Flett
Constant Furstenberg
John Gappi
Benjamin Gettens
Jonathan Gollagher
Matthew Greene
Melissa Herweynen
Soraya Hirth
Robert Holman
Trevor Hooper
Shaun Hopkinson
Jesse Hunter
Marie-Louise Jensen-Feilding
Hayley Kasson
Tara King
Zoe Kirby
Jerome Landicho
Stephanie Larkin
Jordan Lyod-Jones
Makala Lovett
Mitchell McCarron (Valedictorian)
Kyran McKeown
Olivia Moss
Rhyann Noble
Caitlin O’Halloran
Benjamin Oxenham
Kia Peapapu
Zachary Potter
Joel Revie
Naomi Ross
Kasannandra Ryan
Jamie Sadler
Christina Samuel
Brittany Schoenmaker
Chloe Simmons
Rebekah Small
Daniel Smith
Makayla Smith
Joel Smythe
Madelaine Symonds
Nikita Turner
Brent Van Abkoude
Fiona Walker
Mitchell Walls
Jessica Whiteley
Zachary Wicham
Alana Williams

New multi purpose facility completed

In fact, the enrolment growth was so strong in 2009, the Board considered a proposal to expand from 3 to 4 stream in Prep & Year 6. After extensive consideration of the cost and benefits, it was decided to proceed in 2010 and beyond.

The end result for the year: We continue to be blessed with strong enrolment growth. Genesis now has an enrolment exceeding 1,000 students and has had to grow considerably to enable the College to cater for more Christian families.

Our property plans, which were supposed to be going through a period of consolidation, have changed dramatically with the additional BER grants and the growth planned in the primary / middle school.

I would like us all to continue to pray for the blessings that we have in Genesis Christian College. It is an excellent College of which our Alumni students can be proud to call their school.
Mitchell McCarron – 2009 Valedictorian

“Our time at Genesis has been supported by a network of caring teachers, staff and administrators who have dedicated their time to foster our emotional and personal growth. Yes, this is the same group of staff who seemingly enjoyed issuing detentions, litter duty and uniform inspections.”

“We thank the community of Genesis for their overwhelming support where we have been able to grow in faith without fear of ridicule or judgment. We thank our family and friends who are always there to help us through difficult times.”

“What made this journey so memorable is the experiences we have had along the way. Personally, I believe what defined our grade was the Year 11 Camp at Emu Gully. Through the activities we completed, we discovered what teamwork really meant, making personal sacrifices for the sake of others. After this camp, we had a stronger understanding of one another, which ultimately prepared us for our final year of schooling.”

“To the current Year 11s, I ask you not to wish your final year of school away. Instead, embrace the challenges and difficulties that lie ahead. Your final year will pass with the blink of an eye. Take the opportunities that come your way, make friendships that will last a lifetime, and understand you will soon be the senior students of the school. Represent Genesis proudly; you are the role models for the younger grades and students will look to you to set an example.

“To my classmates, I challenge you to fulfill your hopes and dreams. As the greatest basketball player of all time, Michael Jordan, once said, “Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it”. Don’t be afraid to follow your heart and passion.”

Mitchell was the 2009 recipient of the “Pierre de Coubetin” Certificate, Thompsons Sports Leadership Award, Susan Hay ‘Best and Fairest’ Award & the Caltex Best All Rounder Award.

Congratulations!

Marriages

17.01.09  Jessica Patterson (class of 2004) & Anthony Muhling (class of 2004)

2009 Adam Glegg (class of 2004) & Helen Mirrins

24.07.09  Rashelle Kelly (class of 2006) & Zayn Bischoff

Graduations

2009 Adam Glegg (class of 2004)

Honours Div B
Steve Van Der Ros (class of 2004) QUT Bachelor of Information Technology – with Distinction; Bachelor of Education (Secondary) – First Class Honours & QUT Medal Recipient
Kirstin Lee (class of 2003) James Cook University - Bachelor of Education (Secondary).

Engagements
Angela Lodder (class of 2006) & Evan Black
Steve Van Der Ros (class of 2004) & Kathryn Clem
Shelley Thatcher (class of 2006) & Ryan Van’t Veldt (class of 2006)
Lydia Foley (class of 2004) & Tim Howell
Monique Gardiner (class of 2005) & Mick Jackson

London calling?
Daniel Gourlay (class of 2006)
During 2009 Daniel secured the role of Sparticus in the stage show “Lazy Town Live”. Daniel is currently living in London pursuing musical theatre and dance. Great to hear Daniel is living his dream.