

Plenty Valley Christian College



Community Report 2010

IN CHRIST: WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

Introduction from the Principal



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Plenty Valley Christian College has the great privilege of educating students in close partnership with their families. We are a non-denominational College focussed on a Christian understanding of the world. We have a vision to be a learning community with the creative and responsive 'mind and spirit' of Christ as mentioned by the apostle St Paul in his letters to Christian communities long ago.

Our College values are those of trust, compassion and well-being in relationships. We value resilience, wisdom, good character and service amongst community. We value an excellence in teaching and learning that sets a school apart.

Christian foundations provide a basis for people to become the agents of transformation. The challenge is to live out Christian virtues in an Australian democratic context. We hope the College is a high-quality training ground for that purpose. We believe we have a good balance between, and focus on, pastoral care, quality teaching and learning, and operational sustainability.

Plenty Valley is an active community where staff and families work together for the common good and a well-rounded education. Whilst academic achievement is the main element of our core business, we know student learning encompasses far more than the state and national tests of achievement reveal.

In our thirtieth year of operation, I commend the fine reputation the College has for the education of the whole person.

Douglas Peck

Introduction from the Principal

Highlights of 2010

Like any community, Plenty Valley Christian College depends on all members' gifts and talents to become something greater than the individuals who make it up. We appreciate the Board of Directors role in high levels of governance right through to the interest and enthusiasm of the most recent families enrolled at the College.

Domestic and global partnerships continue to be developed by the College through our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. The outstanding features of the Program for our College remain its teaching methodology and international perspective. We are able to use its units of inquiry to present a Christian perspective in quite influential ways. In addition, the International Baccalaureate commits our teachers to a program of rigorous and continuous professional learning. The College is preparing for 'authorization' next year.

A highlight for the Secondary school was the biennial production. On this occasion, 'The Sound of Music' captivated audiences over two evenings in August. The biennial productions have set an amazing standard of performance and have gained a high level of recognition and interest in the wider community.

Also a highlight of the Secondary School calendar is the annual College missions' trip. Whilst limited to a relatively small number of students their experience of the Northern Territory, East Timor and Thailand was for them a profound and emotional occasion. Events like these are memorable in themselves, but the College leadership sees them as being amongst the highly supportive activities of engagement that underpin a learning centered on the academic disciplines and guided inquiry based methodologies.

Year-level camping excursions are also a common but great highlight in the calendar. Special mention is made here of the Year 9 program that has been broadened to include the Woolongara experience in Victoria's high country and a city-life (City-Cite) experience. All this is in addition to their annual

adventure camp and week of service to others in the general community.

College surveys of our local community help us better understand our community and to identify the opportunities for improvement. A continuing air of optimism about Plenty Valley as a great place is evident on the faces of students in photographic records. It is well founded as the changes of the past few years and those on the near horizon will lead to an even greater appreciation of the grace of God in the provision and experience of a Christian education here.

As one element of its strategic plan, the College has an educational and co-curricular framework that is summarized under four elements.

They are:

- 1. The development of a responsive Christian world-view and community.**
- 2. Quality teaching and learning.**
- 3. Engagement with the learning community, local community and wider culture.**
- 4. Development and integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning.**



Highlights of 2010

The College has appointed new staff to provide the necessary impetus to drive the new elements of this educational framework. These roles included a Community Development Officer, an ICT Manager, Director of Student Services (School-wide) and a Director of Curriculum in the Secondary school to match the time and efforts of the PYP Coordinators in the Primary school. In total, this amounts to an additional three staff for the College. The Student Services role is a P-12 position to lead the teaching and learning support areas of the College that encompass student learning at either end of the performance continuum.

At the close of 2009 the College subscribed to the Rubicon Atlas online curriculum mapping software.

The software is especially suited to the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. A curriculum map allows the College to ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum with an efficient means of describing and developing scope and sequence, and standards. Some of the many advantages of this software are the ability to leverage curriculum horizontally between years and studies, and vertically as an integrated package.

We have a three year plan to collect the necessary data, analyze the College program and undertake a P-12 review. Our P-12 strategy is to have public documentation of the curriculum presented under the headings of enduring understandings, essential questions, central ideas, skills, performance tasks, standards, assessment and resources. Rubicon Atlas staff are assisting the College with the development of templates and use of the software.

There is little doubt the subscription to this package will allow the College to readily incorporate the mandatory elements of the new Australian Curriculum and its standards into our program by 2013.

As part of its strategic plan, the College built a \$2.5M expansion of the Primary School through the Building Education Revolution stimulus funding provided by the Federal Government. State of the art buildings and facilities consist of classrooms with IWB's, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and an amenities block. Local dignitaries attended the opening in October by Rob Mitchell, the federal member for McEwen.



ANOTHER YEAR FULL OF SUCCESS!

Another year full of success!

Our College community's energy, passion and commitment to vision have made the year not only memorable, but eminently successful. A summary here can only allude to the Plenty Valley experience!

Staff:

Teachers at Plenty Valley are highly qualified and enjoy the College experience. This is reflected in the following statistics for 2010:

Average attendance rate: 90%.

Staff retention rate: 93%.

Average length of teacher service: 7.5 years.

Job satisfaction survey: 90% of all teaching staff indicated higher levels of job satisfaction, whilst 5% indicated moderate levels and 2% made no comment.

Professional Development:

Participation: 95%

Average expenditure per staff member on training and PD: \$680.

Whole College teacher : student ratio is 1:12.6

Students:

Our students continue to excel in academic, sporting, co-curricular and community based engagements. Student enjoyment of the College is reflected in their voluntary work and through the traditions of the Christian community.

This is reflected in the surveys conducted at the final year of Secondary schooling. Senior students in both sections of the College believe they have been provided an excellent education and that the College has a fine reputation in the community. Perhaps unexpectedly, some 70 - 80% in Year 12 continue to agree with this in their annual survey.

The student average attendance rate was 95%.

Literacy and Numeracy National Benchmarks: Percentage of students reaching national benchmarks over last three years. Percentage variations in the national benchmarks over a two year period may represent a single student and are in some cases due to our assistance for families with extra learning needs. The comparable years in the following table are the 2008 and 2010 cohort.

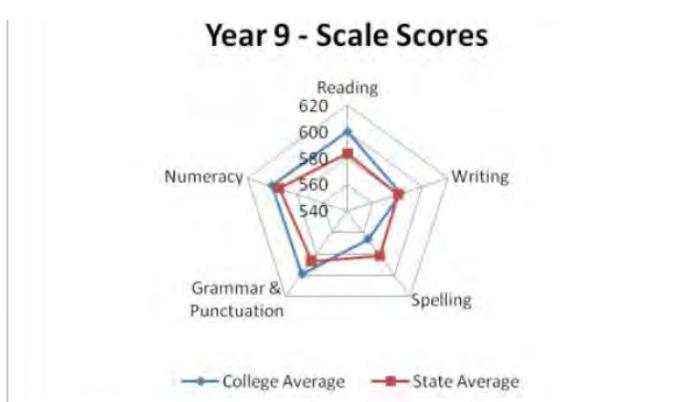
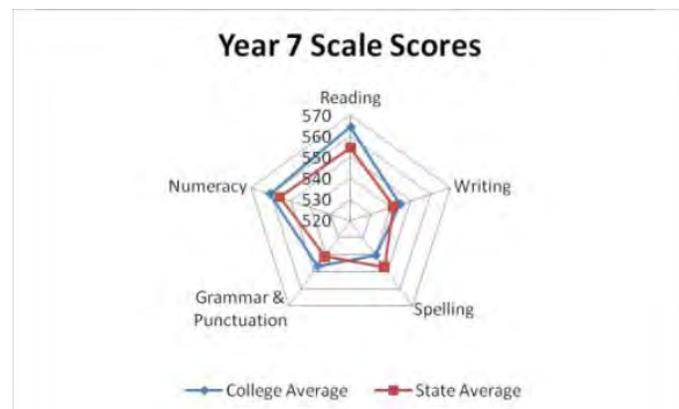
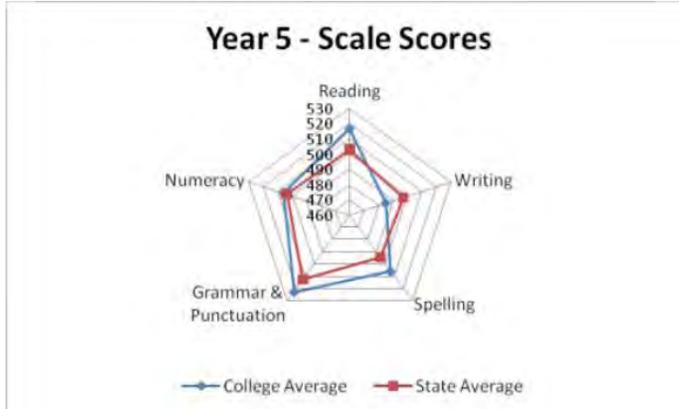
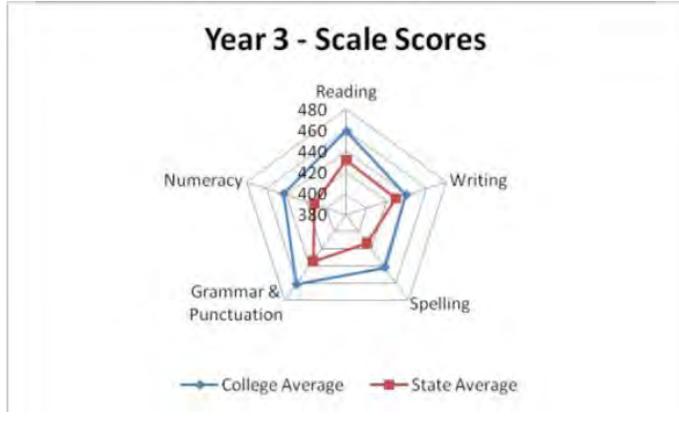
NAPLAN 2008	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	100 %	98%	100%	99%
Writing	97%	96%	99%	99%
Spelling	100%	98%	97%	99%
Grammar	97%	100%	99%	99%
Numeracy	100%	100%	100%	99%
NAPLAN 2009	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	100%	95%	100%	99%
Writing	100%	100%	100%	99%
Spelling	100%	95%	100%	95%
Grammar	100%	98%	100%	100%
Numeracy	97%	98%	100%	99%
NAPLAN 2010	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	98 %	98%	100%	98%
Writing	100%	98%	100%	95%
Spelling	96%	98%	97%	92%
Grammar	98%	100%	95%	99%
Numeracy	98%	100%	100%	100%



NAPLAN 2010

The tables below summarize the 2010 College performance on the NAPLAN relative to the state and national averages. Generally, the College has performed well in these assessments.

NAPLAN 2010



In 2010, 89% of our students enrolled in Year 9 three years prior, were studying in Year 12 at the College. Most students who leave in senior years do so because families move their residential address.

We congratulate all 62 final-year students on a fine effort in their studies. Senior students especially have left a very positive legacy of serious learning mixed with fun and enjoyment. The College community congratulates our VCE Coordinator Mrs. Janet Kelso and graduating students on their outstanding success in 2010.

Highly notable achievements came from:

- Jacinta Smyth the Dux of the College who is now enrolled in Science.
- College captain Benjamin Ramsay completed the year with the McEwen Award given for significant contribution to the College community.
- Robert Lister, Shenea Richmond and Luke Sexton who received Australian Defense Awards for leadership.
- Christina Cardile who received the City of Whittlesea Award for outstanding community service.
- Charlotte Grant who received the MMM International Award for outstanding Christian service to the College and wider community.
- Student participation in the Nillumbik Youth Summit.
- Student participation in music recitals and interschool competitive sports as sociations.
- Graduating students who have entered a diverse range of tertiary studies including accounting, law, computer systems engineering, counseling, education, commerce, engineering (civil, robotics, mechanical), industrial design, nursing, music, sports therapy, the sciences, the arts, business, health sciences, hospitality, fashion, network design and other fields of ICT.

Ninety-eight percent of applicants from Plenty Valley received first-round offers from tertiary institutions. Seventy-eight percent of these were to a university. Two percent of our senior students took up employment in preference to further studies and twelve percent deferred their studies.

Plenty Valley Christian College

College Captains Liz Tunley and Benjamin Ramsay were active in encouraging student leadership and involvement in the many College events. There was a continuing level of exemplary leadership in the Primary School with Tara Huntingford and Evania Shepherd as Primary school captains, Luke Ridley as vice-captain and Siena Frost with Bradley Connibere leading the SRC.

The College has a history of students being welcomed into the Kwong Lee Dow young scholars program at Melbourne University. This program supports students by way of study scholarships and leadership training. The 2010 scholars are Jessica Kamar and Jonathon Phillips. In addition, student leaders continue to represent our College as young Christians being offered training at the University of Queensland. Initially this is a 2 week project of studies that set the stage for mentoring these people in a Christian worldview through their tertiary studies and into their eventual careers.

Five years ago the College undertook a program of improvement in its Secondary school middle years with the express aim of improving its VCE outcomes. These were both organizational and curriculum improvements led by respective Heads of School since then. The secondary school is incorporating the 'Design for Understanding' (D4U) inquiry based learning model into its curriculum framework. D4U comes out of the Harvard University Project Zero work. We are cautiously optimistic that these changes have borne positive results in that student numbers with an ENTER > 90 have consistently doubled the 2008 number.

Similarly, with the intention of improving the quality of teaching and learning in the Primary school, we became a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program four years ago. We expect accreditation as an International Baccalaureate College in 2011. The IB-PYP is for us the methodology to achieve our educational plan in the Primary School.

In our thirtieth year of operation students participated in a day of carnival celebrations facilitated by the P&F group. Albeit a very wet day weather-wise, it was a great precursor to the formal events planned for early 2011.



Parents:

Our College is blessed by its families. Parental involvement is at all levels, from governance to voluntary assistance in class-rooms and College functions. A team of dedicated parents in the P&F group plan special community occasions and fundraising events.

First-time parents of the College share a meal at the beginning of the year with the College Board and Executive.

This year's annual survey of parents concluded that 90% believe the College has a great reputation in the local community and over 89% indicate the College delivers an education in line with their high expectations! Students and parents are increasingly critical observers of schooling and their satisfaction of a College partnership in education is important.

There is a continuing high level of support for the relatively new College uniform.

Plenty Valley Christian College

Communications:

Plenty Valley relies on email and daily bulletins for internal communication. A weekly edition of the newsletter 'College Connections' is supplemented by the Grapevine magazine; a pictorial news and events on three occasions per year. Valley Vine is the annual College record of student life and co-curricular activities. Including the surveys we conduct, parents have many opportunities to provide the College with feedback.

Summary:

The College community abounds with supportive relationships. Professional care and prayerful wisdom underpin a great learning program and contribute to our significant educational place in the region. Further information about the College is available on the website: www.plentyvalley.vic.edu.au

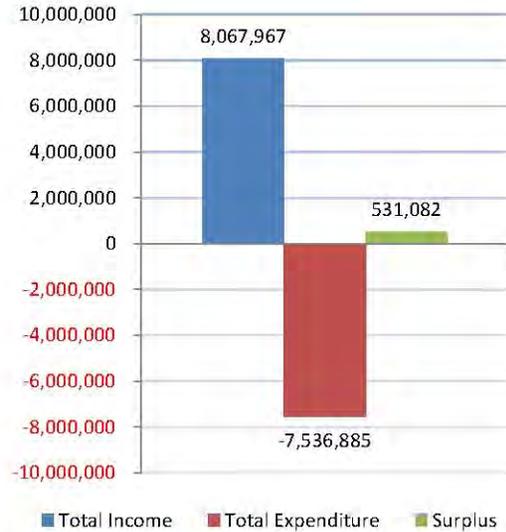


2010 Financial Summary

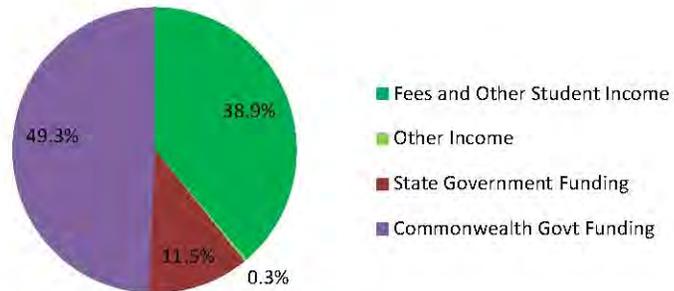
Recurrent Income and Expenditure

Fees and Other Student Income	3,136,418
Other Income	24,833
State Government Funding	930,077
Commonwealth Govt Funding	3,976,638
Total Income	8,067,967

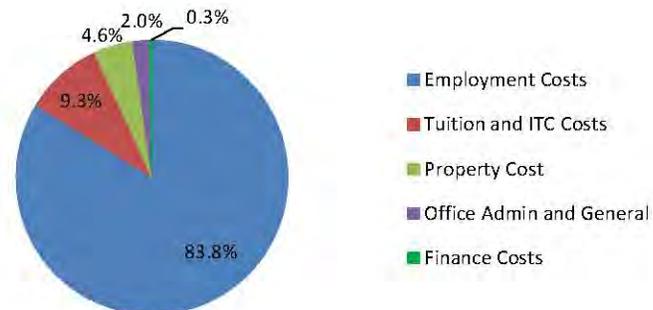
Employment Costs	6,044,106
Tuition and ITC Costs	667,974
Property Cost	333,430
Office Admin and General	145,322
Finance Costs	19,247
Loan and Interest Payments	-
Depreciation	326,805
Total Expenditure	7,536,885



Recurrent Income

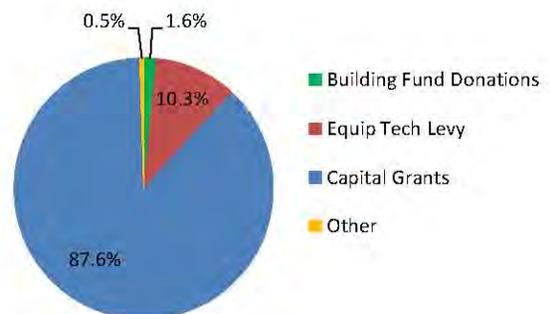


Recurrent Expenditure



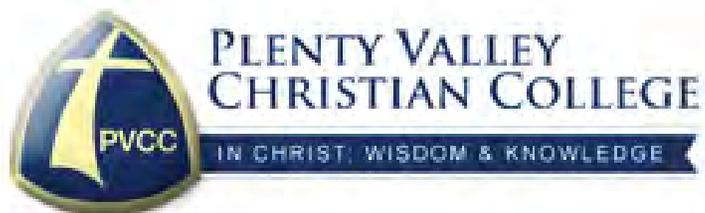
Capital Income

Building Fund Donations	45,020
Equip Tech Levy	296,358
Capital Grants	2,512,894
Other	13,140
Total Capital Income	2,867,412



Capital Expenditure

Total Capital Expenditure	2,852,156
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