



# ANNUAL REPORT

*2006*



**TARA**  
Anglican School for Girls

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



*Bishop Ivan Lee*  
Chairman

The “values” base of education has certainly been one of the consistent topics during the past year in Australian politics and in the wider community. It is indeed a very important debate, for to lose sight of one’s values is to “lose the plot” for living.

From where do our young people gain their values?

As a Christian and Anglican School, Tara’s vision is to provide high quality teaching and learning experiences that encourage each girl to develop her potential and to pursue life-long learning for herself and for the service of others. Guiding this vision are the Values of Tara.

At the top of our list is “Integrity” – we encourage students to base their moral decisions on the teachings of Christ and to act on their decisions with conviction, courage and consistency. Next is “Compassion” – we acknowledge the inherent worth of every individual as created in the image of God, and seek to reflect this in our relationships with others.

We embrace life and live it with generosity, compassion and discipline. Then follow “Affirmation”, “Responsibility” and “Excellence and Learning” to complete Tara’s stated and lived values. The School Council is thankful to God for the wonderful harmony, generous spirit, and cooperation of all who make up the Tara community based on these values. We continue to implement our Strategic Plan, which consists most importantly of our Education Plan. This Plan is supported by our Financial, Environment and Resources, and Wider Community Plans.

Mr Chris Hoare, Mr Julian Sefton and Rev Ian Wood have been recently welcomed as new members of the School Council, and their valued contributions are anticipated. Capital projects have included air-conditioning of Ellangowan (Kindergarten, Years 1 & 2 classrooms) with the Years 4 & 6 classrooms following. The building of the School Cafeteria is well underway. More focussed energy and effort is being applied to advertising and marketing the many benefits of joining the Tara Community.

The School Council regards our staff very highly indeed, and appreciates the positive discussions with them, through the Principal, concerning the question of Work Choices so that the result will be acceptable to all parties. Presentations are made to Council by members of the School Community. This year, the presentation of the Head Girl, Leadership Committee and Head Boarder was a highlight.

This Annual Report details the many fine accomplishments of the year and we note particularly the outstanding success of the *Oklahoma!* performance at the Riverside Theatre in which over 250 Tara and TKS students participated – a true Community event.

The School Council looks forward with enthusiasm to serving the Tara community in 2007.

### WHAT IS THE TARA CIRCLE?

Tara Anglican School for Girls is a community of people who are drawn together, because of a common choice and desire for a strong academic program and a sound all-round education for girls. This education takes place within a nurturing and caring environment provided by staff, and supported by parents, past students, and the community at large.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Tara Anglican School for Girls was formally established by an Ordinance of the Anglican Church in Australia - Diocese of Sydney, in 1956, after being in the care of a Council of Trustees with various responsibilities over the prior 60 years since its formation in 1897.

The School Council is legally responsible as the trustees of the past, present and future of the School.

The School Council is composed of 14 people - 5 lay people and 5 clergy appointed by the Synod of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney, 2 people appointed by the School Council itself, and 2 appointed by the Archbishop of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney, who is the President of the School Council. The Council has expressed a preference to have at least one of its members be an Old Girl of the School (we presently have 3) and an appropriate gender balance, all within the mix of people to achieve requisite skills, expertise and experience necessary for effective governance of the school. All members of School Council give of their time freely and voluntarily and are careful to avoid conflicts of interest.

The School holds insurance policies indemnifying Council members and all office bearers of Associations forming part of the School community, together with the various necessary insurances for public risk, property etc. The School Council is responsible (through the Chair) to the President, and has an annual fiduciary, fiscal and reporting responsibility to the Synod of the Diocese. The School Council recognises that the key stakeholders of the School include the students, staff, parents, past students and parents, Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney, State and Commonwealth governments, NSW Board of Studies, our bankers, and the community at large. School Council elects the Chair, Deputy Chair, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary. Each year the School Council confirms the sub-committees, reviews their charter and membership, and appoints a Chair of each Committee.

*The relationship between the School Council and the Principal is as follows:*

### THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

- selects and appoints the Principal
  - decides on policy and the direction for the School.
  - requests reports and information as considered necessary,
  - receives reports and recommendations from the Principal
- An understanding working relationship between the Principal and Council Chair is paramount.

### THE PRINCIPAL

- is appointed by, and reports to the School Council
- is delegated the full operation and day to day management of the School
- is responsible for the appointment of all staff and development of curriculum
- consults with the Chair of Council in the appointment of executive staff
- attends all Council and sub-committee meetings
- attends meetings of groups forming part of the School Community

### THE BURSAR

- is as minute secretary to all Council, committees and Foundation Board of directors
- is Company Secretary of the Tara Anglican School for Girls Foundation Ltd
- is responsible for the day to day management of finances
- is responsible for the maintenance and care of buildings, grounds and property

Executive staff, including the Deputy Principals and Head of Junior School, attend Council meetings at the invitation of the Principal, with the agreement of the Council

*The School Council has the following committees:*

- Executive Committee - meets once or twice each year
- Finance & Management Committee - meets approx twice each term
- Physical Resources & the Environment - meets approx six times a year
- Staff Superannuation Committee
- Members of Council and Staff are responsible for the reporting procedures and investment of staff superannuation fund arrangements
- Education Committee - A Committee to assist the Principal, includes a member of School Council, Deputy Principal (Curriculum), Head of Junior School and Staff
- Marketing Committee - A Committee to assist the Principal, includes a member of School Council and Staff
- Functions Committee - A Committee to assist the Principal, includes a member of School Council, Staff, Parents, Past Parents and Old Girls
- The Foundation - A separate public company (limited by guarantee) Directors are appointed by the School Council, and are responsible for the investment of funds held in the Endowment Fund, and tax deductible Building and Library Funds

The School's public relations material, (which includes the Prospectus) set out the Aims of the School, which are also printed inside the front of the Student Planner. These Aims are reviewed and re-confirmed as part of the Strategic Planning cycle review.

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Companies must prepare Annual Reports where they report back to their stakeholders. Words, graphs, statistics and percentages are required to be published for the benchmarking of a company's performance against acknowledged standards called 'indicators' (KPI – Key Performance Indicators). Our School has stakeholders yet we are not a company, rather, we are a 'community', dedicated to the education of young women in the Christian tradition since least 1897.

The information presented in this Annual Report for 2006 complies with Federal and State statutory regulations, namely to "publicly disclose the educational and financial performance measures and policies of the school". The Tara Community cannot feel satisfied in being measured by KPI's alone and I hope that you will glimpse behind these pages some of the excitement and joy in the daily life of our vibrant School.

The Values of the School clearly state "I CARE" – Integrity, Compassion, Affirmation, Responsibility and Excellence – in all we attempt. For a student to be 'the best' is not as important as for the student to 'give of her best' and to respond to others' needs. In the Community which is Tara, every member has unique abilities, skills and attributes – no two students are alike, no two parents respond in the same way. Everyone who is committed to Tara is part of the history that continues to care for others, to care for learning, to care for our environment and to care for our future. To be 'mediocre' means to be indifferent or ordinary: our aim at Tara is to rise above this. Every student and teacher is encouraged and supported to be committed, above and beyond academic pursuits. Nothing that Tara espouses could be considered 'mediocre'.

Tara has always been about people and the development of relationships. Tara has never been primarily focussed on material possessions or buildings. In the school's 109 years of recorded history, we have moved on several occasions and Tara has had ten 'homes'. Whenever these changes were deemed necessary, above all, it was the faith of the Council Members and of the Principals, staff and families who saw that wherever the School was, it would be a relational 'community' rather than the actual building or site. We are able now to celebrate every August the move made in 1958 to Masons Drive, where Tara now has a permanent home. The founders of the School would be proud that their faith in the future of Tara has continued to be fulfilled. We hope that they would be pleased to see the responsible way that the School has developed. We know that they would appreciate the fact that Tara still is a "relational" School.

Every student at Tara belongs, and must commit, to one of four Houses. These Houses are named in honour of influential community leaders over the years, all of whom had a close relationship with the School –

- Rev Doug Crawford, Rector of All Saints, Parramatta, Chaplain at Tara, former member of School Council, instrumental in relocating Tara to Mason's Drive - Crawford
- Mrs Elizabeth Hake, wife of the Headmaster at The King's School, former member of School Council, instrumental in relocating Tara to Mason's Drive - Hake
- Rev Paddy Walker, Rector of All Saints, Parramatta, former member of the School Council, welcomed Tara to use his church Hall when no other accommodation was available - Walker

- Miss (Joan) Mary Elizabeth Waugh, long regarded as Tara's founder, who lived with her family at their home 'Tara' in Parramatta. Dr Isaac (Paddy) Waugh, father of Joan, was a great encourager of his daughter's School - Waugh.

With this 'belonging' to a House comes involvement in a variety of activities – academic challenge, debating, drama, team sports, choir, service to others, outdoor education and leadership. Involvement invites challenge. Challenge brings a sense of having to give one's best against adversity - of standing fast, of acknowledging being tentative. To feel fear, to manage hesitation, to turn and face adversity. These challenges bring resilience. No resources on earth can buy resilience. Resilience is a learned skill – skills, like knowledge, build upon practice. Our brain builds upon previous learning and prior experiences and the chemical links are established through repetition of stimulus and response. Resilience is valued aspect of character.

The School, through the direction of the School Council and the work of the School staff, has been committed to the goals of the current Strategic Plan, originally published in November 2004. The priorities in the Strategic Plan have been pastoral care and optimising learning. From the latter part of 2006 this Plan has been reviewed and during 2007 stakeholders will again be invited to assist in its re-write for the next 5 year period. Meanwhile, the Student Leadership Teams and Student Representative Councils continue to be encouraged to take a greater stake in the decision-making processes, after all, the Tara of the future will be theirs!

Communication with our stakeholders continues to grow in importance. Our reporting to you about your daughter's academic and pastoral progress and commitment to challenges, has under gone major changes in recent times. We have tried to maintain a very open communication with you through newsletters, planners and meetings. Our parent groups have encouraged forums for discussion at their various meetings. Access to our Intranet site increases on a daily basis. Our recent parental survey, conducted electronically across Years K-12, will provide us with invaluable feedback for future planning.

Teachers continue to be encouraged to be innovative in their curriculum development and presentation to students, K-12. Exciting inter-disciplinary curricula approaches are increasing. The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a tool for sourcing information and for communicating with others in interactive discussion is now pervading all age levels and knowledge areas.

The School's resources are being development by the very generous philanthropy of members of our Community. Tara families, past parents and corporate connections are making donations to the School's various Funds – Building, Library and our new Scholarship Fund. They are also giving 'gifts in kind'. The Tara traditions of care, opportunity and community are strong.

The School, through its Council, supports the 'family' commitment to Tara. It supports academic excellence and opportunities for leadership, for equity and for merit. I trust that you will understand priorities and passions as you read our Annual Report for 2006. May you be enveloped in the 'Circle of Community' under the 'Cross of Christ' - the very circle and cross that are intertwined to form the crest of Tara that is worn by every student.

*Carol Bownern • Principal*



# 2006

## JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

This year has presented opportunities for our girls to participate in learning activities that have challenged them in each of the Key Learning Areas. They have been provided with enjoyment and enrichment through extra curricular experiences.

The professional focus of the staff has been to evaluate the development and implementation of our teaching programs with particular consideration of the NSW Board of Studies syllabus requirements. Concurrently, we continued to examine “best practice” in teaching and learning.

An exciting development in the Christian life of Junior School, was the introduction of Crusaders for Year 1 and Year 2 girls. Learning about God through the Bible was embraced during Book Week with a special event, organised by staff, which focussed on the best book in the world – the Bible.

### INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2006 we continued to review each of the NSW Board of Studies Key Learning Areas to ensure that teaching and learning reflected the Board outcomes and met the developmental needs of the girls

### GROUPING FOR ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

This year we continued to meet the different learning needs of our girls through ability grouping, across year groups, for Mathematics and English. This ability grouping was introduced in Semester 2, 2005. We drew on the work of Professor Karen Rogers, Director of Research GERRIC (Re-Forming Gifted Education – How Parents and Teachers can match the program to the Child) in identifying this regrouping strategy as one of the most effective in helping to meet and differentiate the learning needs of the range of learners represented in any class or grade.

**This initiative included:**

- placement of girls in groups according to the assessment information gathered by current and previous teachers
- the formation of three or four groups per year in Years 1 to 6 for the majority of English and Mathematics instruction
- smaller learning groups, made possible by the allocation of additional staff for English and Mathematics groups
- a similar core content taught in each group while enabling girls to work with others achieving at a similar level. Instruction was directed at the level most appropriate for the girls within each group. Some girls were offered enrichment programs while others consolidated new concepts and were able to learn at their own pace
- Year Teachers and Support Teachers cooperatively planned and discussed student achievements following assessments

### REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

In 2006 it has been compulsory for all Independent Schools to comply with The Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Regulations 2005.

**This is new legislation, enacted by the Federal Government, which requires Schools to:**

- provide reports at least twice a year to parents/guardians
- deal with both academic and non-academic learning
- be in plain language and able to be readily understood by parents, guardians and other persons who have care and control of the child
- be followed by the opportunity for discussion between the child, parents/guardians and teachers to discuss all aspects of the report and give constructive advice about supporting the child’s further learning at School
- include, for each subject studied, an assessment against achievement levels or bands defined by the education authority or School, being levels or bands that i) must be labelled A, B, C, D, E (or equivalent); ii) are clearly defined against specific standards; iii) include the child’s achievement relative to the achievement of the child’s peer group at the School by at least quartile bands.

This required us to review the format of our Semester 1 and 2 reports and make alterations to them which would comply with the above requirements. This was approached through a whole-School basis and is being evaluated for 2007.

### TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

During Term 2, Ms Jenny Porter and Mrs Julie Wiseman offered Tournament of Minds Club (TOM) as an After-School activity on a Friday afternoon for girls in Years 3-6. We were delighted that 70 girls came along for the Term to experience this fun and challenging opportunity.

Tournament of Minds is an Australia wide program designed to give students the opportunity to participate in creative activities involving stimulating opened-ended Challenges which demand experimentation and reward divergent thinking.

During our Club time the girls were able to experience working in teams, small groups and individually to solve both short and longer term challenges. This proved to be quite challenging for many of the girls but their willingness to learn and grow from these opportunities was exciting to see and encouraging for them.

At the end of Term 2 these girls then voted for the teams to represent our School at the Regional Finals in Term 3. The girls had to consider who would be able to work well in a team situation, who had interesting and creative ideas, who had skills in performance, who had a good sense of humour, and who would work productively.



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We were able to send two teams – Social Sciences: Clea Manthos, Emily Lam, Meg Jenkins, Ashley Sultana, Emily Ward, Taylor Callaghan, and Caroline Fernandes and Language and Literature: Isabelle Wong, Elizabeth Scarano, Nadine Kauley, Grace Kim, Fleur Combridge, Madeleine Pearman, and Jemimah Ng to the Finals which was wonderful for our first attempt in a number of years. Although we were not awarded prizes the girls can be very proud of the way in which they worked on their solutions for six weeks and presented them on the day. Most importantly we thank them for representing our School so well on this occasion.

### DA VINCI DECATHLON

The Da Vinci Decathlon is an annual event held at Knox Grammar School. Each year over 600 students from throughout NSW and the ACT participate in this “Decathlon with a Difference.” The Da Vinci Decathlon is an academic Inter-School gala day operated in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon, with a variety of events of an academic nature. Schools enter teams of eight students and this year Tara Junior School entered a Year 5 and a Year 6 team.

Throughout the day our girls were presented with numerous challenges in a variety of categories. The Engineering Challenge included a building task designed to test creativity and ingenuity. Our girls enjoyed the challenge of the Science task where they were provided with higher level scientific concepts and tested on their ability to apply them. The English Challenge included spelling, word origins, scrabble and “Wheel of Fortune” style tasks.

Our creative team members shone in the Art and Poetry challenge where the girls were required to develop a poem and a complementary work of art on a given theme. A sub group from each team was asked to develop and present a 30 second commercial to produce a particular product. Team members who excelled at chess and *Connect 4* and *Mastermind* enjoyed the Games of Strategy challenge and future forensic scientists were provided with maps, photographs and other evidence to complete the Forensic Sleuths challenge.

All team members were tested on their General Knowledge as they answered questions on Current Affairs, entertainment, sport and trivia. The final challenge for the day was Code Breaking where girls aimed to decipher various codes.

At the conclusion of a very exciting day the Year 5 team (Clarissa Goh, Sabrina Santos, Brittany Fossey, Nadine Kauley, Lucinda Taylor, Laura Spencer, Cissy Shen, Grace Kim) was awarded first place in the Forensic Sleuths Challenge and 2nd in Art and Poetry achieving a commendable sixth place in the Total point score.

The Year 6 team (Jaimie Cass, Beryl Lin, Angela White, Phoebe White, Bethaney Debenham, Elizabeth Scarano, Tara Canton, Isabelle Wong) attained second place in the Engineering Challenge.

### JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Junior School Library has continued to be a vibrant and dynamic force in Junior School throughout 2006. For staff, the library is a source of the latest technological and audio visual equipment, teachers’ reference, professional journals, stunning puppets and online databases. For students, the library provides an excellent collection of books for recreational reading and research activities and is a highly utilised learning area both in class time and at lunchtimes.

#### Highlights and achievements from 2006 included:

- ‘Tara World Tours’ - encouraging students, staff, parents and grandparents to read 15 381 books in our 2006 Reading Incentive program. Each girl received a special Tara passport which was used to collect an array of stamps – each stamp representing 3 books read
- ‘Book Now’ Lunchtime Reading Festival - celebrating a wonderful Book Week with the help of 42 staff members from throughout the School who read to small groups of delighted girls at lunchtime each day
- **Record borrowing rates** - lending more than 25 000 resources to staff and students throughout the year
- **New library software** - a transition from ‘Alice for Windows’ to ‘E library’. This is a web based library management system which provides better access to our catalogue and online databases. Students and staff can now search our catalogue for print and electronic resources from any computer in the School
- **Computer technology** - the ongoing ICT support from Mrs Anne Rumpler and Mr Martin Pluss has facilitated:
  - enthusiastic participation by staff in our ‘Smartlearning’ technology group – encouraging the use of interactive whiteboards and digital media.
  - Outstanding *PowerPoint* presentations and *Publisher* documents from Years 3 and 4
  - Innovative podcasts, webpages and *Quizdom* assessment tasks from Years 5 and 6
- **Collection development** - the addition of more than 3 500 resources to the library collection
- **Lunchtime chess** - rekindling or starting an interest in chess for many girls with our lunchtime chess den and the very large chess set
- **Famous authors** - visits from the inspiring and talented authors: Justyn Walker and John Flanagan
- **New maps** - the addition of two huge world maps and an illuminated globe to the library facilities has encouraged our students to have a bigger view of the world
- **Book Week lunches** - a delicious Book Week menu from the canteen which raised \$1 500 for the library
- Book and Puppet Fair - a well supported 3 day event which raised





*Junior School Report continued*

- \$2100 for our Library and \$900 for libraries and librarians in Tonga
- Honour Roll participants - 58 girls successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge
- Winifred the Scarecrow - winning the group entry in the All Saints Church Scarecrow Competition
- Parent Library established – books on a range of educational and child development issues purchased and available for parents

**MATHS TASK CENTRE**

Our girls' development in problem solving has been quite amazing with opportunities offering success to students who might otherwise find it hard to be successful in mathematics. The colourful, tactile equipment available in our Maths Task Centre, encourages self-starting and with this initial motivation, the task at hand becomes engaging in its own right. The initial step in the Working Mathematically process is becoming engaged with a problem.

This year, in line with the new Maths syllabus, our girls have been learning to work as mathematicians, employing the appropriate problem solving strategies which lead to solutions. It is rewarding to see girls pondering over a problem and using the processes, strategies and skills of a mathematician to solve the problem at hand. Their experience of success often leads them to more mathematical adventures! Our girls are becoming aware of the usefulness of particular strategies and are beginning to recognise problem similarities. Using their acquired mathematical skills, the girls are learning to seek other possible solution tasks and to explore other ways to check their solution which often results in further mathematical investigation. Ultimately, the strategies for problem solving, of any description, will develop into an automatic thinking process. Achieving success in mathematical challenges builds confidence and makes Maths fun.

**SCIENCE**

The following experiences engaged our girls in Science learning:

- **Science Competition**

Many girls participated in the UNSW Science competition this year. These results are reported under the section, Competitions

- **Clean Up Australia Day**

All Junior School staff and students were involved in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday 3 March with great enthusiasm all round. Many students from K-6 produced colourful posters for the Clean up Australia Day competition with the theme "Don't let rubbish become part of the scenery"

- **Helping Save Our Threatened Wildlife**

Over 50 girls K-6 entered the Dymocks Golden Paw Award competition. They created beautiful drawings and paintings of a variety of threatened species. Congratulations to the four girls whose entries were chosen in the top 600 category and were displayed at the

National Maritime Museum during the October holidays: Stephanie Peacock (Kindy), Angelina Saroufin (Year 1), Kathryn Collins (Year 3) and Yoo Jin Shin (Year 6). Dymocks have donated \$1 for every entry received and this money will buy a marine mammal rescue kit to help animals such as whales and seals. Some of our entries can be viewed on the Intranet

- **Science Week**

Students from across the Junior School shared their learning experiences with their peers during morning line up and our Friday assembly time

- **Waterwatch**

Year 3 successfully tested the water quality and collected waterbugs at Lake Parramatta as part of the Waterwatch program run by the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust. The girls enjoyed the chance to become "real scientists" and were amazed at the importance of bugs in the freshwater river system.

**Junior School girls have been involved in a range of hands-on experiences and excursions to support their learning this year.**

**These included:**

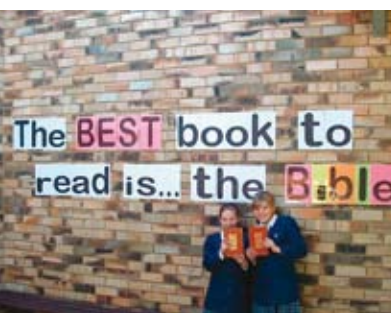
- Kindergarten - experimenting with materials and products found in the kitchen; designing and making a house with specific features
- Year 1 - guest speaker Dr Harkin spoke on animal communication
- Year 2 - examining soils and identifying the properties of different soils and designing and making mud bricks; visiting CSIRO Labs on Legs incursion for "minibeasts" unit; cooking experiences for a unit of work "The Scientific Birthday Party"
- Year 3 - Waterwatch excursion to Lake Parramatta; CSIRO Starlab planetarium visit to Tara
- Year 4 - excursion to the Botanic Gardens, Sydney; planning and growing flower and vegetable gardens outside the Science Centre; excursion to a national park in the Blue Mountains
- Year 5 - excursion to the Australian Museum; excursion to the tarmac at Sydney Airport to support their studies on flight
- Year 6 - excursion to a rainforest environment

**Visits to Senior Science**

Girls in Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed completing some of their Science lessons this year in the Senior School labs with Mr Bruce Comerford. They have been able to experience a range of exciting practical activities

**LEARNING SUPPORT**

The Learning Support Team has streamlined its role and administration in 2006. The team is coordinated by Mrs Robyn Clear and includes our School Counsellor, Head of Junior School, Deputy Principal-Curriculum, Deputy Principal-Administration and Support Teachers.



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Many students have been referred over the past year. Reasons for referral have included students experiencing difficulties in their learning, pastoral needs, English as a Second Language (ESL) and students requiring enrichment. As students have been referred by teachers, the team has discussed the needs of these students. Assessments have been recommended to be completed either by members of the team or by external specialists. Programs of support for students have been developed and implemented and the team has continued to monitor the progress made by each student. Support teachers have been allocated as needed. Class teachers also play a vital role in this process. In addition, a review timetable has been established to ensure the ongoing monitoring of those students who require support.

**In addition, the following initiatives supported girls' learning:**

- Mrs Robyn Clear coordinated a team of support teachers and aides. Members of the team provided a range of in-class small group and individual support to assist targeted students to support more effective learning
- Mrs Clear has worked with class teachers in developing a differentiated program of learning across all Key Curriculum areas for those students requiring this support
- Through funding from the Commonwealth Government, a Literacy grant was used to provide an intensive reading program for targeted Year 1 students. In addition, funding was provided to support Year 5 and Year 6 students in improving their reading fluency and developing comprehension strategies
- Additional reading resources were purchased for both the Ellangowan reading library (Early Stage 1 and Stage 1) and the Lexile collection (Stages 2 and 3)
- Parents supported the class reading programs by volunteering their time to work with students in Ellangowan. One future goal is to provide training for parents in specific reading strategies, enabling them to more effectively assist our students in this area
- Students with English as a Second Language (ESL) received specific support from the ESL team through small group learning and within class support during English and Mathematics groups.

### DEBATING

This year, ten girls were selected from Years 5 and 6 to participate in the JSHAA Debating Competition which consisted of eight rounds of debates. The girls attended weekly coaching sessions with Mrs Susie James and Mr Nigel Cockington. These coaching sessions were designed to help the girls prepare for their upcoming debates and focused on learning the foundational skills of debating – manner, matter and method. It was particularly exciting to see the great improvement in the girls' skills in rebuttal. In Term 4, the team was given the opportunity to participate in a JSHAA Gala Day hosted by Tara.

### CRUSADERS

Mr Chris Munn and a dedicated group of teachers led three Crusader groups each week. On Wednesday at lunch times, Mr Munn, Miss Elizabeth Astle and Mrs James led the Year 5 and Year 6 group while Mrs Glenda Walker, Mrs Christine Sinden and Mrs Wendy Quadrio led the Year 3 and Year 4 group. Crusaders was introduced this year for Year 1 and Year 2, who met at lunch time on Tuesdays, led by Mrs Helen Scoular, Miss Fiona Eatough and in Semester 1, Miss Laura Murray.

Each week between 20 and 50 girls attended the groups and participated in a range of games, songs, drama activities and learnt about God's love for them and how Jesus can be part of their lives. The attendance for the Year 3 and Year 4 group has been particularly pleasing.

Christian author, Mr Justyn Walker, was invited as a guest speaker in Term 2 and proved very popular. Crusaders and the Tara community raised \$1,090 to support his mission work in Russian orphanages. As another act of Christian service, the girls made craft items to be donated and placed in boxes for Operation Christmas Child. During Book Week, Crusader staff and other staff participated in a special celebration, "The best book to read is the Bible". Bibles were purchased and given as gifts to the girls attending. Other purchases made this year included Bible software and additional audio-visual material and the sending of three members of staff to the Crusader Union Teacher Training Day, at which Mr Munn was a presenter.

Our Crusader Leaders, Celene Acharya and Deborah Choi have assisted with chapel, encouraged girls to attend Crusaders and helped the teachers in leading Crusader groups. They are to be commended for their commitment and for the outstanding job they have performed. We are thankful to God for the faithful ministry of our staff and encourage the Tara Community to continue to pray for this very special ministry.

### CHARITIES

**Tara girls and their families continued to generously support a number of charity appeals. House Charity Days included:**

- Waugh House Charity raised money for the *Westmead Children's Hospital* by selling Bandaged Bears and wristbands for "Cure Our Kids" Oncology unit. They raised \$480
- Crawford House Charity organised a Crazy Dress competition and a charity stall. They raised \$704.50 for the *Micah Network*
- Hake House Charity Day supported *TEAR Australia* and raised \$462.60. The theme was 'Goats love Donuts'. The money raised through the sales of Krispy Kreme donuts was used to purchase goats for families in countries such as Uganda
- Walker House Charity supported *Evergreen*, a Christian support organisation in China, through a mufti day where they raised



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a fantastic \$468. This will assist in providing School Scholarships to children in China who otherwise would not have the opportunity to be educated.

- **Operation Christmas Child**

In Term 3 families were invited to participate in this Christmas appeal for needy children overseas. Empty shoeboxes were covered and filled with small gifts. Tara filled nearly 200 boxes to be sent to needy children in Cambodia, Vietnam, the Solomon Islands and other countries

- **Pink Ribbon Day**

In Term 4, all Junior School students participated in a Pink Ribbon Day for breast cancer research. Students were able to purchase a 'pink pack' on the day containing a variety of pink items for morning tea. The girls especially enjoyed the pink Tara bag. It was a great day and we enjoyed helping raise money for this worthy cause

- **Annual World Vision Famine Fighters Day**

This year saw 205 girls participate in the Junior School, going without lunch for one day with the aim of raising money to support others less fortunate in East Timor. Through sponsorship, the girls raised a phenomenal \$18,737.65, which far exceeded any other year to date. The largest donation was \$2000. Every class in the school had some girls involved, - several classes had almost every girl involved. Kelly Harty, Nadine Kauley, Nicole Sebeih, Brittany and Ashleigh Fossey, Beryl Lin, Hailey Blanco, Jade Borhan and Paige Zavaglia were our top fundraisers.

**The girls have put into practice the words from the Book of James:**

*"Suppose you see a brother or a sister who needs food or Uniform and you say "Well good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well"- but then you don't give that person food or Uniform . What good does that do? You see it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all - it is dead and useless". James 2: 15-17*

The girls and their sponsors displayed a real and living faith in their desire to help others.

### LEADERSHIP AT TARA

The Commissioning Service for all Year 6 students was held on 15 February 2006. At this Service girls pledged their dedication to Tara and promised to fulfil their duties in their allocated leadership roles during 2006. Every Year 6 student has had an opportunity to develop her leadership skills through a range of formally recognised positions. These include: Elizabeth Medallist, School Vice Captain, Crusader Leaders, House Captains, Prefects, Bus Prefects and Monitors. Staff members mentored and provided guidance to the girls as they developed the skills necessary for effective leadership. Particular emphasis was placed on service and the girls were encouraged to display initiative, responsibility and reliability in performing allocated duties.

Memorable events for the Year 6 leaders have included leading weekly assemblies, organising cheer leading for swimming and athletics carnivals and assisting with the K – 2 Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals. Inter-House Competitions have been held throughout the year and House Captains have enthusiastically supported fund raising activities for each house. Crusader Leaders excelled in their organisation of weekly Chapel and Crusader Meetings and Prefects assisted with the annual Inter House Debating Competition. This is always a highlight for the girls!

Opportunities for Leadership were also extended to all girls in Kindergarten to Year 6. In Kindergarten, girls were given the opportunity to be Leader of the week while in other classes formal positions of Class captain, Vice Captain and Sports Captain were chosen. These positions were voted each term providing as many girls as possible with the opportunity to learn about being a leader.

Year 5 girls assisted our new Kindergarten girls in Term 1 as Kinder Carers. Each group of Year 5 girls wrote a letter welcoming their assigned Kindergarten group and introduced themselves as special friends. The letter written to each Kindergarten girl included a photograph of their Year 5 buddies.

### CLUBS

#### Italian Club

In Term Two, the first Italian Club in the Tara Junior School was introduced by Miss Rachael Harris enabling girls from Years 2 - 4 to discover and share their understanding of the Italian language and culture. The girls learnt common Italian greetings, animal names, colours, numbers, family members and everyday expressions in Italian. They also had the opportunity to contribute to this club by researching and displaying an aspect of Italian culture that they enjoy, such as the food, fashion, currency, traditions and architectural wonders.

The Italians love to celebrate and have a festa (party) and it was fitting to conclude Italian Club with a party including various Italian foods. The girls and Miss Harris brought in many different Italian cuisines, ranging from the savoury pizza, linguine, penne, spaghetti and pesto, to the sweeter variety of biscotti, tiramisu, gelati and piadine (an Emilia Romagna regional specialty). In true Italian style there was an abundance of food. It was a fantastic conclusion to an enjoyable two terms of Italian club. Bravo e grazie ragazze!.

#### Jewellery Club

Many girls in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to participate in a jewellery making club in 2006. Each term, a new group of girls enjoyed designing and making a variety of jewellery items including earrings, necklaces and the favourite in Term 4, the 'bling bling' ring. Miss Eatough and Miss Yvonne Howard had an exciting year working with the girls and enjoyed the fabulous creations they made.



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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The NSW Basic Skills tests were completed by 47 Year 3 girls. Results are reported in Bands 1 - 5 in Year 3 (5 being the highest).

YEAR 3	% TARA students in top 2 bands	% NSW students in top 2 bands
Reading	83	43
Language	78	41
Writing	79	38
Number Patterns & Algebra	65	44
Measurement and Data, Geometry and Space	55	43

The NSW Basic Skills tests were completed by 62 Year 5 girls. Results are reported in Bands 1 - 6 in Year 5 (6 being the highest).

YEAR 5	% TARA students in top 2 bands	% NSW students in top 2 bands
Reading	79	52
Language	81	54
Writing	79	51
Number Patterns & Algebra	64	55
Measurement and Data, Geometry and Space	72	59

The 2006 results indicated that the number of girls who achieved the expected improvement (valued added growth) from Year 3 in 2004 to Year 5 in 2006 had increased in Numeracy, remained steady in Literacy and significantly improved in Writing compared with the 2005 achievements.

## COMPETITIONS

Girls in Years 3 - 6 participated in several Australasian competitions organised by University of New South Wales. Participation was voluntary and our girls are to be commended on their achievements.

### Summary of UNSW Competition results

	English	Writing	Mathematics	Science
High Distinction	2	4	2	1
Distinction	23	23	14	14
Credit	39	29	29	34
Participation	77	101	101	72

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2006 participation in sport was high with many outstanding individual and team performances.

### Swimming Carnivals

The School Carnival was won for the third year by Crawford and there was excellent participation by girls in all Houses. In the JSHAA Swimming carnival, 21 girls represented Tara, with many personal best performances. Annie Bygrave placed 1st in her 11 years Butterfly event.

### JSHAA and PSSA Diving

Four girls competed at the JSHAA event: Ivana Nassif, Chelsea Harris, Megan Pears and Taylor Callaghan. Megan placed 3rd at JSHAA and Chelsea won the event and went all the way to PSSA where she gained 5th place.

### Cross Country

All girls in the Junior School competed in the Cross Country events. Kindergarten girls ran 800 metres supported by our House Captains and Vice-Captains. The Ellangowan girls all ran with enthusiasm. The winners were Mackenzie Evers, Emily Yeaman, Abbey Hodge, Genevieve Smith, Sophie Kenny, Emily Partridge and Jessica Giblin. Senior girls (12 and 13 years) ran 2 kilometres with Chelsea Harris being the fastest Primary girl.

### JSHAA and CIS Cross Country

Tara was represented at the JSHAA Cross Country Carnival, achieving outstanding results. Taylah Stapleton finished 7th in the 8 & 9yrs 2km race; Grace Nell finished 15th in the 10yrs 2km race; Kristen Farmer placed 10th in the 11yrs 3km race; and Chelsea Harris placed 13th in the 12 & 13yrs 3km race. This gained the girls selection in the JSHAA team to compete at the CIS championships. At the CIS carnival the girls ran very well in their races in extremely difficult conditions, with Taylah, Grace, Kristen and Chelsea finishing in the top 25 out of 150 competitors.

### Athletics Carnival

Once again all Junior School girls competed in the Athletics Carnival, with a wonderful day enjoyed by all. The Ellangowan girls had a carnival of tabloid races, ball games and obstacle courses. The Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival saw two records broken and Taylor White won seven out of the eight events in her age group.

### JSHAA, CIS and PSSA Athletics Carnival

At this year's JSHAA Carnival the Athletics team competed very well on the track and in the field. Rhiarna Hughes was 4th in the 10yrs Discus; Amy Burgess placed 2nd in the 12 & 13yrs High Jump; Chelsea Harris was 2nd in the Long Jump and qualified for the final in the 100m and the 200m. All three girls gained selection to compete at the CIS Carnival, where Amy placed 2nd in Shot Put and was selected to compete at the PSSA carnival.

### JSHAA Gymnastics Competition

Tara sent another large team to the JSHAA Gymnastics Competition this year. Our Rhythmic team placed 3rd in their division. In the Individual Artistic Level 5 competition Chelsea Harris qualified for the CIS Championships as did Ivana Nassif and Jordan Callaghan who competed in the International Level 6 competition.

### Weekend Sport

JSHAA Saturday competitions saw 120 girls participating, with the most popular sports being Soccer, Netball and Cricket. All of the girls displayed superb sportsmanship throughout the year against all opponents. Danielle El-Rassi gained selection into the JSHAA Netball team. Jaimie Cass and Ivana Nassif trialled for the JSHAA Soccer team as did Kathleen Angelopoulos in her chosen sport of Hockey.

### Tara Ski Team

This year we had a small but very successful Junior School Snow Sports Team who competed in the Northern Region Championships held at Thredbo. Angela White (Year 6) and Ivana Nassif (Year 5) formed a Division 4 team and Taiya Bukovsky and Leah Nye (Year 4) formed a Division 5 team.

The Regional Results overall placed Tara Junior Division (Years 4-6) 3rd out of 10 schools and in the Junior Freestyle Overall - 3rd. Both teams were invited through to the State Championships 24-27 August.



*Junior School Report continued***Individual Results**

In the Division 4 Alpine, Angela White (Year 6) placed 3rd/34 and was invited through to the State championships; Ivana Nassif placed 15th/34.

In the Division 4 Moguls, Angela White placed 5th/8 and Ivana Nassif 4th/8. The Team placed 3rd overall and was invited through to State Championships. In the Division 4 Skiercross, Ivana Nassif placed 15th/25 and Angela White 5th/25. The Team placed 3rd Overall and was invited through to the State Championships.

**Interschools Snowsports State Championships**

The Championships brought together over 120 schools from across NSW and ACT at Thredbo. In the Division 4 Moguls Ivana Nassif was placed 20th. In Division 5 Moguls, Leah Nye and Taiya Bukovsky were placed 11th. In Division 4 Skiercross Angela White (complete with a broken thumb!) and Ivana Nassif finished 13th. In the Division 4 Alpine, Angela White (DSQ) was placed 17th. Angela was having the fastest run of the day prior to crashing with 2 gates left – very unlucky!

**CREATIVE ARTS - MUSIC**

In 2006 different musical experiences were offered in Tara Junior School. Having the opportunity to join a choir was the major focus.

Girls had the opportunity to participate in the School Wind Ensemble, String group, K to Year 2 Tara Singers (auditioned choir for Years 5-6), Junior and Senior choirs, which gave the girls a chance to experience singing in a large vocal group. A highlight was participating in the JSHAA Music Festival at the Sydney Town Hall in which our girls performed Shackleton, a composition by Paul Jemason.

Each Term, girls who learnt instruments or sang, performed before an audience of girls parents and friends. Performances included Grandparents Day, Open Days and K-12 assemblies.

The Year 3 instrumental program continued in 2006 with girls playing a woodwind or a brass instrument one semester followed by a string instrument the next. Year 4 had the opportunity to extend their musical skills on an instrument for the whole year.

**JSHAA Music Festival**

The Senior and Junior Choirs both participated in this exciting event, held at Sydney Town Hall. The girls performed *Shackleton* a composition by Paul Jemason. Tara was host to seven other schools for the Festival rehearsals. Mr Ashley George is to be commended for an outstanding job as front stage manager at the Town Hall. A special thank you to Mrs Diana Sidney and Mrs Jenny Deagle for all their efforts during the year

**Classroom Music**

Girls were involved in a number of different performance, composition and listening activities throughout the year. Visiting performers, Australia Opera and Song Company provided our Tara girls with further enriching experiences. The Years 3-4 Instrumental program continued with our specialist teachers. For some girls it was their first opportunity to learn an instrument. They also enjoyed percussion with special performances on the Xylophones at K-12 assemblies and open days.

**Clarinet and Saxophone Ensemble**

Under the direction of Miss Jo Carey, this group performed at a number of concerts during the year.

**Senior Choir**

Led by Mr George, our senior choir of forty girls performed at the JSHAA Festival, Grandparents' Day, Open Day for Parents and K-12 assemblies. Our thanks to Mrs Sidney for her management and support of the choir during the year.

**Junior Choir**

A strong group of fifty girls displayed fantastic enthusiasm throughout the year. This group also performed at Grandparents' Day, Celebration 2006 and the JSHAA Festival of Music.

**Ellangowan Choir (K-Year 2)**

All girls from Kindergarten to Year 2 enjoy the experience of singing in a large choral group once a fortnight. The choir performed at Grandparents' Day and Celebration 2006.

**CREATIVE ARTS - VISUAL ARTS****Visual Arts 2006 Art Competitions**

This year selected artworks were sent to a number of competitions. These included:

- Join the Dot and Colouring competition for Bandaged Bear Day
- "Postcards" drawings to be sent to overseas hospitals in London, Helsinki, Dublin, Estonia, and St. Petersburg
- Baulkham Hills Council - design a slogan for reusable bags

**Visual Art Exhibition**

All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 contributed an artwork towards the Visual Arts Exhibition. The exhibition showcased a variety of artworks produced by students throughout the year. Artworks were placed in the hall and displayed in the Visual Arts room during Parent Open Day.

**Operation Art**

Operation Art is an exhibition of artworks that reflect the NSW Art Syllabus. Selected artworks were chosen to be displayed in the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Three student's artworks were selected for Operation Art. This year, "Postcards", a new initiative, was established. Selected art works have been sent to five children's hospitals overseas to help establish their inaugural Art Galleries.

**Public Art**

Public art continues to enhance the school environment. A ceramic mural based on the theme of Icons of Sydney was made by the Year 3 girls.

**Junior School Excursions and Camps**

Excursions and special performances enabled the girls to broaden their experiences and cultural learning. Girls participated in the following activities:

- Kindergarten to Year 6 Crusader Camp • Kindergarten - Fairfield City Farm
- Year 1 Gledswood Homestead
- Year 2 Vaucluse House
- Year 3 The Rocks, Lessons Afloat Sydney Harbour and Lake Parramatta
- Year 4 Royal Botanical Gardens, Blue Mountains National Park
- Year 5 Surf Awareness, IMAX Theatre, Guest Speaker: Chris Olsen, Australian Museum, Guest Speaker: John Flanagan and Bathurst /Hill End, Sydney Airport tarmac tour
- Year 6 Surf Awareness, Katoomba, Guest Speaker: John Flanagan and Canberra



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## SPECIAL OPEN DAYS

### Grandparents' Day

On 12 April, we were delighted to welcome nearly 400 grandparents to share some of the special experiences offered in the Junior School. The morning included a K-Year 2 concert, a Year 3-6 concert and open classrooms. Following morning tea, we assembled in the quadrangle and hall for an Anzac Day ceremony.

### Open Day for Parents

Parents and family friends were invited on 13 September to join us for a Kindergarten to Year 6 concert followed by lunch with the girls. In the afternoon, girls shared a Learning Journey with their parents. Classes organised a range of learning tasks. Parents were also able to visit the annual Visual Arts Exhibition.

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Tara provides a Before, Homework, After School and Vacation Care Centre. This is a facility catering for Kindergarten to Year 6 students which endeavours to offer a program that incorporates homework, free play and programmed activities.

### Aim and Philosophies

- To provide a warm, safe, happy, caring home-like environment, that is stimulating for children, staff and parents
- To provide a wide variety of supervised play and recreational activities which assist the social, emotional, creative and physical development of Primary School age children
- To enable parents/guardians to pursue work, study/training or other activities in the knowledge that their children are being cared for in a safe and happy environment

The Centre situated at 7 Masons Drive, operates from 7.00am to 8.15am and 3.00pm to 6.30pm Monday to Friday during the School Term. At present it offers Vacation Care for nominated weeks and these hours of operation are 7.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The Centre is not open on Public Holidays.

The Centre caters for a maximum of 45 children per day and places are available on a 'first in first served' basis. We thank Mrs Barbara Edge, the Coordinator of the Centre and her staff for their excellent work.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL STAFF

The quality of the programs offered to our girls can, in large part, be attributed to the quality of teaching and the dedication and initiative of staff who have provided enriching experiences in addition to class programs. For 2006, the average teacher attendance rate in the Junior School was 83.75%, calculated according to the number of sick days taken by Junior School staff.

This year we welcomed Ms Porter, Deputy - Principal Curriculum, replacing Mrs Sue Floro who left at the end of 2005.

Mrs Melissa Baxter and Mrs Larissa Wright resigned during the year following maternity leave. Miss Eatough and Mrs Jenny Tredinnick were employed to replace Mrs Baxter and Mrs Wright for the year.

Miss Harris, Mrs James, Mrs Wendy Abenethy and Mr Cockington joined our permanent teaching staff at the beginning of 2005. Mrs Glenda Walker decided to move to class teaching after a number of years serving our girls and staff as Learning Support teacher. She was replaced by Mrs Robyn Clear. Mrs Amy Maloney resigned at the end of Term 3 and was replaced by

Miss Olivia Nolan. Our thanks to Mrs Maloney for her hard work and encouragement of the girls in sporting endeavours including her dedication to Saturday sport. Mrs Carole Pyne, who had been teaching two days a week in the Maths Task Centre, has left us at the end of this year. We thank her for the outstanding work organising and promoting maths problem solving activities. Thank you to Miss Astle, Mrs Donohue and Mrs Gaspersic who leave us also at the end of 2006.

Our administrative staff ensured the efficient operation of the Junior School on a daily basis, providing support to staff, care of the girls and interacting with parents in a multiplicity of ways. In particular, Mrs Kaye Davidson and Mrs Vanessa Nolan are to be acknowledged for their diligence and helpfulness during the year following the resignation of our senior Administration Officer, Mrs Sue Helder in March. During the year, the Senior Administration position was filled by a number of people.

As a Kindergarten to Year 12 School, our girls benefit from the teaching provided by our Senior School staff in Music, Drama, Languages, Sport, Science, ICT and Design and Technology. Every Monday we have looked forward to Chapel, led by Reverend Denise Nicholls, who has challenged us to live as followers of Jesus.

My personal thanks to our Deputies, Mrs Wiseman and Ms Porter, for providing outstanding leadership in Junior School. Their contribution to the educational programs of the school and the pastoral care of the girls has enabled us to effectively respond to needs, and to provide an innovative learning environment which seeks provide educational excellence for our girls.

I wish to acknowledge with particular appreciation, the support, guidance and understanding of our Principal, Mrs Carol Bown. Her dedication to Tara and her willingness to provide a high level of resourcing have enabled us to organise quality learning programs and the very best opportunities for our girls.

### Concluding comments

Parents, we join you as partners in your daughter's education and personal growth. On behalf of the staff, thank you for the many ways you have contributed to the life of the school over this past year. To those who have given time, from listening to a beginning reader to working in the library covering books, or inbetween way you have participated, - our sincere appreciation.

During the year we have been aware of the kindness and loving support provided by a number of parents to other Tara families who have experienced great sadness or need. Your expressions of practical support and consideration have modelled, for the girls, a compassion for others. 2006 has provided us with many opportunities to affirm the central place of our Christian beliefs. Through the good experiences and the difficult ones, we ask God to guide us, to teach us, so that we can become more like Jesus.

What a wonderful message of encouragement we have in the words of **The Blessing:** *May the Lord Bless you today And may He keep you in His care Giving His peace to your soul Even when times are hard.*

On behalf of the staff, I wish you and your family, the true joy of Christmas and a happy, relaxing holiday and look forward to our continued partnership in 2007.

*Cheryl Turner • Head of Junior School*



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## PASTORAL CARE

In the past year, Pastoral Care at Tara has continued to be a hallmark of our School. There is a broad range of opportunities which link to our philosophy of developing the whole person. In the Junior and Senior School, there are camps, charity days, guest speakers, work shops and social events throughout the year.

The girls who are entrusted into our care undergo enormous changes. They will be moving from childhood to adulthood during their time at Tara. The rate of change can be exciting but also a bit daunting. Our pastoral care program is about providing a structure of care and guidance during this time.

Part of Tara's vision relates to helping girls reach their potential. One of the great strengths of our School is the way we address the development of the whole person. We work in a partnership with parents to create a caring environment where girls can relax and be themselves.

As Deputy Principal-Pastoral Care, Mr Rod Braine leads a group of dedicated people who oversee our formal and informal program. We believe that one of the keys to unlocking girls' potential is to equip them with certain core values such as empathy, integrity and responsibility. One of the strengths of our School is the way we acknowledge and accept diversity, whether that be personal, religious or cultural, while striving for unity in purpose. Concepts such as these can galvanise our girls for future challenges and can help them (eventually) make appropriate independent decisions as adults.

How is this delivered? While the Class teachers in the Junior School and the Tutors and Year Coordinator in Senior School are usually the first point of contact for any specific concerns, all of our staff are involved in promoting Tara's ethos on a daily basis. The School is also very blessed to have excellent staff such as Mrs Robyn Richardson, a trained Psychologist, who works as our School Counsellor and Reverend Denise Nicholls our Chaplain who deliver a high level of support the whole Tara Community. We work with individuals as well as groups to help them develop skills in relating to others and adopt appropriate values.

This is done in the way that our teachers teach and interact with the students. We have common expectations and students can feel secure in the professionalism, diligence and genuine care for the individual exhibited by the Tara staff.

Pastoral Care at Tara directs and empowers girls to live their Christian values and to have positive relationships. In the Senior School, there are Tutor groups which are based on the four houses: Waugh, Hake, Crawford and Walker. These groups meet twice a week and the girls discuss issues such as positive relationships, manners and respect, managing conflict, communication, coping with change and character studies of people who have made a difference.

## YEAR 7

While the transition to high school for Year 7 started in September of last year, the most eagerly anticipated day was Monday 30 January, when 87 girls were officially able to be called The Tara Year 7 class of 2006. With much excitement, and a little trepidation, all students were met and directed into the Hall where they found their Peer Mentors and teamed up with others in their Tutor Groups. Accompanied by their Peer Mentors and instructed by their Tutors, the girls spent the rest of the morning learning about timetables, planners, the expectations of high school and, not the least, the all important locks and lockers. As there were no other students present at School, the Year 7s were able to quickly adjust to their new surroundings and find their way around, thus enabling a smooth and successful start to this new era of their lives. Thank you again to Mrs Lorraine Caulfield and the staff who aided her in training the Year 11s to be Peer Mentors.

Their assistance on this first day and in the following few weeks of School in helping with the adjustment process is invaluable in ensuring the Year 7s are feeling confident and comfortable members of the Senior School.

Orientation Camp followed in Week 3 helping to continue the settling-in process and to assist the girls to form new friendships or extend existing ones. Each student was organised into a cabin and activity group on the basis of having at least one person from her class and one from her tutor group with her, but by the end of the week friendships had extended far beyond that. After three days of fun-filled activities, the odd thunder storm, heavy rain, and much energy exerted, the aim of the camp had been achieved. Connections had been made between girls and their tutors resulting in Year 7 starting to become a unified group.

Other social events for in Term 1 for Year 7s included the much heralded disco with the Year 8 girls from Tara and Year 7 and 8 boys from The Kings School. Friendships formed then were reinforced at the end of the Term with the Annual Gala Day held between the Year 7 groups from both schools. This day of sport and friendly rivalry between mixed teams of girls and boys, with their Year 9 and Year 11 helpers from both Tara and TKS, continues to be a huge success every year in assisting the students to connect with and support each other. Parents of Year 7 students have also had opportunities to meet each other and teaching staff at the Welcome Cocktail Party in February and again at the Parent Teacher evening in June. These are avenues of connecting that are highly valued.

Many girls from Year 7 attended the K-12 Dinner in Term 2 dressed in their finest sea-themed outfits, sharing food and fun together with other students from around the school. As well, they have supported and learned from each other in team sports throughout the year, culminating in our Year Group winning the Participation Trophy in the Athletics Carnival. Each student has also been encouraged to 'share a talent' with her peers in their Tutor Groups. At the end of Term 3, the whole year group sat in a large circle to share lunch together.



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Each of these events has helped Year 7 to learn that as a year group it is important to care, share and connect with each other, acting with integrity at all times.

In Term 4 Year 7 will make cards for nursing homes and some Tutor Groups are looking at ways to help those less fortunate. Thus we are also starting to look outside of the Tara community and develop an awareness of others.

Almost half of Year 7 had the opportunity to participate in the musical *Oklahoma!*, several girls being selected to perform major roles. This has been the start of reaching out to the wider community and, together with the different excursions they have undertaken, it is evident that Year 7 are already proving to be great ambassadors for the School.

The Year 7 Tutors have once again guided each student within their care and assisted them in every way possible with the transition to High School. Their experience, practical advice and mentoring have been very much appreciated, not only by the girls but by Year Coordinator, Mrs Julia Mills, and Assistant Coordinator, Miss Adele Crane. Thank you to Mrs Megan Wade-Ferrell/Mrs Jenny Uther, Mrs Tanya Appleby, Dr Tim Dabbs, Mrs Claire Redfearn, Mrs Kaye Marr, Mrs Sarah Hamper/Mrs Margaret Ashby (Term 1), Mr Geoff Dale, Miss Alex Butt and Miss Lesley-Del Kinscher for your support, encouragement and enthusiasm in preparing the Year 7s of 2006 for their Senior School experience.

#### YEAR 8

2006 has been a year full of fun and new adventures for Year 8. Firmly settled into senior school life, the girls have embraced the many wonderful opportunities that Tara offers. We thank Miss Kendall Bowen for her work as Coordinator of Year 8. The focus of this year's Pastoral Care Program has been CONNECT and the girls have taken part in a range of activities in order to foster a sense of community and group cohesiveness. The Year 8 girls have been very fortunate to have had such a creative, enthusiastic and caring group of Tutor Teachers to support and guide them through this program. They have encouraged the girls to participate actively in school life, and to embrace and enjoy each others' differences and talents.

Thank you very much to the Year 8 Tutor team for all their dedication and constant support of the girls: Mr Scott Baker, Mrs Maureen Collins, Mrs Lisa Tang, Mrs Lasallian Ciampa, Mrs Cherida Chapman, Miss Lisa Goldman, Mrs Lynne Ambler and Mrs Chris Anderson. A second goal of the Pastoral Care Program has been to provide opportunities for the girls to be involved in charity activities. They have heard stories of less fortunate people and have not only embraced the chance to get involved and help, but have also taken the initiative and looked for ways that they can make a difference. Congratulations girls on your compassionate response to the plight of others.

In Term 1, the girls made Easter Cards to send to a local retirement village to brighten the days of the residents living there.

In Terms 2 and 3, they undertook the "Wrap with Love" knitting

project, learning new skills and creating beautiful, colourful rugs for people in countries experiencing trauma. Each girl knitted squares which were then connected to make at least 20 rugs. Thank you to all the Tara Staff who volunteered to help teach the girls how to knit. Also, a very big thank you to all the family and friends who joined us in knitting squares and to those who helped sew the squares together - a highly successful community effort!

One of the many highlights of the year was the Year 8 camp in Term 2. This year the girls headed to the Anglican Youthworks site at Port Hacking for 3 days full of outdoor adventure. Not even rain could dampen their enthusiasm for high ropes, abseiling, dragon boat racing and the very popular canoeing. The girls' rescue skills were put to great use when several girls decided to take a closer look at the "sharks" in the water and dramatically flipped over their canoe. It was a wonderful time to get to know each other better, develop team skills and create great memories as a year group.

Other highlights for Year 8 this year have included their vibrant participation in Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. They enjoyed the period costume Medieval Day organised by the History Department and their exciting Geography trip to the Mexican restaurant and following salsa dance class. The World Music Day where they all came in costumes from around the world and enjoyed the sounds of samba was a highlight. PDHPE day, where they participated in a variety of activities ranging from body combat to make-up lessons - all designed to develop their self esteem was a great hit. The girls particularly enjoyed the very successful Tara / TKS disco too.

Year 8 girls have also been involved in SNU club, run by the science department under the leadership of Mrs Bronwyn Walters. Each week the girls explored a different aspect of the amazing world of science, and were finally, after many cloudy nights, able to operate a telescope stationed in Dubbo and take photos of space via the internet.

Year 8 have also had many fun opportunities this year to develop their leadership skills. In Term 3, they participated in a Leadership Day where they learnt through hands on activities (and a lot of crazy dancing) about the characteristics needed to become a leader. It was wonderful to see them share so openly with each other and grow as a group, the highlight being their spontaneous lunch together that day in a circle in the quadrangle. As a follow up activity, Year 8 connected with Year 4 to undertake a group project. In preparation for the day, Year 8 learnt how to make origami cranes and then taught Year 4 how to make them. Much laughter ensued as the girls successfully made gigantic cranes, as well as miniature cranes. They even made cranes out of mintie wrappers. The cranes were then sent to Hiroshima, Japan, as a symbol of our commitment to World Peace.

Year 8 is also to be commended on their overall commitment to their studies. Each week at Year Meeting, Miss Bowen is pleased to award certificates for outstanding achievement across a wide variety of subjects.





*Pastoral Care continued***YEAR 9**

If there is one word to describe Year 9 it would be 'change'.

Year 9 is a time of great change in the life of a teenage girl. Influences both inside and outside of school contribute to the development of personality and character in all girls. Throughout this year, the Year 9 Coordinator, Mr Darren Brett, has been delighted to have the opportunity to work closely with the girls of Year 9, providing guidance, advice and assistance in matters concerning study, school life and general wellbeing. Pastoral Care in Year 9 is seen in terms of assisting the girls to develop a capacity for independence, resilience, initiative and mature judgement. The girls were very fortunate to again have an experienced, dedicated and caring group of tutor teachers to lead them. Thank you for the care and concern you have shown towards the girls at all times:

Mrs Bronwyn Walters, Mrs Kelly Christie, Dr Rod Jolly,  
Miss Melanie Walker, Mr Bruce Comerford, Mrs Anne Lockwood,  
Mrs Elizabeth George, Mrs Linda Higham (Terms 1-3)  
/ Mrs Christine Goddard (Term 4)

The key word in the Pastoral Care Program is "CONNECT". The tutor teachers, and Mr Brett, endeavoured to connect with the girls and encouraged them to connect with each other. Throughout the year, Year 9 undertook a range of activities to promote group cohesiveness.

As with last year, the 'theme' for Year 9 was to 'lead by example'. The distinguished scientist, Albert Einstein, once said 'Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.' The Year 9 girls were always expected to lead in everything they did this year; in the classroom, on the bus, in the play ground, and the way they treated each other.

The year started by welcoming seven new students to Year 9, bringing with them their own special qualities and talents, which benefited the whole year group.

In Term 1, Year 9 won the Participation Trophy for their extraordinary involvement in the annual Senior School Swimming Carnival. This is a marvellous effort as the girls have won this trophy for the past two years. The Year 9 Camp was held from the 20-22 March at Waterslea, the Anglican Youthworks Shoalhaven Conference and Outdoor Education Centre. Camp was a successful and important part of the Pastoral Care Program, where the girls strengthened, renewed and built friendships whilst having a fantastic time in the great outdoors! The activities were tackled with great enthusiasm. Canoeing and abseiling were highlights. A positive Christian focus was enhanced through the inclusion of Christian Discovery sessions and workshops led by the camp leaders. Year 9 Parent/Teacher interviews were held in Term 2. These were followed by a dinner for parents in the Boarding House. Our thanks are extended to all those who attended the dinner which was both an opportunity to meet other Year 9 parents over a relaxing meal, and

to meet the guest speaker, our new Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care, Mr Rod Braine. Mr Braine gave a talk on "Adolescence and Change", which was listened to with keen interest by the parents.

In Tutor Groups, the Year 9 girls participated in activities related to 'Being Positive', using the concept of viewing the glass as half full rather than half empty, and learning how to set goals and reflect on achievements using journals.

Year 9 have also written, taken photographs and published three student newspapers this year.

Term 3 was a very busy time for Year 9. Leadership and community service formed the focus of the Pastoral Care Program which was launched with a Leadership Day facilitated by Mr Bernie Kelly.

The Tara production of *Oklahoma!* involved over 45 Year 9 students. The Year 9 girls who took part in *Oklahoma!* are to be congratulated for their dedication and professionalism.

The Year 9 Debating Team comprising of Emily Carruthers, Samantha Leggett, Annabelle Nursey, and Eliza Owen made it to the finals of the Archdale Debating Competition. This was an excellent result in a tough competition.

At the end of Term 3, an activities day was held with Year 9 and the Junior School girls in Year 5. It was an enjoyable time and continued to cement a relationship which was started last year and will continue over the coming years, as Year 9 of 2006 become Year 11 of 2008, and Year 5 become Year 7. It is then the well-established Peer Mentoring program between Year 11 and Year 7 takes effect. By then girls will definitely know each other very well!

Term 4 saw the girls participate in a day of Community Service, giving Year 9 the opportunity to make a difference, however small, in the lives of others and the environment. The majority of Tutor Group time was spent preparing for the annual Year 9 Performing Arts Festival, where each House competed against each other in a mini Rock Eisteddfod style event. This provided another opportunity for the girls to show their range of talents and abilities.

Year 9 has also had the opportunity to attend a disco in Term 1, which was held at Tara. Our thanks are extended to the Parents and Friends Association, and to all of the parents and staff members who gave up their personal time to attend the disco and bush dance, providing a safe and secure environment for the girls and boys.

Also, in Terms 1 and 4, the girls were treated to Pizza and Movie nights at School.

Congratulations Year 9 on your involvement and achievements in 2006!



2006

**YEAR 10**

For many girls Year 10 is a transitional year on the road to adulthood. In so many aspects of their lives they are presented with new choices and challenges as well as opportunities. Our Pastoral Care Program aims to assist girls navigate their way through these new experiences to become confident, self assured young women. Ms Kathleen Crone headed up a team of excellent tutors who worked with the students to broaden their horizons.

To help the girls deal with some of the added pressures of Year 10, they completed a range of interesting activities in tutor group time including journal writing team building games, stress management and relaxation techniques. They also received nutritional advice. The Pastoral Care Program was led by the following tutor teachers; Mrs Philippa Bowmaker, Mrs Mena Mathew, Miss Pam Wilson, Mr Daryl Hinton, Mrs Sue Lack, Mr Ben Gilbert, Mrs Jenny O'Keeffe, Mrs Tracey Goldsworthy and Mr Trevor McGowan-Slee. They worked with the girls on a weekly basis developing trust and a sense of community. Early in first term, thanks to the Parents and Friends Association, Year 10 had a wonderful Disco. A lot of work was put in to create a safe, yet fun, environment. This was attended by TKS boys and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialise.

Quite a number of girls in Year 10 were involved in various productions and extra curricular activities from Duke of Edinburgh, Performing Arts days, musical productions such as *Oklahoma!* and representing Tara in a vast array of sports.

At various times during the year, Deputy Principal - Curriculum, Ms McGuinness and Heads of Department shared with the group the broad range of subject choices available at Tara in Stage 6. Academic skills were also looked at as part of the program and the group was well informed in preparation for the next step into their senior years. Leadership training was organised by Mrs Lorraine Caulfield. This is an important aspect of the Tara experience as all girls are exposed to training in leadership and given opportunities to make a difference. The girls underwent a 2 day leadership program with Mr Bernie Kelly from AYDP as part of the Peer Mentor Program which is where senior students are trained to support Year 7 girls.

The camp in Term 4 will be held at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre and will be great time of refreshment after the School Certificate examinations. In this beautiful natural setting, the girls will be challenged to assess what they believe in a context of fun and fellowship. We will have a new venue for the Tara formal this year. Rather than a harbour cruise, the girls chose a venue closer to home. At time of printing the girls are looking forward to dressing up for the evening at The Crown Plaza, Norwest.

When reflecting on the numerous achievements of the girls over the past year it is easy to see that Tara is more than a series of events put together. We are a community which aims to bring the best in those entrusted to our care.

**YEAR 11**

This year we have seen the Year 11 girls not only mature, but also unite as a year group. The year has provided the girls with many opportunities to grow and learn together.

The year started a day early for Year 11 as they arrived at school to greet the new Year 7 students and start their peer mentoring role. At the end of Year 10 the students participated in a three day course led by Mrs Lorraine Caulfield. The course prepared the students to be Peer Support Leaders which enabled them to ease the transition of Year 7 students into Senior School. The program involves a Year 11 student paired with a Year 7 student in their house group. The aim is for the Year 11 student to offer support and guidance on a variety of school matters that involve Year 7, as well as to have some fun along the way. The combined Tara/King's musical is always a highlight of the year and one where the students involved quickly learn the importance of balance of academic demands and other commitments. This year we saw *The Mikado* which showcased so many talented students in a wide range of roles including lead, supporting roles, chorus, backstage and front of house. Congratulations to the girls for being involved and providing us with such entertainment.

Driver Training Education was held in May, which is a 'Rotary' community service initiative held at St Ives. The day consisted of a variety of talks from policemen, road accident victims and insurance experts to inform the girls of the costs involved in owning a car. The girls were also involved as passengers in a car to experience breaking distances at various speeds including the difference between driving at 40km/h in a school zone to driving 60km/h. The day provided the girls with information and statistics to contemplate thoroughly in the hope that they will be safe and cautious drivers. Leadership training at Tara is a K-12 program although it becomes more intense in Year 11 as the students prepare to become Year 12 Leaders. In tutor group throughout the year the girls have explored what it means to be a Leader, qualities of a Leader and how Tara's values impact on being a Leader.

The Retreat this year was held at Vision Valley for two days. It was on this Retreat that the girls really connected with each other as a result of the activities that were undertaken. Mr Bernie Kelly, a guest speaker inspired the girls to see and appreciate the gifts and talents in the year group. It was an emotional time as students looked beyond their own friendship groups and found the good in others. This continued into the night where the girls each decorated a book for a friend and then it was passed around for students to write affirmations in it. The Year 11 Coordinator, Mrs Taryn Guy, was proud of the maturity shown and the way the girls united as a year group.

The end of Term 3 saw the election of the Head and Deputy Head Girl, Head and Deputy Head Boarder, various Prefect roles as well as Heads of House, Music, Sport, Debating and Drama Captains.



*Pastoral Care continued*

As well as these specialised positions all of Year 11 had the opportunity to become a Year 12 leader. They signed a commitment to the school to be a good role model for younger students. The students were presented with their badges at the commissioning service where they pledged their commitment of leadership to the School.

Term 4 sees the beginning of Year 12 work for the students and the privileges and responsibilities that go with being the most senior students in the school. The girls have had a very busy, but successful year which would not have been possible without the supportive staff. We would like to thank Mrs Taryn Guy (Year 11 Coordinator) and the Year 11 tutor teachers: Miss Lisa Bauer, Ms Colleen Booth, Mr Matthew Bonson, Mrs Lesley Forder, Dr Morna King, Mrs Chris Lang, Mr Phil Nield and Mrs Michelle Williams for their continued effort and commitment in supporting the Year 11 students.

**YEAR 12**

The Year Coordinator for 2006, Mrs Adele Hyland, has been the Year Coordinator for the same group of girls for the past 5 years. She has been ably assisted this year, and in previous years, by the tutor team of Mrs Melissa Finn, Mrs Robyn Thurston, Mrs Joanne George, Mrs Desley Williams, Mr Jim Clark, Mr Darren Barker, Mr Warwick Shepherd and Mr Richard Dooley.

This year group accepted their leadership role in the school with enthusiasm and commitment. They have energised sports carnivals, inspired performance days, enlightened debating competitions, mustered house spirit and led by example in the day to day activities of school life. The success of the School Leadership Program is certainly evident in the way the students of Year 12 accepted their many and varied leadership roles and continued to give selflessly of their time and energy throughout what is the most challenging year of their schooling. HSC courses commenced in the final Term of 2005 and continued through to the commencement of the HSC Examinations on 19 October 2006. The assessment tasks undertaken throughout the year and the final examination itself are rigorous in their level of difficulty and the work load involved. Major works prepared by the girls in many subject areas were particularly impressive with some artworks achieving full marks. Student and teachers worked as a team throughout the year and once again Tara students are well prepared to make a worthwhile contribution to society in the next stage of their lives. We wish them well in their Higher School Certificate Examination and in their subsequent studies, employment, community and family life.

An event which is now becoming a feature of the Tara calendar is the K-12 Dinner. In August 2006 the Year 12 students hosted the dinner with a *Barnacles and Buccaneers* theme in a venue teeming with fish, fishing nets and treasure. The girls spent many weeks planning decorations, gifts and games so that all who attended would enjoy a memorable experience. The gym looked superb as did all the costumed attendees from the tiny kindy girls to the senior school students.

What a wonderful event and congratulations must go to the Leadership Team and Mrs Peta Black along with Mr Mark Redford and the Maintenance Team who led the staff and students in their supervision of the evening and the preparation of the Multi Purpose Hall.

Exo Day has become another much anticipated special day for Senior School students to celebrate God's love. Amy Zschech and Hayley McCloskey, under the direction of Reverend Denise Nicholls, encouraged members of the Roosters Rugby League team and bands from the Hillsong Church to join us for a lunch time filled with music, competitions, food and fellowship.

As the final weeks of School were upon them, Year 12 students were reminded of the many happy times that had been enjoyed at Tara as they worked in committees to plan end of School functions and to document their thoughts for speeches and the Tara Yearbook. Some girls had been students at Tara for all of their school life and others had joined them along the way through Junior School and then at the commencement of Senior School. Friendships that will last for life have evolved and although looking forward to the opportunities waiting beyond the walls of Tara there was some reticence about leaving familiar places and faces.

The final week of school preceding the period of study leave before the HSC Examinations was a very busy time. It commenced with the lunchtime concert presented by staff members. If laughter is the best medicine then this concert certainly contributes to the general good health of staff and students. It is a fitting start for a week during which staff, parents and students experience a range of emotions as they recognise that this group of young women have reached a level of maturity to be admired.

As the girls presented their memories of school during the Valedictory Assembly there were many tears as well as many shrieks of laughter. The speakers took the opportunity to thank teachers and parents who had supported them and encouraged them and to reminisce about special times that will remain in their memories of their schooling at Tara. Hymns were sung and thanks given to God as the school community officially farewelled the student cohort of Year 12, 2006.

The Valedictory Dinner attended by students, parents and teachers of Year 12 was this year held at the new Waterview Convention Centre at Homebush. As always, one of the highlights of the evening was the audio visual presentation, a pictorial record of the passage through school for this student cohort. The copies prepared for each student by Mr Daryl Hinton were greatly appreciated as were the enormous efforts of Mr Paul McCloskey as the unpredictable and always entertaining Master of Ceremonies. We thank Mrs Barbara Meagher, whose choice of décor gave the dinner a beautiful ambience and Mrs Michelle Stocks for her diligence with the difficult task of table seating – a very enjoyable finale for this last week of school for Year 12. We wish our young women well with their Higher School Certificate Examination and with all that God has in store for them in their life after Tara.



2006

## LEADERSHIP

Our Leadership Program at Tara aims to give all students a broad range of opportunities to develop skills, values and attitudes that prepare them for life in the wider community. Each student at Tara is encouraged to develop her own special qualities and accept Leadership responsibilities.

The Leadership Committee for 2006 was elected in September 2005. The team of 26 students was led by Hannah Meagher and Anabel Sheen. The Committee included Heads of House, Captains of Extra Curricular and Competition Activities as well as Prefects. The preparation for their Year of Office started with the Leadership Camp held at Merroo, Kurrajong. Additional opportunities for Leadership training were provided, with various students attending further Leadership training activities, such as the Australian Youth Development Leadership Conference, the Mitchell Youth Leadership Conference and The National Young Leaders Day in November. The focus theme of the Leadership team 2005-2006 was to increase school spirit. One way this was addressed was through the design and purchase of a school mascot - The Tara Tiger. Over the year, the Tara Tiger has attended a range of School events including assemblies, sport carnivals, the ski trip and even a school council meeting.

The K-12 Dinner, *Buccaneers and Barnacles* was another initiative from the Leaders that forged a bond between the Senior and Junior students and fostered School spirit. The Leadership Committee, under the direction of the Charity prefects, took responsibility for organising and supporting charities such as Westmead Children's Hospital, through the Teddy Bear's Picnic, The Micah Challenge – the Make Poverty history initiative and the donation of a huge number of goods for the Anglicare Toys n Tucker appeal.

In September 2006, the Leadership Committee for 2006/2007 was elected assuming office at the end of Term 3. The Leadership Camp at Merroo gave students the opportunity to formulate their goals and objectives for their Term of Office. The Committee for 2006/2007 is led by Shannon Davis and Naomi Brooks, with Bree Norris and Connie Stedman leading the Boarding House. The Leadership Commissioning Dinner held in Term 3, 2006 was an opportunity for the new Leaders to present their objectives and strategies to their parents, staff and members of Council. The focus of the team for the coming year is going to build on the foundations of the previous theme of "School Spirit" with the aim of fostering an even greater sense of unity within the School.

The SRC in 2006 was led by an enthusiastic team of Year 11 students, under the direction of Shannon Davis and Naomi Brooks. Students were elected early in Term 1, and held office until the end of Term 3. The SRC has been active in its support of charities through action days such as Jeans for Genes Day.

2006 saw the continuation of the Peer Mentor Program. This program is grounded in the philosophy of giving appropriate training and the opportunity to serve. This is supported in the Pastoral Care program under the guidance of Ms Kathleen Crone and the Year 10 Tutors. The Year 10 Leadership Training Program held in Term 4, 2005, prepared Senior Students for their role supporting Year 7. This Program will continue to be monitored and adapted to suit the needs of our Year 7 students. It provides excellent leadership experience for all Senior Students.

The Leadership Program for Year 9 which focused on community service projects was successfully undertaken with the support of the Year 9 Coordinator Mr Darren Brett and the Year 9 Tutors. Year 9 had a Leadership Day with Bernie Kelly from AYDP to start their Program. Celebrating Year 9 was a wonderful showcase to parents and staff of Year 9's achievements. The connection with Junior School that was established last year was continued, with a program linking the Year 5 (Junior School) girls with those in Year 9.

The Year 8 Leadership Program focused on team building and connecting with each other. The leadership training day was from all accounts was very successful. Soon after the training day, the girls had an opportunity to apply their leadership skills when they organised a range of activities for Year 4 (Junior School). Miss Kendall Bowen, Year 8 Coordinator, is also supporting Leadership activities within her Pastoral Care Program.

The Leadership Program has become an integral part of the developmental activities for each year group. The programs are constantly re-evaluated and extended to prepare students for Leadership and to provide more opportunities for Leadership development. Programs also aim to strengthen connection with Junior School with other Tara support groups and with the wider community. The entire Leadership Program, "Towards Leadership", is built on the strong belief that every student at Tara is capable of Leadership and that every girl needs opportunities to develop these skills in practical and affirming ways. We thank Mrs Lorraine Caulfield for her wonderful work with Leadership at Tara.



# 2006 ADMINISTRATION

The Deputy Principal – Administration, Mrs Sue Hammond, is responsible for the daily routines of the Senior School. Thank you to Mrs Hammond for her wisdom and efficiency in this role. These routines include daily attendance and record keeping, school travel, discipline, detentions, student and staff leave, casual staff, lost property, photographs and ID cards, staff replacements and supervision duties, care of girls and staff, excursions, privacy and health and safety monitoring. The Deputy Principal – Administration’s Secretary, Miss Tania Vallario, together with the staff at Student Reception, Mrs Lyn Muir, Mrs Karen Bramwell, Mrs Bev Newham, Mrs Meaghan Lingard and Mrs Robyn Linton, ensure the smooth running of the day to day operation of the Senior School. Further clerical and administrative support is very capably given by Ms Maureen McAlister, Miss Angela Bryan, Mrs Linda Davies and Mrs Rhonda Christie. Thank you to all these members of staff for their invaluable contribution to the running of the School.

2006 saw the arrival of the following new members of staff in the Senior School: Mrs Lynne Ambler (Head of Visual Arts), Mrs Lisa Tang (LOTE), Mr Rod Braine (Deputy Principal - Pastoral Care), Mrs Lasallian Ciampa (Head of Music), Mrs Maureen Collins (LOTE), Mr Geoff Dale (Mathematics), Miss Lisa Goldman (PDHPE/Outdoor Education). A thorough staff induction program was held at the start of the year for all new staff. This included sessions about expectations of staff, Occupational Health and Safety, Emergency Evacuation procedures, ICT procedures, details about the philosophy and values of the School, as well as community relations, security and a tour of the campus. At the end of 2006 we sadly farewell Dr Timothy Dabbs (Science), Mrs Sandra Gregson (Science), Mrs Davinia Feggans (Head of Visual Arts), Mrs Jenny O’Keeffe (Head of Sport) and Mrs Jenny Uther (Library).

We thank these staff for their valuable contribution to the life of Tara and wish them well in their future endeavours. Tara has an excellent record of teacher attendance. For 2006 the average teacher attendance rate in the Senior School was 97.6%, calculated according to the number of sick days taken by Senior School teaching staff.

There have been a number of K-12 initiatives this year. These have included three excellent K-12 assemblies held in the Gymnasium in which the Senior School and Junior School girls demonstrated their talents in music, drama, public speaking and dance. One of these K-12 assemblies celebrated the School’s Birthday.

Successful K-12 Easter and Christmas services have been held, as well as a K-12 Dinner for students which was fully organised by the students. This K-12 “whole” school policy is also supported by a number of staff who teach in both Senior School and Junior School, involving subject areas such as Music, Languages, PDHPE, Mathematics and Design and Technology. Other K-12 events include Staff Chapel services, staff meetings and professional development days. House spirit has continued to develop, with many House events throughout the year capably coordinated by the House Patrons

– Mr David Hudson (Walker), Mrs Caitlin Hughes (Waugh), Ms Anne-Maria Romeo (Hake) and Mrs Sue van Zuylen (Crawford). We thank them greatly for their support and enthusiasm of events such as Inter-House Choral, Drama, Debating, Public Speaking, Basketball, Softball, Netball, Hockey, Cricket, Water Polo, Diving and Gymnastics, as well as the Athletics and Swimming carnivals. Thanks also goes to Mrs Jenny O’Keeffe and the PE Department, Ms Melissa Finn, Mr Michael Griffiths and the Music and Drama Departments, as well as all the adjudicators and judges of the events.

Tara has participated in the vaccination program organised by the NSW Department of Health. Year 7 students received vaccinations for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Hepatitis B. This free program was greatly appreciated by parents and students at Tara. Tara has continued to provide private bus services to transport students to and from Hunters Hill/Putney this year. Additional earlier and late services have been trialed during the year. These have proved to be very popular and we will continue to assess and evaluate the school bus routes. The Occupational Health and Safety Committee has met regularly throughout the year, with much work being done to ensure all regulations and standards are being met. Thank you to Dr Rod Jolly who so capably chairs and coordinates the committee. Risk management plans have been developed by Miss Lesley-Del Kinscher and Dr Jolly and have been placed on the Tara Staff Intranet. Staff are required to customise these for all student excursions and functions. All accidents/incidents and hazard reports have been recorded according to the Occupational Health and Safety Manual, and Emergency Evacuation procedures have been reviewed and implemented.

All members of the Tara community are notified about privacy matters both on the Intranet and in the fortnightly TARAnews. Class lists have been distributed, with permission, to all families to encourage good communication between families. Parents who do not wish this information to be published have been advised to notify the Deputy Principal-Administration in writing.

Towards the end of 2005, Family Information Forms were sent out to all parents for checking and editing. At the end of 2006, similar forms will be distributed to parents to confirm their details for 2007. Any changes of contact details are to be made on the Forms, or if they occur at other times of the year, the Deputy Principal – Administration should be advised, in writing.

Students with full attendance each term in 2006 received Attendance Certificates during the year. Overall, the average student attendance rate for Senior School students for 2006 has been 93%.

This year it became compulsory to wear the school blazer as the outer garment with the winter uniform. The current Tara discipline procedures together with guidelines, can be found in the Tara School Planner, Orientation Booklet and Staff Handbook. These are available on the School Intranet. Tara does not support Corporal Punishment of any kind.



# CURRICULUM

In the past year Tara has continued its dynamic and innovative approach to its curriculum offerings, by undertaking a number of new and continuing initiatives Kindergarten – Year 12. The curriculum aspects of the school are managed by the Deputy Principal Curriculum, Ms Heidi McGuinness, who is part of the School Executive Team, and works with the Principal, Head of Junior School, Deputies of Junior School and Deputies Pastoral Care and Administration. We thank her for her leadership of the academic side of the School and for her meticulous attention to detail in reporting and timetabling. Thank you also to Mrs Mischeal Fenton for her valuable support in the Deputy Principal-Curriculum's Office.

We also extend our appreciation to Tara's highly qualified and dedicated teaching staff. A full list of Tara's teaching staff and their corresponding qualifications at 1 November 2006 can be found at the back of this report. The 109 teaching staff who are responsible for delivering the curriculum and assessing student performance, have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition guidelines. Three of these teachers, who commenced their employment as a teacher after 1 October 2004, are currently undergoing the processes to be accredited by the NSW Institute of Teachers at Professional Competence standard.

All teachers were provided with the opportunity to undertake professional learning. Tara offers internal professional development such as professional development (PD) breakfasts, extended faculty PD meeting time, staff development days and teaching support, especially in the area of technology. Tara teaching staff are encouraged to attend external professional development courses and often conduct workshops at these courses. Tara has generously hosted many professional development workshops, making available our facilities to teachers across the state. In 2006 an average of \$500 per staff member was spent on funding attendance to external courses. Additional expenditure was required to provide relief teachers for courses conducted during the school week. Many of Tara's teachers have also had the opportunity to be involved with HSC Examination marking, HSC Examination committees, HSC Advice Line as well as various Board of Studies committees.

**The curriculum initiatives are designed to broaden and enhance the teaching and learning environment for both staff and students. Priorities identified and continued in 2006 included:**

- integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) throughout the school. Achievements include intensive staff professional development, including the issue of a new laptop to each full-time teacher, integrated technology units embedded into teaching programs, further utilisation of Tara's Intranet and extensive hardware and personnel support. Further details are available in the sections from each department.

- differentiated curriculum to meet the learning needs of all students. Enrichment and extension projects have been encouraged and learning support has been provided K to 12. Further details are available in the sections from each department.
- the Performing Arts has continued to gather momentum, with an enhancement of opportunities for participation by students and staff. Specific details are available in the Performing Arts section.
- educational change, including new approaches to pedagogy and external factors, have continued to be addressed.
- our new assessment and reporting procedures have been refined. Continued emphasis has been placed on Assessment for Learning strategies and the new Academic Reporting format has ensured that student reports are in plain English and meet all requirements of the Commonwealth Government.
- curriculum linkages within the school have been strengthened, with the implementation of several projects which integrate a number of key learning areas and a range of stages. Greater resource sharing from K to 12 has enabled more efficient use of resources and enhanced learning opportunities for all students.

**Tara's Education Plan guides the way we aim to optimise learning at Tara. The main outcomes of this strategic five year plan include:**

1. Develop problem solving/thinking skills across the K-12 teaching program and activities.
2. Integrate Information and Communication Technology skills across K-12
3. Strengthen opportunities for learning support and for extension and enrichment activities.
4. Develop and promote practices which encourage independent, life-long learning.
5. Attract and retain quality staff and enhance their professional development.

Tara's Education Plan is currently under review and the revised version for the next five years should be available in 2007.

Educational priorities that have been identified for 2007 include the continuation of those listed above, with additional goals in the areas of programming for syllabus changes and enhancing our monitoring process of student performance and progress. Teaching staff will also be involved in finalising the required documentation for Registration and Accreditation which is due to the Board of Studies at the end of March.

## STUDENT RETENTION RATES YEAR 10, 2004 – YEAR 12, 2006

Number of Students Year 10, 2004	Year 10 Leavers (2004)	Year 11 New Enrolments (2005)	Number of Students Year 12, 2006
119	16	13	116



*Curriculum continued*

The majority of students who left Tara at the end of Year 10 in 2006, continued their education at a variety of education institutions. Some students left Tara due to the travel commitments of their parents. The retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12 is similar to that of previous years.

The Tara community congratulates all 2006 HSC students on their outstanding results and personal achievements. The outstanding results recorded, led by Hannah Martin with a UAI of 99.75, are an indication of the high standard 2006 HSC students reached. Tara is proud, not only of the select group of academic achievers mentioned below, but also students not mentioned here, who have been committed to excellence in the fields of academic work, sport, music, drama, debating and leadership.

Tara had five students attend the Premier's Award Ceremony earlier this year in recognition of their achievement as an 'All Rounder'. Students who achieve 10 units or more of HSC marks 90 or above (45 for 1 unit courses) are listed on the All Rounder Achievers List.

**ALL ROUNDERS  
ACHIEVER LIST**

Kylie Bordignon  
Joanna Chanmugam  
Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
Hannah Martin  
Danielle Raymond

**TOP ACHIEVERS LIST**

Nicole Maitin-Casalis - Drama  
Hannah Martin - English  
Advanced  
Hannah Martin - Modern  
History

**DISTINGUISHED  
ACHIEVERS LISTING  
BY COURSE****ANCIENT HISTORY**

Kylie Bordignon  
Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
Hannah Martin  
Bethany McMurray

Hannah Meagher  
Rachel Roberts

**BIOLOGY**

Michelle Calderara  
Joanna Chanmugam  
Breanna Downton  
Anna Hecek  
Lucy Holden  
Anna Jordan  
Melissa McWilliam

Sarah Murray  
Penelope Sutherland  
Alexandra Thompson

**BUSINESS STUDIES**

Annabel Baker  
Breanna Downton  
Sara Gajic

Alicia Mackenzie  
Anna-Louise Moule

Jessica Pickering-Rodriguez

**CHEMISTRY**

Joanna Chanmugam  
Danielle Raymond

**DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Yeon Soo Baek  
Emma Campbell  
Cassandra Golding

Anna Hecek  
Bethany McMurray  
Tahlia Needham

Bowie Wong  
Jessica Wong

**DRAMA**

Mesina Achelles  
Nicolette Chin  
Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
Bethany McMurray  
Hannah Meagher  
Rachel Roberts

**EARTH &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE**

Lesley Pittaway  
Christie Roberts  
Alexandra Thompson

**ECONOMICS**

Mary Konstantopoulos  
Danielle Raymond

**ENGLISH  
(ADVANCED)**

Kylie Bordignon  
Nicolette Chin  
Muesser Eminoglu  
Georgina Harvey  
Anna Jordan

Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
Hannah Martin

Hannah Meagher  
Danielle Raymond

**ENGLISH  
EXTENSION 1**

Kylie Bordignon  
Nicolette Chin  
Georgina Harvey  
Lucy Holden

Anna Jordan  
Nicole Maitin-Casalis

Hannah Martin  
Rachel Roberts

**ENGLISH  
EXTENSION 2**

Kylie Bordignon  
Lucy Holden  
Anna Jordan

Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
Giselle Nguyen  
Alexandra Sarkis

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY**

Sally Bartle  
Annabel Butt  
Joanne Doorey  
Lauren Horwood  
Robyn Logan  
Angela McBurney  
**GEOGRAPHY**  
Kylie Bordignon  
Meghan Harman

Anna Hecek  
Mary Konstantopoulos  
Melissa McWilliam  
Genevieve Morgan  
Jessica Pickering-Rodriguez  
Annabelle Strang  
Penelope Sutherland

**INFORMATION  
PROCESSES &  
TECHNOLOGY**

Amy Donohue  
Georgina Harvey  
Hannah Martin  
Hayley McCloskey

**GENERAL  
MATHEMATICS**

Sally Bartle  
Haidee Carritt  
Breanna Downton  
Meghan Harman

Anna Hecek  
**MATHEMATICS**

Yeon Soo Baek  
Danielle Raymond

**MATHEMATICS  
EXTENSION 1**

Joanna Chanmugam  
Carolyn Cheung  
Danielle Raymond

**MATHEMATICS  
EXTENSION 2**

Joanna Chanmugam  
Carolyn Cheung  
**MODERN HISTORY**

Kylie Bordignon  
Alison Hammond  
Georgina Harvey

Anna Jordan  
Mary Konstantopoulos  
Hannah Martin

Angela McBurney  
Bethany McMurray  
Hannah Meagher

**HISTORY  
EXTENSION**

Kylie Bordignon  
Alison Hammond  
Anna Jordan



Mary Konstantopoulos  
 Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
 Bethany McMurray  
 Hannah Meagher  
**MUSIC 2**  
 Nicolette Chin  
 Nicole Maitin-Casalis  
**MUSIC EXTENSION**  
 Giselle Nguyen  
 Rosemary Waugh  
**PDHPE**  
 Sally Bartle  
 Annabel Butt  
 Michelle Calderara  
 Siobhan Campbell  
 Sarah Deathridge  
 Breanna Downton  
 Georgina Ford  
 Meghan Harman  
 Melissa McWilliam  
 Anna-Louise Moule  
 Gina Sacilotto  
 Annabelle Strang  
 Penelope Sutherland

**PHYSICS**  
 Joanna Chanmugam  
 Danielle Raymond  
**SENIOR SCIENCE**  
 Lauren Horwood  
 Rachel Roberts  
 Jessica Wong  
**VISUAL ARTS**  
 Tonia Bell  
 Jessie Cunningham-Reid  
 Rebecca Li  
 Gina Sacilotto  
**FRENCH CONTINUERS**  
 Sarah Deathridge  
 Muesser Eminoglu  
 Hannah Martin  
 Giselle Nguyen  
**GERMAN CONTINUERS**  
 Sarah Deathridge  
**JAPANESE CONTINUERS**  
 Carolyn Cheung  
**JAPANESE EXTENSION**  
 Carolyn Cheung  
**HOSPITALITY EXAMINATION**  
 Annabel Baker

**SUMMARY OF 2006 HSC RESULTS BY COURSE**

*HSC Courses in which Tara's Examination Mean was greater than 10% above the State Mean:*

Biology  
 Design and Technology  
 Earth and Environmental Science  
 English as a Second Language  
 Food Technology  
 Geography  
 Information Processes and Technology  
 General Mathematics  
 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education  
 Senior Science

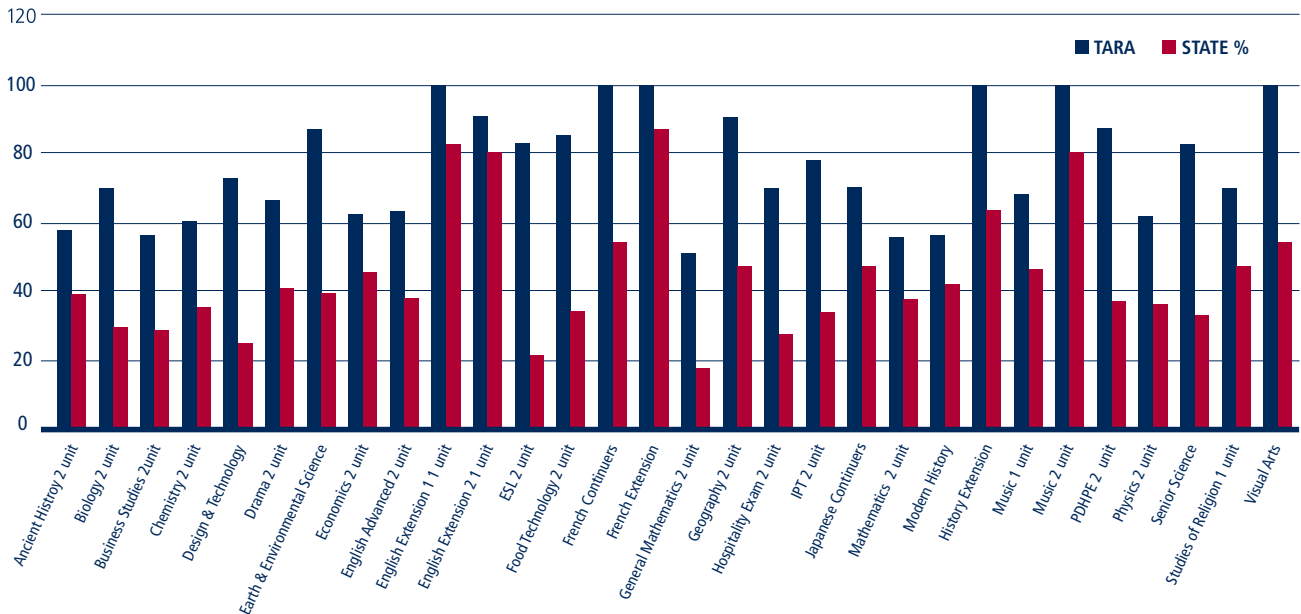
*HSC Courses in which Tara's Examination Mean was greater than 5% above the State Mean:*

Ancient History	Modern History
Business Studies	History Extension
Chemistry	Music 1
Drama	Physics
Economics	Visual Arts
English (Standard)	French Continuers
Mathematics	Hospitality Examination

Congratulations to all of our Year 12 students. Their hard work has certainly paid off! Well done to our teachers and of course to our parents who provide the encouragement and support so necessary during these important years of schooling.

The following graph indicates HSC courses where the percentage of Tara students achieving results in the top two classification bands were substantially above the state percentages.

**2006 HSC STUDENTS ACHIEVING TOP TWO BANDS**





Curriculum continued

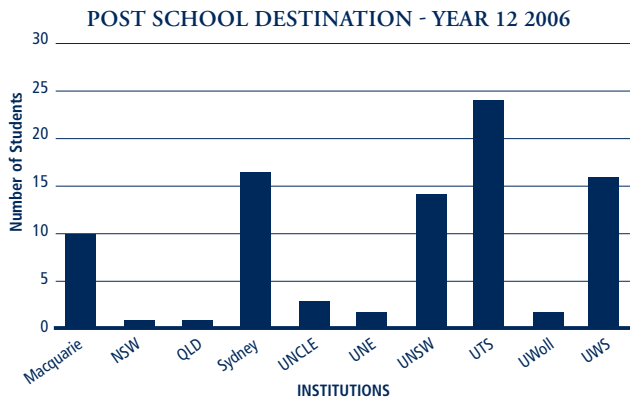
At the end of their schooling, Year 12 students complete a student survey to provide feedback to the school with regards to student satisfaction of the opportunities provided by Tara. The Year 12 cohort of 2006 identified the following areas as strengths of the school:

- Teaching staff have good knowledge of their subject area, establish a good classroom atmosphere, explain concepts clearly, provide extra assistance and respect students as young adults.
- The School environment is safe, caring and supportive and the School is active in preventing bullying.
- Students had opportunities to show initiative, take on leadership responsibilities and learn to respect and be considerate of others. Students also took pride in their achievements, gained confidence in their abilities, developed good organisational skills and were able to take responsibility for important decisions in their life.
- People are respected regardless of their backgrounds
- Discipline is enforced and this creates a safe environment

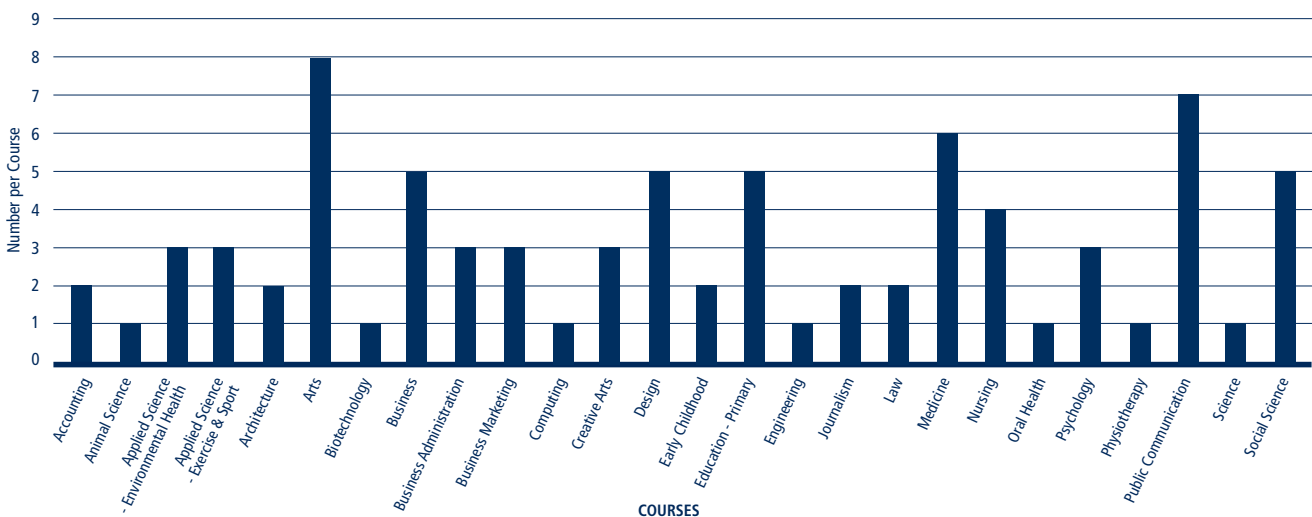
Possible improvements identified by the Year 12 cohort included the need for curriculum offerings to suit all students' individual interests, more opportunities to participate in decision making and a more flexible arrangement for study periods.

Tara's 2006 graduates attended an afternoon tea in February, where there was an opportunity to catch up with friends and teachers. Post-school destination information was collected at the afternoon tea. Tara's graduates indicated that 90% would be undertaking further study, while the remaining 10% were planning to participate in either the workforce, GAP Programs or were undecided.

The graph below indicates the Tertiary Institutions at which students were enrolled.



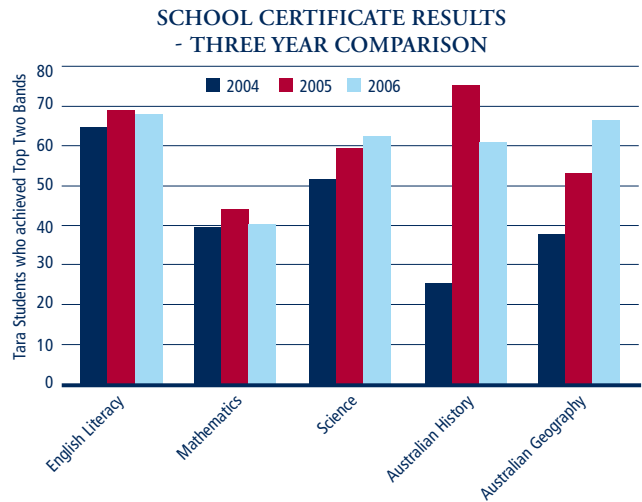
MAIN ROUND OFFERS - YEAR 12 2006



Tara Year 10 students received outstanding results in the School Certificate Test last year. A summary of School Certificate Test results for 2006 indicating the highest bands (Bands 5 & 6), the lowest bands (Bands 1 & 2) and a comparison to the state results, is shown below.

	TARA %	STATE%		TARA %	STATE%
<b>English Literacy</b>			<b>Aust. History</b>		
Band 5 and 6	68.21	30.98	Band 5 and 6	60.74	23.97
Band 1 and 2	0.93	9.98	Band 1 and 2	2.8	13.4
<b>Mathematics</b>			<b>Aust. Geography</b>		
Band 5 and 6	40.47	19.42	Band 5 and 6	66.45	30.91
Band 1 and 2	8.67	27.46	Band 1 and 2	0.93	8.06
<b>Science</b>					
Band 5 and 6	62.61	29.48			
Band 1 and 2	1.86	9.78			

The graph below provides a summary of School Certificate results (Bands 5 & 6) achieved by Tara students over the past three years.



The graph below indicates broad categories of courses selected by the 2006 Year 12 cohort for their further study.

2006

Year 10 students once again achieved outstanding results in the Trial Computing Skills Competency Test. Years 7 and 8 participated in National Literacy and Numeracy skills testing earlier this year. Our students are to be congratulated on achieving results well above the state average. The national testing enables schools to customise their curriculum development to meet the needs of each particular cohort and satisfies the State and National Government's benchmark testing requirements. The results for English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP) are displayed in the tables below.

<b>YEAR 7 ELLA RESULTS - 2006 (%)</b>			
	<b>Tara Mean</b>	<b>State Mean</b>	<b>State Girls' Mean</b>
Writing	95.8	88.8	90.3
Reading	94.8	88.9	89.4
Language	95.0	88.8	90.1
Literacy	95.4	88.8	89.8

<b>Year 8 ELLA Results - 2006 (Year 7, 2005 in Brackets)</b>			
	<b>Tara Mean</b>	<b>State Mean</b>	<b>State Girls' Mean</b>
Writing	97.9 (96.5)	90.4	92.0
Reading	97.8 (94.6)	91.2	91.7
Language	96.6 (94.8)	90.1	91.4
Literacy	97.1 (95.0)	90.4	91.5

<b>YEAR 7 SNAP RESULTS - 2006 (%)</b>			
	<b>Tara Mean</b>	<b>State Mean</b>	<b>State Girls' Mean</b>
Numeracy	89.4	84.7	84.5
Number	90.5	84.7	84.9
Measurement	89.0	84.7	83.7
Space	89.1	84.6	84.5
Data	89.3	84.7	84.9
Patterns & Algebra	90.7	85.4	85.2

<b>Year 8 SNAP Results - 2006 (%)</b>			
	<b>Tara Mean</b>	<b>State Mean</b>	<b>State Girls' Mean</b>
Numeracy	95.1	87.2	87.0
Number	95.9	87.2	87.4
Measurement	93.8	87.3	86.2
Space	95.8	86.8	86.5
Data	96.3	88.1	88.0
Patterns & Algebra	97.8	88.3	88.1

Tara has conducted during 2006/2007 a series of market intelligence exercises with external facilitators, The Knowledge Partnership. These studies were designed to capture market data relating to parent, student and staff motivations, expectations and performance [satisfaction] against those motivations and expectations. This data has been applied internally to help develop a School-Wide Strategy for Marketing and is now being applied across the school in the further development of Tara's offer and communication to the public. A recent teacher survey revealed that the majority of the teaching staff are satisfied with Tara's resources, professional development programmes, ICT support and the methods used to communicate with parents, students and staff. Tara holds regular Principal's Dinners at which parents are asked their opinion of the School and about their level of satisfaction with Tara. These discussions indicate a high level of satisfaction with the School's educational offering and support, the high level of pastoral care and co-curricular opportunities.



# 2006 SUBJECT REPORTS

## ENGLISH

The English Department coordinated by Mrs Tanya Appleby assisted by Mr Darren Barker, has had an exciting year. Teachers have consolidated changes to the Stage 4 and 5 Syllabus and have continued to build on the resources to support programs. This year, students and teachers have also focused on enhancing spelling skills with the development of *Spelling@Tara*. This program has been developed to overarch spelling skills taught in Year 6, reinforce high frequency words, extension words, commonly misspelt words and subject specific vocabulary. The inclusion of spelling with mandatory assessment throughout the year has reaped much interesting data about the spelling skills of adolescents and has seen greater parental involvement in the process of learning. It is envisaged that *Spelling@Tara* will be further refined in 2007 and that spelling lists will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

The English Department continues to be delighted with the outstanding HSC results achieved in all courses, with a record number of students achieving excellent results in all HSC courses and larger numbers of students tackling the Extension 2 English Course. Excellent results were also obtained in the School Certificate, with results that were well above the NSW state mean and excellent results were also achieved in the NSW Australasian English Competition. Thank you to all the teachers who taught these girls and who helped ensure that that they were able to reach their academic potential.

One of the main highlights this year was the Excellence in English Showcase organised by Mr Ben Gilbert and Mr Darren Barker. This showcase presented the Major Works of all Extension 2 students, Year 11 Mini Major Work students and Year 10 Janus Projects students. The evening was opened by Miss Megan White, a Tara Old Girl (2005) and past Extension 2 student. She spoke about her involvement in the Janus, Mini Major and Extension 2 courses and how they influenced her life and current tertiary studies. The works presented on the evening were characterised by their originality, flair and level of sophisticated understanding and composition of texts. The audience on the evening of the Showcase Night were delighted to hear, read and view short stories, critical essays, films, speech, poetry and multimedia work created by some of the most gifted and talented English students from Year 10, 11 and 12. This year, the Critoph Family Shield for Excellence in English 'Janus' Project was awarded to Natasha Pesce for her outstanding text titled *The Light Executioner*. The English Department also awarded Janus students trophies in recognition of their excellence.

The following girls were selected for the Janus Project in 2006: Natasha Pesce, Olivia Hartley, Rachael Vicary, Belinda White, Alexandra Moxon, Madeline Reid and Penny Sinden. Also presented on the night, was a special award for Most Outstanding work of a Year 11 student. This was awarded to Alison Hammond for her

critical essay. Thank you to Ms Melissa Finn, Janus teacher, for her professional contribution and work with Year 10 students. Similarly, thank you to Mr Gilbert and Mr Barker for their tireless work and expertise with Extension 2 students.

The English Department continues to provide all students with a range of opportunities to express their creative ideas. Mr Gilbert is primarily responsible for the application and entries for all external competitions and he is to be commended on making the opportunities available to our students. Under the guidance of class teachers, many students have participated in external poetry, writing, film and speech competitions. These opportunities are actively encouraged and available to all students who wish to explore a range of creative composition styles in different mediums.

This year we would like to highlight the achievements of:

### Write Now Sydney Morning Herald Short Story Competition

Commendation	Eliza Owen	Year 9
Commendation	Georgia Appleby	Year 8
Commendation	Jessica Wong	Year 8
Commendation	Corinne Parkes	Year 7
Commendation	Caroline Tyers	Year 7

### 2006 Hills Film Festival

Finalist	Sarah de Masi	Year 11	Documentary Film <i>Can you hear the Sound?</i>
Finalist	Georgia Appleby	Year 8	Documentary Film <i>Black Dog</i>

### Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2006

Highly Commended	Emily O'Brien	Yr 7
Commended	Chloe Wilson	Yr 7
	Melanie Roy	Yr 7
	Cassidy O'Sullivan	Yr 7

Each of the competitions listed above is externally marked and it is so pleasing to see our students achieve public recognition of their creative excellence. We are still awaiting the results of other competitions entered.

The integration of technology in teaching and learning continues to be a priority at Tara. English programs have embraced techno-literacies with the implementation of website studies, animation, multimedia compositions and film studies for all students in Years 7-12.

These units have proven to be particularly successful and highlight the importance of technology and the changing face of literacy in our society. The English Department would like to thank Mrs Anne Rumpler, Mr Martin Pluss and Mr Barker for their expertise and dedication in supporting and extending the skills of English teachers and supporting the development of the Intranet site. The English site within the framework of the Tara Intranet is commonly used by students as a site for independent learning modules in skills such as



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essay writing, *Powerpoint* and extension writing tasks. It also assists parents and teachers with the tracking of work and Assessment Tasks. This year in particular, the English Department has used digital audio pods to facilitate lectures and capture aural texts for students' study preparation and listening tasks. Similarly, the use of the *Click View* program has also facilitated the use of visual literacy. Thank you to Mrs Cherida Chapman for facilitating the English Intranet Showcase. This year, the English Department has been fortunate to work closely with a range of Departments to develop strong cross-curricular activities. This year, Science students engaged in poetry writing to support the Taronga Zoo Writing Competition while Japanese students engaged in the writing of Haiku poetry to support the Japanese Embassy Writing Competition. Thank you to Mrs Bronwyn Walters and Miss Kendall Bowen for their enthusiasm in supporting and facilitating the successful collaboration between the Departments. The annual AIS English conference was hosted at Tara this year with up to 250 teachers attending from a range of Independent schools. Thank you to Mrs Anne Lockwood for her assistance with the organisation of venues and speakers. The theme of the professional Development program was a *Smorgasbord of Treats*. The multimedia unit of work designed by Mr Barker, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Appleby with the assistance of Mrs Rumpler, *Black Chicks Talking* was presented and received much acclamation for the innovative introduction to Indigenous Studies for Stage 5. All English teachers had the opportunity to attend the conference to enhance their professional development.

A strong sense of collegiality coupled with years of extensive experience ensures that the English Department at Tara remains up to date with the current trends happening in Education. Thank you to the following teachers who have supported, mentored, inspired, taught and facilitated the learning experiences this year: Mrs Chris Anderson, Mr Barker, Mr Matthew Bonson, Mrs Philippa Bowmaker, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Lorraine Caulfield, Ms Finn, Mrs Susan Green, Mr Gilbert, Mrs Susan Lack, Mrs Julia Mills, Mrs Anne McIntyre, Mrs Kate MacIntosh, Ms Jennifer Tait, Miss Helen O'Shea, Mrs Michelle Williams and Mrs Appleby.

Thank you particularly to Mrs Appleby for her inspiring leadership of this Department.

#### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

As a school in a multi-cultural community, Tara has year groups with between twenty and thirty percent of students who have language backgrounds other than English. English as a Second Language is thus a fact of life in both our classrooms and in the playground. It makes us a global community. Our international students come from the Mainland China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and many other countries. Some are here specifically for education alone while others are intending to live and work in Australia. Many are fluent in

colloquial and academic English but others need intensive teaching and support as they learn to communicate in a second language. Mrs Anne McIntyre is available in school three and a half days each week and in the Library after School on Mondays and Thursdays or by appointment at other times.

In the Senior School, it is pleasing to report that Year 12 Students, 2005, achieved well in the Higher School Certificate and that Year 11 Students have also made excellent progress in the ESL English Preliminary Class with Mrs Susan Lack and in the current HSC Class with Mrs McIntyre. We look forward to good results in this year's examinations. In Years 8 -10 most established students were able to work well without special support in class from the ESL teacher. New students who joined at the end of 2005 and the beginning of 2006 have settled into school routines well and are now making pleasing progress in their studies.

Celine Yip, and Kelly and Vicky Zhang entered Year 7 in February, 2006. They began Intensive English Studies at the beginning of Term I for the First Semester of this year and now attend mainstream classes full-time but receive in-class support in some of their classes. They also meet with the ESL Teacher after school in the Library, from 3.30pm – 5.00pm, for intensive work on various topics and assignments. Appointments are also made with other students who need extra help from the ESL Teacher.

In Term 4, the School established an Intensive English Class for prospective Year 11 Students run by Mrs Kerry Barrett, from Junior School and Mrs McIntyre from Senior School. Other students needing intensive English support were also catered for. The aim of the course is to prepare the students to enter mainstream classrooms at the beginning of the 2007 Academic Year.

The School felt that overseas students at Tara needed an orientation to both Tara and the broader community so that they could make effective contributions both at School and outside in society at large. This year, Mrs Robyn Richardson, the School Counsellor, joined with Mrs McIntyre to organise and hold some informal sessions on cross-cultural experiences. These have made students from overseas more aware of the joys and difficulties confronting them when they move from one culture to another. They were also an opportunity to help students learn about the resources available to help them within the School Community and elsewhere.

Thank you to Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Barrett for their enthusiastic and dedicated work with these girls.



*Subject Report continued***MATHEMATICS**

The Mathematics Department, led by Mrs Desley Williams, has had a successful and exciting year. The Mathematics Staff of Ms Colleen Booth, Mr Darren Brett, Mrs Kay Hoban, Mr David Hudson, Ms Anne-Maria Romeo and Mrs Robyn Thurston welcomed Mr Geoff Dale into the Department at the beginning of Term 2 this year while Mrs Hamper was on Maternity Leave. With the ongoing consolidation of the Stage 6 syllabuses and the implementation of the new K-10 Mathematics Syllabus in 2006 moving into Year 10, teachers have been initiating innovative teaching and assessment strategies in the classroom.

This year, the focus has been on evaluating and refining the Teaching and Learning Programs introduced in 2004 and 2005 and carrying through the continuum of learning into Year 10. A range of different technologies, including Graphic Calculators Geometry Software and Spreadsheets, has been used as an integral part of lessons as well as a variety of assessment procedures.

Year 12, 2005 attained excellent results in the HSC Mathematics Examinations, maintaining the high standard of results that Tara gains each year in the Higher School Certificate in Mathematics. In particular, five students received results in the top band of the 2 Unit Mathematics Course, one of whom was Natalie Pfund who received the top band of E4 in Extension 1 Mathematics as well. The three candidates in Extension 2 Mathematics received Band E3 results and in General Mathematics, six students received a result in the top Band 6 range. Congratulations to all these girls. All Stage 6 Mathematics Courses are most rigorous and the Mathematics Department is very proud of the results. The School Certificate results for Year 10 candidates in 2005 once again maintained the high levels of achievement of which Tara is very proud. Fourteen girls achieved the highest band, Band 6, well above the state average. Well done to all students who sat for these external examinations in 2005 and the teaching staff who gave so willingly in teaching and assisting all students to understand their course content.

The Mathematics Task Centre in the Senior School which commenced operation in 1996, continues to expand and Mathematics teachers, see the benefits of the skills and strategies learned by students in the Task Centre as they move through their senior years. A mandatory element of the new K-10 Mathematics Syllabus is the incorporation of the technique of making links between the various aspects of Mathematics, called Working Mathematically, and the Task Centre is a key aspect in ensuring that students can apply their classroom knowledge to real world problems.

Graphics Calculators continue to be an exciting and vital tool in the classroom with particular focus on teaching Statistics and graphing techniques. All students have the opportunity to learn about the powerful tool of the spreadsheet through the use of Excel.

Students from Years 7 to 12 are required and encouraged to comprehensively use technology in Mathematics. To this end, teachers and students have used a new workbook, "ICT4U", as a means of covering all the competencies necessary.

As part of the enrichment programs, students have been using a variety of software to enhance their learning through investigations. These have included Equation Editor, FX Draw and the internet. In particular, students from Tara in Years 7 to 10 participate in an online competition of "Mathletics". This involved students completing mental arithmetic questions under timed conditions and competing against other students from all over Australia who are also online at the same time.

The Tara Mathematics Department was very pleased to learn of the selection of Alison Hammond by The Australian Mathematics Trust to attend an elite Mathematics Summer School over 2 weeks in December 2005 at Melbourne University. She was one of approximately 30 students chosen nationally to attend and this was a first for Tara. This was an enriching and enjoyable time by all of Alison's accounts of her time in Melbourne. As a follow up to this, Alison then completed two 4 hour examinations in February which were set by the Australian Olympiad Committee to shortlist students for participation in the National Olympiad Team. Congratulations to Alison on this wonderful and exciting achievement.

Over a three week period in Semester 1, 24 students in Years 5 and 6 and 19 students in Years 7 to 10 were invited to participate in the *Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians* where they solved 6 challenging problems in their own time. Congratulations to the following girls on their achievements in this elite national competition. In the Intermediate Division, Madeline Reid gained a Distinction and Olivia Linas and Belinda White gained credits. In the Junior Division, Jessica Wong, Rhiannon Mann, Stephanie Turner and Emma Johnston gained Distinctions while the following students achieved Credits: Kawisha Arander, Julie Kim, Lyndsey Thomas, Isabel Armsworth, Caroline Tyers, Aimee Sutton, Samantha Lim. In the Primary Section, Jaimie Cass, Chelsea Harris and Laura Spencer gained High Distinctions, Isabelle Wong gained a Distinction, Beryl Lin and Melanie Tam gained Credits. This is a wonderful effort. As a result of this competition, several of our students were invited to sit for a four hour examination for the Australian Mathematics Olympiad. Congratulations to Emma Johnstone (Year 7), Stephanie Turner, Jessica Wong, Rhiannon Mann (Year 8), Madeline Reid and Belinda White (Year 10) in accepting this challenge. What a wonderful achievement!

Students from Years 7 to 11 entered the *Australian Mathematics Competition* in Term 3. The results for Tara were excellent with 76 girls receiving a credit, 29 girls receiving a distinction which places them in the top 15% of all entrants for the competition,



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5 girls receiving a high distinction, which places them in the top 2%. Congratulations to Aimee Sutton (Year 7), Jessica Wong (Year 8), Belinda White (Year 10), Alison Hammond and Ashlie Kelsall from Year 11 on achieving at this level. Also, special congratulations go to Emma Johnston (Year 7) who receives the Prudence Award for the highest number of consecutive questions answered correctly in the Mathematics Competition. Well done to all our award winners!

At the end of July, 13 Year 10 students from Tara entered the *Newcastle Mathematics Association Stage 5.1 Mathematics Competition*. The results for Tara were excellent.

Also in July, on 21 July, all Mathematics classes celebrated Pi Day. The reason for this date is that an approximation for Pi is often taken as 3. All girls received a piece of fruit pie in their Mathematics class and enjoyed eating while learning the significance of such an important number.

The Mathematics staff has been busy attending several Professional Development seminars. In first semester, Mrs Williams presented two sessions at an AIS Professional Development Day at Barker College on Stage 6 topics. In September, two of the Mathematics staff participated in the annual NSW Mathematics Conference at Brighton-Le-Sands. The focus of the conference was sharing teaching strategies for the implementation of the new syllabus, including programming and assessment for learning. In August, Mrs Williams organised a very successful AIS Professional Development Conference for 70 Heads of Mathematics Departments from Independent Schools which was held at Tara. Each teacher in the department has undertaken some form of professional development during the year whether it be School Certificate marking, Higher School Certificate marking or inservices on use of technology in the classroom or teaching strategies.

As a Department, the Maths staff celebrated, in June, the marriage of Mr Hudson to Allira; the birth of a beautiful daughter, Zoe Elizabeth, to Mrs Hamper in July and we await with excitement the birth of Ms Romeo's first child early in 2007. We congratulate Mr Dale on his involvement in the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad, a specialist squad of the Volunteer Rescue Association where he has been called to help on two police searches this year.

2006 has been an exciting year in Mathematics Education and the future is building up to be even more so. We look forward to the potential opportunities which exist for us, as Mathematics teachers, to engage students in lifelong learning, enjoyment and appreciation of the discipline of Mathematics.

## SCIENCE

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs Bronwyn Walters, assisted by Mr Richard Dooley, the Science Department has had a busy and fulfilling year. The focus has been to engage the students in exciting and relevant Science Education and to this aim the staff has completed the writing of new programs for Years 7-10.

The HSC results in all Science courses were very good in 2005, as evident by a comparison of the percentage of Tara students in the top two bands compared with the rest of the state: 83% of Biology students (State 36%); 53% of Chemistry students (State 31%); 57% of Physics students (State 36%); 38% of Senior Science students (State 32%) and 40% of Earth and Environmental Science students (State 48%). Special congratulations must go to Montano Linkio who achieved 7th in the State in Earth and Environmental Science.

The School Certificate Science results were also most pleasing with 60% of the Year 10 students in the top two bands (State 31%).

We view the professional development of our staff as of paramount importance. It is through these experiences outside the School that staff grow in their professional life and bring innovation back to Tara. This year, Science teachers have met the HSC markers to discuss the 2005 HSC Examinations; mingled with world famous astronomers, including Fred Watson, and ridden on "The Dish". They have heard about the latest developments in genetic research at the Children's Medical Research Institute; met with Science Teachers from around Australia in Canberra to ponder the future of Science Education in this country and attended a course on *Moodle* - a new computer learning system. Our students and staff benefit enormously from these experiences and the networking that occurs at such events. Tara Science Teachers are also involved in HSC marking, School Certificate marking and HSC advice line which provide an excellent opportunity to better familiarise themselves with the marking guidelines of the Board of Studies and bring this knowledge back to Tara.

Excursions are another important way to connect our students with the community. Year 7 have enjoyed a day at Taronga Zoo studying animal adaptations and conservation. They also experienced a visit from the entertaining Ranger Mick from the Australian Reptile Park. Year 8 was enthralled by recent accomplishments in Space at the IMAX and Year 9 attended the unique international Human Body Exhibition.

There are many opportunities available for Science Enrichment at Tara. Science Club was available after school for Years 8 and 9 and was attended by up to forty keen science students. They participated in hands on investigative science activities and problem solving. For the first time this year, students had the opportunity to work on an independent research project to gain a *CSIRO Crest* award at a Silver or Bronze level. Our congratulations go to those girls who showed originality and real perseverance to gain their award, especially Kerri-Anne Chapman whose design project of a "Slammock" was



*Subject Report continued*

featured by the *CSIRO*. The *CSIRO* visited Tara in September to present a Cool Chemistry Show to interested students where they saw some exciting chemical reactions, often with some unexpected results!

As part of the Year 8 enrichment program, use was again made of the 12 inch Charles Sturt University Remote Telescope which is located in Bathurst. It is Australia's first remote telescope controlled via the Internet and devoted entirely to education. Our students mastered the technology and took some marvelous images of the Universe including planets, nebulae, stars and galaxies.

Tara encourages students to apply for a range of Science experiences outside Tara, entry into some of which is highly competitive. Alison Hammond is to be congratulated on being offered a place at the *National Youth Science Forum* in Canberra in January - a wonderful time of exposure to real Science with talented students from all over Australia. We would like to thank Rotary for their sponsorship of this event and also for the *Siemens Science Experience* - three days of Science activities, based in university laboratories, which engage the students in a wide range of fascinating science activities. The Siemens Science Experience was attended by a number of Year 9 girls and it is pleasing to see our students taking up such opportunities.

Year 9 and 10 students entered the *University of Sydney Gifted and Talented Discovery Program Qualifying Exam* again this year. This is an extremely difficult test to compete for a place in A Gifted and Talented Workshop Program, open to students state-wide. Belinda White, Nicola Bullock, Louise Mulcahy, Jennifer Tang and Annabelle Nurse are to be congratulated on being offered places in the workshop. It was an amazing experience and the students came away with a greater understanding of the practical applications of science as well as meeting a range of new friends. In December, Year 11 students will participate in the *Honeywell Engineering Summer School* where they will interact with professional engineers and visit industry. They will gain valuable insight into career opportunities available to women in engineering.

Physics, Chemistry and Biology students again chose to sit for the demanding *International Physics, Chemistry and Biology Olympiad Qualifying Examinations* in 2006 with the results still pending. In 2005 Carolyn Cheung achieved a Distinction in Biology, and seven other students achieved credits across all disciplines. These are outstanding results in a very difficult examination.

This year Tara entered all girls in Years 7-10 into a new science competition run by the *Rio Tinto Mining Company*. They performed creditably and the following girls received a Distinction: Year 7 - Chloe Wilson, Jane Magill, Melanie Roy, Aimee Sutton, Emily O'Brien and Isabel Armsworth; Year 8- Brittany D'Chong, Emma Jenkins, Jessica Wong and Rhiannon Mann; Year 9- Jennifer Tang and Danielle Edwards; Year 10- Phillipa Roy, Penelope Sinden, Talia Calgaro and Belinda White.

Students from Year 11 and Year 8 entered the challenging *RACI Chemistry Competition* along with thousands of students from all over Australia and eight other countries. Outstanding achievers receiving High Distinctions from Year 8 were Kawisha Arander and Emma Jenkins, and from Year 11, Alison Hammond and Alice Hogan.

Two of our Science teachers have been involved with tertiary education this year. Miss Adele Crane and her Biology class had the interesting experience of participating in a research project entitled *The Classroom Practice of an Experienced Biology Teacher*. The study was conducted by Dr Wilhelmina van Rooy of the School of Education, Australian Centre for Educational Studies, Macquarie University. Mr Bruce Comerford was sponsored by the Association of Independent Schools to complete a Diploma of e-learning in which he studied how to develop units of work which could be delivered on-line.

This year Tara farewells Mrs Sandra Gregson, wishing her all the best for her retirement, and we also say goodbye to Dr Timothy Dabbs. Thank you to both these teachers for their contribution to Tara. Thank you to all the Science Staff for their continued hard work and enthusiasm in providing these wonderful scientific opportunities for the students and also to congratulate the girls for taking advantage of all that is offered.

**CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

Christian Studies at Tara is a Bible centred program, which is taught to every student from Kindergarten through to Year 12. The program aims for each girl to understand her uniqueness as a person made in the image of God and to explore her connection with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our prayer and fervent desire that every student comes to a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The Christian Studies program is varied, with an emphasis on communicating God's Word in a creative and meaningful way. Christian Studies teachers in the Senior School come from the faculties of Design & Technology, Visual Arts, Science, English, ESL, Geography, History and Languages. This allows our students to experience Christian teachers from a variety of disciplines sharing their own faith in Jesus Christ. This year, Mrs Carol Bownen, Principal, and Mr Rod Braine, Deputy Principal-Pastoral Care have also taught Christian Studies in the Senior School. Our School Chaplain continues to oversee this program, and works alongside staff to provide opportunities for all our students to explore what it means to live out a commitment to Christ. In the Junior School, Christian Studies is taught by each classroom teacher.

At Tara we acknowledge that our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and belief structures and we respect and honour each girl as the person she is. Yet we seek to create a positive environment where girls can explore Christianity in a non-threatening context, and encourage each student to acknowledge her dependence upon our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.



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CRU Group is a Christian group held weekly in both the Senior and Junior Schools. It is an important part of our school's program, and is supported by all in our school community. In Senior School, the program is led by Year 12 students, with the support of Miss Adele Crane. Our Year 12 leaders spend time each week in prayer and preparation for the meetings, seeking to communicate God's Word to their fellow students in fun, meaningful and relevant ways. We are thankful for the commitment of Miss Crane in her leadership of the girls this year.

In Junior School, we are thankful for the work of Mrs Helen Scoular, Miss Fiona Eatough, Mrs Wendy Quadrio, Mrs Christine Sinden, Mrs Glenda Walker, Mr Chris Munn, Mrs Susie James and Miss Elizabeth Astle in their support of our enthusiastic groups of Crusader girls.

The Christian Studies staff are guided and mentored by Rev Denise Nicholls, our Chaplain. We thank her for her leadership.

### COMPUTING STUDIES

2006 has been another eventful year for the Computing Department, which consists of Mr Daryl Hinton (Head of Computing) and Mrs Adele Hyland. The Computing Department offered three senior courses: Information Processes and Technology (IPT), Software Design and Development (SDD) and Information Technology (IT) course. IT is a Vocational Education and Training course and 2006 saw the inaugural Year 12 complete their HSC which also qualifies them to receive a Certificate II in Information Technology which is a nationally recognised qualification. This qualification can be used as entry for further studies in IT or to help gain employment.

Congratulations to Year 12 students Julia Tang, Hayley McCloskey and Georgette Jammal who took part in the *UNSW High Schools Programming Competition*. Julia, Hayley and Georgette who all study SDD were the first ever team in the competition to represent Tara. Congratulations to the Tara Team who performed very well, placing in the middle of a very large and competitive field of entrants. Further congratulations go to Julia Tang who also took part in an individual programming competition based on the language *Python*, which required students to take part in a series of programming challenges over 5 weeks. We look forward to having even more teams and individuals in the competitions next year.

Well done to the 2005 HSC computing students who achieved some excellent results. Special congratulations to Mrs Hyland's IPT class whose results were outstanding, with the class being 11.09% above the State average. Over 80% of the class achieved Band 5 or higher which was a fantastic result for all involved.

In an exciting "first" for Tara, next year's students studying Year 11 Software Design and Development will do so partly online. While all course material will be online for students to access, most lessons will be conducted in the normal classroom setting, with the remaining

lessons being delivered in an online virtual classroom. These online lessons allow students to interact with each other and their teacher with the aid of technologies which help create effective online learning communities. This method of delivery allows students greater flexibility in subject choices and also in their pattern of study. Online courses also encourage independent learning and help prepare students for the future. This initiative is an exciting one for the Computing Department and Tara, and one that opens up great opportunities for students.

2006 saw the beginning of a new extra-curricular activity, the *Tara Computer Group (TCG)*. The enthusiastic students involved met once a week after school to develop their interest in computing studies. With the aid of Mr Hinton, students learnt how to use various software applications and also undertook challenging projects including web design using *Dreamweaver*, video editing with *ULead Video Express* and programming with *Python*. The aim of TCG is for students to have fun exploring more opportunities to explore IT which are beyond the scope of Board of Studies courses.

To showcase the fantastic projects created by computing students, the Computing Department once again presented *IT@Tara* which took the form of an online showcase. *IT@Tara* featured Multimedia Projects created by Year 12 IPT students, software projects by Year 12 SDD students and selected works from computing students in Years 9 to 11. We encourage members of the Tara community who are yet to see the fantastic efforts of computing students to access the Computing Department section of the Intranet. We look forward with great anticipation to see what projects the Year 12 of 2007 will create.

### ICT - INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Technology continues to be successfully integrated into the curriculum in both the Senior and Junior Schools with wonderful projects being undertaken in areas such as multimedia, film, web development, GIS and sound. Students are using a vast range of software and hardware to collect data, solve problems, research information and present their findings. Individual departments will highlight these achievements within their own reports.

In 2006 the Computing Skills Test will become a mandatory component of the School Certificate Tests. Students in Year 10 will sit for their test online in November, along with their other written papers. They have been developing their skills through integrated work in other subjects such as using spreadsheets to solve Mathematical problems and creating databases to record stock sold in Business Enterprise. A priority for 2006 has been the development of a scope and sequence for ICT for students in K-10 to ensure that skills are being developed in a systematic way. This program continues to be developed.





*Subject Report continued*

The arrival of the new staff laptops and the setup of new servers during the July holidays was a massive task and thanks to the IT department of Mr Rudy De Vos, Mrs Lalanthi Lawrence and Mr Adrian Chin the rollout was a smooth and painless one. Further development work on the network occurring in the October and January 2007 holidays will allow the exciting work being done in the classrooms to continue.

The School has implemented additional modules of its database, *Edumate*. The roll is now being marked electronically in the classroom by staff in the Junior and Senior Schools and this also allows staff to quickly check who is absent and see patterns of attendance. Academic and Co-curricular prizes and awards are being recorded as well as detentions. A further change in our reporting process was made in Semester 1, with the addition of a grade and graph, in order to meet the new Federal Government requirements. A new tracking module was developed in consultation with the Coordinator of Teaching and Learning. This will allow for all testing undertaken by a student during their years at Tara to be centrally collated allowing relevant staff to develop a full picture of student progress. In addition, staff will also be able to be notified if a student's performance is starting to slip, allowing for appropriate intervention to occur. Plans for next year include the implementation of the student portal, which will allow parents to log-on and see their children's timetable, attendance and results online. They will be able to check current contact details and submit requests for changes.

Two exciting technologies which have been embraced by staff during the year are *Quizdom* and *Smartboards*. *Quizdom*, an electronic voting system has been enthusiastically used by a number of departments and year levels in both schools. Students enjoy using hand held devices to electronically submit their responses to questions. Feedback is immediate, allowing for on the spot revision and results are automatically recorded, saving on marking time. Year 5 students were involved as part of their assessment task in developing appropriate questions which gave them real ownership in the process. It has also been a valuable revision tool for a number of Year 12 classes. The use of Smartboards has continued to grow with boards being installed in Year 6 and the LOTE department during 2006. There are plans to implement these in all Junior School classrooms and expand the number in the Senior School over the next few years.

During 2006, a number of classes trialled the use of *Moodle* to allow teachers and students to collaborate electronically. Mr Bruce Comerford worked closely with other 8 and 9 Science Teachers to develop online units, which saw students involved in discussion forums, collaborating on joint electronic projects as well as submitting assignments online. A number of computing subjects also used *Moodle* for discussions and developing group wikis i.e. places where information is shared. Mr Daryl Hinton will further develop *Moodle* to allow the delivery of Software Design and Development online in 2007. A group of teachers attended the *Moodle* Conference in October,

with the intention of further developing this resource for Tara in 2007. Ways of integrating *Moodle* with the School's database are also being investigated.

Mr Martin Pluss, the Intranet Coordinator, has continued working with teachers and students to develop student work for the Intranet and he has also been instrumental in developing student blogs with a number of classes. Mr Comerford and Mr Pluss shared their expertise and enthusiasm in *Moodle* and blogging with staff at the Staff Breakfast In-services during Term 3. Staff from different faculties have been inspired to embark on projects of their own during Term 4 and this use of electronic communication and collaboration will continue to be developed in 2007. Another project which will be further developed in 2007 is the use of podcasting to publish student work.

Thank you to Mrs Anne Rumpler (Director of ICT Integration) and the Communication Technologies staff who willingly take on the challenges of embracing technology within the classroom, the IT department which does such a wonderful job in supporting the staff in their endeavours and the IT Committee who are so enthusiastic in planning for the future.

**INTRANET**

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."* ~ Mark Twain

Four years ago the school made a formal commitment to the integration of technology into teaching and learning. We continue on the journey.

On the administration side of the Intranet we have been able to consolidate the provision of information for students and parents under the leadership of Intranet Coordinator, Mr Martin Pluss. Student Reception, with Mrs Lyn Muir, is now looking after and providing online details for excursions. In addition, in the Deputy Principal-Administration's Office, Miss Tania Vallario makes available the Daily Notices online. This has proven to be very popular and useful. This continues to build on the online communications which are already available for staff.

Specifically, the teaching and learning components of the Intranet have continued to grow in usage. Increasingly more academic departments are starting to look after their own Department's Intranet. These Departments have found the independence liberating by empowering them to have greater control over what they place on the Intranet and when they make it available. Some academic Departments have been experimenting with emerging learning technologies by making use of audio files and videos for student in teaching and learning and for assessment tasks. These innovations have been well received and we thank these Departments for being prepared to use the available technology to assist the learning of their students.



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It is most pleasing to see technology being used as one of the many tools to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom at Tara. A number of Coordinators in the school have made effective use of the Intranet to communicate with parents and students. For example, Performing Arts information is exclusively available on the Intranet. Sport Commitment Forms, venues and fixtures are available for weekend sport on the Sport webpage and the Careers website is continually updated with careers links and online versions of the Careers Bulletin which also appear in the TARAnews.

This year, Mrs Anne Rumpfer and Mr Pluss continue to work with teachers in their classrooms on the integration of ICT in teaching and learning. In the Junior School this has been made possible through the hard work of Mrs Chris Sinden and the respective classroom teachers. This has resulted in units of work developed by students and then made available on the Intranet across a range of classes, particularly in the Junior School. In the Senior School the students and teachers have been developing work and continue to make use of the Intranet to display their findings.

The Parents and Friends continue to use the Intranet to provide information for parents through their webpage. There are a number of sections of use for the parental community including Minutes for meetings, Crested Items and Friends of Tara Music. In addition, thanks to Tara parent, Mrs Ingrid Parkes, the TARAfair website was developed in order to help with the administration and communication with the School Community in the lead up to the TARAfair in November. Special thanks to Mrs Peta Black for her guidance and direction in relation to Parents and Friends and the Intranet.

Finally, Mr Michael Etccl, his successor Mr Rudy de Vos and staff Mrs Lalanthi Lawrence and Mr Adrian Chin from the IT Department have been invaluable in their support during 2006. They provide guidance, technical expertise, security enabling and continue to provide ways to automate aspects of the intranet.

We are excited with some of the proposals on the board for 2007 including the use of Share Point for content management and Moodle as a learning management system. With these developments we should be able to develop a more user friendly, independent way to upload to and use the Tara Portal for administration, communication and teaching and learning.

#### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Tara Design and Technology Staff led by Mr Warwick Shepherd, consist of teaching staff: Dr Rod Jolly, Mrs Taryn Guy, Mrs Carolyn Clappett and Mrs Dawn Howell with assistance from Mrs Sue McDonald (Food Technology Assistant) and Mr Ross Sneddon (Design and Technology Assistant).

The Tara students continue to astonish the staff, parents and their peers with the creativity and diversity displayed in their solutions to their design briefs. The standard and inventiveness of the students'

work is progressively reaching higher levels and this is the result of a number of factors including the exuberance and creativity of the students, the interesting and challenging teaching programs, the commitment and experience of the Design and Technology staff and the excellent Technology facilities.

#### Junior School D&T Program

The integration of the Year 5 and Year 6 Junior girls into Senior school proves to be very popular and beneficial to the students to help them to become familiar with the staff, layout and functioning of the senior campus. The Year 5 girls complete a unit of work on energy in the Design and Technology workshops. They construct a "solar sausage cooker" and gain many useful experimental and manipulative skills that involve measuring, sawing, drilling and assembling a variety of materials. The Year 6 girls are involved in constructing an electronic circuit tester and game that are used as part of their Science and Technology program. As a direct result of these programs the Tara Junior School girls find the transition into the senior campus less intimidating and gain valuable technical skills to provide a sound basis for the subjects of Technology, Design & Technology and Science. The Junior girls were instructed enthusiastically and adeptly by Dr Jolly (Senior School Teacher) and assisted by Mr Sneddon.

#### New Technology Syllabuses and Technologies

This year has seen the continuation of the introduction of the new Technology Stage 4 syllabus in Year 8 and the Design and Technology Stage 5 syllabus in Year 10. Staff have been engaged in the implementation, refinement and evaluation of these teaching programs and are incorporating new materials, technologies, design challenges and projects into them. For example Year 8 have been designing model cafes, logo designs for a designer hand bag and acrylic storage solutions. Year 10 have been designing sterling silver jewellery and promotional gifts for a fictitious radio station. The Year 11 students have continued to develop and master new skills and technologies in their table lamp designs with the use of edge lighting effects, LED lighting and the use of polypropylene plastics. These challenges are adding a feeling of exhilaration to the students as they delve into these new areas of design.

#### 2006 HSC Major Design Projects

The 20 Design & Technology students successfully completed a diverse and innovative range of Major Design Projects for their HSC. Their Design Brief was to satisfy a chosen "need" or "want" by developing an artefact (product), system or environment, documented with a comprehensive Design Folio.

#### This year's Major Design Projects included:

- A multi functional wedding dress
- A jukebox inspired storage unit
- Designer handbags
- An island kitchen bench unit
- An improved ice hockey equipment bag
- Original decorating designs
- Sterling silver jewellery
- A reversible quilt cover set
- Designer lingerie/sleepwear



*Subject Report continued*

- A coordinated formal wear design
- Couture evening wear
- A functional storage table
- Aesthetic and functional swimwear
- Corset wear for formal occasions
- A variable storage bed head
- Designer belts
- Contemporary bar design
- Designer summer wear
- A peacock inspired evening wear
- A corner storage and table unit

In August, the HSC markers examined our students' projects and to our pleasure four were nominated as possible exhibits in the DesignTech 2006 exhibition program.

**The four nominated students were:**

- Yeon Soo Baek ~ for her multi functional wedding dress,
- Emma Campbell ~ for her couture evening wear,
- Cassandra Golding ~ for her reversible quilt cover set,
- Anna Hecek ~ for her designer lingerie/sleepwear.

We congratulate these four girls on their excellent achievement and praise the entire "class of 2006" for their well documented and creative Major Design Projects.

The range of skills gained throughout Years 7 to 12 has increased dramatically due to diverse opportunities open to our Tara students!

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

This year, the Social Science Department, led by Mrs Elizabeth George assisted by Mr Jim Clark, consisted of Mrs Sue van Zuylen, Miss Melanie Walker, Mrs Kelly Christie, Mrs Melissa Losco, Miss Lesley-Del Kinscher, Ms Heidi McGuinness, Mr Martin Pluss and Mr Rod Braine who have all been involved with developing and consolidating courses, using new technology and developing new fieldwork. The new Business Enterprise course delivered to all of Year 10 was initiated this year. Thank you to all the Social Science staff for their enthusiasm. The excellent HSC results for 2005 are listed in the Deputy Principal-Curriculum's report.

**BUSINESS STUDIES**

Business Studies, with its emphasis on small business in Year 11 and large business in Year 12 is a popular choice for many Tara Girls. Year 11 students visited The Edge Cinema at Katoomba to understand how it operates as a small business. Year 12 experienced a day at Reckitt Benckiser at West Ryde, to learn about their management, marketing, accounting and employment relations functions. They also looked at how Reckitt Benckiser manages internal and external change.

In the Australian Business Competition Distinctions were gained by:

Ann-Marie Eu	Sarah Hando	Alyssa Heydon
Claire Nicholson	Felicity Smith	Ellie Toohey
Kiran Virani	Brittney Goodman	Soo Jin Lee
Jessica Pickering -Rodriguez		Alexandra Sarkis

A High Distinction was gained by Amy Donohue.

**COMMERCE**

Year 9 Commerce students studied personal Finance, Travel E-Commerce, Consumer Choice and Promoting and Selling. Year 9 had a field trip to Coca Cola Amatil at Northmead to understand how it operates as a business.

Year 10 Commerce made a study of Sydney Tower Restaurant to see how its business operates. They also looked at Law and Society, Employment, Government and had an introduction to Economics.

In the 2006 Financial Literacy Tests which tests students ability to understand financial data and make sound financial decisions.

Alex Dodson in Year 9 received a distinction

Distinctions were gained by the following Year 10 students

Claudia Lee	Kristy Wordsworth
Rebecca Martin	Adrienne Cass
Christina McBurney	Rachel Clout
Louise Mulcahy	Amelia Hungerford
Pippa Roy	Kelly Jacobs

A High Distinction was gained by Madeleine Reid

**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

This year Tara has embarked on an exciting enterprise program designed to develop financial literacy. This new and innovative program will see all Year 10 students assume responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school cafeteria. The cross-curricular financial literacy program has been the initiative of staff at Tara and recently the program received \$3,500 from a 2005 Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grant. Fortunately Tara is building a cafeteria and this is the context for the teaching and learning. The interior design of the building has benefited from input by the Student Representative Council.

Year 10 students have one lesson a week timetabled for the Business Enterprise project. They have the opportunity to learn through interactive teaching and collaborative learning processes.

Topics covered for them were: employment, marketing, income and investing, savings, budgeting, accounting and the overall operations of a cafeteria. The educational goal of the program is to develop and increase financial literacy knowledge.

The project involves students establishing a virtual company where they will become shareholders in the business and be a member of a small team that will assist in making the management decisions in the day-to-day running of the cafeteria. Work experience will be done "in house" using the cafeteria as 'employer' while students are concurrently studying the new subject Business Enterprise. The management roles and responsibilities that the students need to apply for include: chief executive officer, chief financial officer, sales and marketing manager, purchasing manager, chief operations officer and human resources manager.



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Students will determine what goods will be sold and appropriate pricing strategies. They will gain an understanding of the principles behind advertising, sales, discounting and the impact of such decisions. They will learn about in a practical context the differences between fixed and variable expenses, gross profit and net profit and the relationship between a company and the relationship between a company and its shareholders.

The Business Enterprise program applies theoretical concepts in an authentic business environment. It gives students responsibility and the scope to make decisions in a dynamic situation.

Skills and values developed in this program include: creativity, innovation, communication, problem solving, leadership, teamwork, ethical decision making and the ability to generate, recognize and seize opportunities.

### ECONOMICS

Economics requires students to understand the Australian economy and issues relating to the Australian and Global economies.

Visiting speakers include Mr Hans Kunnen, Investment Banker in Term 1 who gave an overall guide to the Australian Economy.

In Term 2 Tara hosted a Budget Breakfast where Mr Capurso from the Commonwealth Bank and Professor Tom Valentine, former Professor of Banking and Finance at the University of Western Sydney spoke to Tara and Kings Students. Year 12 Economics students later visited TKS for a study morning arranged by Leading Edge Economics.

In the Australian Economics Competition a distinction was gained by:

Betty Chen    Rebecca Conquest    Amy Murphy

A High Distinction was gained by Kiran Virani.

Kiran Virani received a money prize for her excellent result at UNSW in September.

### GEOGRAPHY

In Geography fieldwork, geographical skills and tools, ICT and knowledge and understanding are taught at different levels of depth in the 9 distinct courses offered.

Year 7 visited Ingleside to study "Our World" and carried out fieldwork to test vegetation, light and water. Year 8 studied Tourism at Darling Harbour. Year 9 went to Eastwood and studied a "Community undergoing Change." Year 10 travelled to Collaroy to study Coastal Management and to Cockatoo Island to look at urban processes of decay and renewal. Year 8 Elective Geography visited Montezuma's restaurant and participated in South American dancing when studying The Americas. Year 9 Elective Geography studied viticulture in the Hunter Valley and Year 10 Elective Geography visited the Botanical Gardens to examine Biodiversity and to participate in a vegetation study. Year 11 investigated at Fairfield City Farm and made a cultural study of Leichhardt. Year 12 made a study of mangroves at Homebush and coral reefs at the Sydney Aquarium.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has been developed by Mrs van Zuylen assisted by Mrs Anne Rumpler. Year 7 have a basic introduction to it. Year 8 use it to understand spatial inequality in the world. Year 9 Elective Geography used this technology to look at volcanic activity in New Zealand while Year 10 Elective mapped the schools microclimate.

Christina McBurney has won the Junior Geography Fieldwork Report competition of the NSW Geography Teachers Association. Her report examined Weed Management in Cumberland State Forest. She used GIS to map three different types of weeds and looked at strategies to manage these weeds.

The following girls received a High Distinction in the Australian Geography Competition.

Talia Calgaro	Samantha Lim	Penelope Sinden
Olivia Hartley	Alisha Malhotra	Emma Sprouster
Kelly Jacobs	Louise Mulchay	Belinda White
Jaime Kindynis	Charlotte McKenzie	Taimi Williams
Sam Leggett	Phillipa Roy	

Distinctions were gained by:

Kawisha Arander	Lauren Hawke	Christina McBurney
Monica Bordignon	Emily Hawkins	Katrina McKenzie
Ashleigh Brice	Stephanie Holmes	Isobel Moore
Brittany D'Chong	Amelia Hungerford	Caitlin Murphy
Melissa Christou	Elyse Jones	Jacinta O'Toole
Rachel Clout	Robyn Kirby	Eliza Owen
Natasha Collins	Chantal Lanzing	Lauren Parker
Isabelle Cowley	Olivia Linas	Natasha Pesce
Alex Dodson	Elizabeth Martin	Freya Saich
Louisa Dunstan	Calina Maseh	Jennifer Tang
Bianca Gomez	Courtney Maxwell	

Congratulations to all these girls and thank you to Mrs George for her leadership of this diverse Department.



*Subject Report continued***FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND HOSPITALITY**

Food Technology and Hospitality have once again been popular subjects for many girls. Thank you to Mrs Judy Cropper for her leadership of this department. Our girls excelled in the Food Technology HSC exam in 2005, with an average mark of 85% (13.17 marks above the State average). Kate Bowley and Chelsea Quinn achieved Band 6. In May, Year 9 Food Technology students enjoyed an excursion to the Leichhardt Forum where they learnt about Italian culture as well as helping to prepare and sample typical Italian cuisine. All girls made their own pizza and enjoyed learning about the history of the food and sampling their product. The Crowne Plaza Hotel at Norwest was the venue for the Year 10 Food Technology excursion. Students participated in a tour of the hotel— both front and back of house. Jobs available in the hospitality industry were discussed and students were also able to see the application of OH&S and safety procedures studied at school. Lunch was enjoyed in the restaurant. This was particularly interesting as the Year 10 girls are having their formal at this venue. Year 11 Food Technology students extended their knowledge of the Australian Food Industry with a “behind the scenes” visit to Bakers Delight and Woolworths at Carlingford Court. All of these excursions make learning in the classroom more relevant and fun. 2006 saw the continuation of the new Food Technology syllabus in Year 10 which began in 2005 in Year 9. The Australian Food Industry is growing in importance, providing numerous employment opportunities and increasing the relevance of Food Technology in the areas of hygiene, safety, nutritional claims, genetic engineering, functional foods, environmental impact of food production processes and issues of obesity and diet related diseases in the community. The new syllabus allows students to explore food related issues through theoretical and practical experiences. Many new and interesting practical lessons have been devised and enjoyed by the girls. Thanks go to all the Food Technology staff who worked very hard to make the new course interesting, innovative and tasty!

**Hospitality**

Hospitality was taught to three Year 11 classes and two Year 12 classes. All Year 12 girls have completed their Certificate 2 in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) and are now studying the subject for the HSC. Not only does the course at school contribute towards their UAI, but some girls also use it as a stepping stone for University or other TAFE courses.

Many of the girls who studied Hospitality in previous years have chosen the industry for their future careers. This career may not necessarily be as a chef, but possibly in event or hotel management. As well as studying the theoretical aspects of the course, girls have enjoyed applying the theoretical aspects in practical lessons. These practical lessons take place each cycle from 1.30pm – 4.30pm, when girls learn to prepare, cook and serve modern cuisine.

Seventy hours of work placement, which is a mandatory part of the course, have been completed by all Year 12 girls and Year 11 have completed their first 35 hours. Some of the venues for work placement include Swiss Hotel, Westin Hotel, Sheraton on the Park (City), Crown Plaza, Norwest, Castle Hill RSL, Epping RSL, Baulkham Hills Hospital, La Belle Vista and Prosperos Restaurant, Parramatta. They also worked at the Hogs Breath Café, Castle Hill and Macquarie School of Management at Marsfield. Many of the girls have been offered jobs in the respective venues. We thank the staff at the various venues who have given their time and expertise to the girls and helped make the experience informative and fun.

In November 2005, Jennifer Caran was granted a Hospitality Best Achiever School Prize by the Association of Independent Schools for an intensive one week Residential Course at Ryde TAFE. The program is specifically “hands on” and takes participants through all of the operative departments of an International Hotel. Jennifer achieved a very high standard and is to be congratulated.

Hayley Cole is to be congratulated on receiving an Australian Vocational Student award of \$2000 in December 2005. This prize was for an outstanding student in a V.E.T. course and this was awarded by the Minister for Education.

In the June/July holidays, Jacqueline McAllery and Stephanie Chant attended a TVET Commercial Cookery Extension course for 2 weeks at Ryde TAFE College. Both girls excelled and thoroughly enjoyed their 2 weeks of hard work and practical experience .

In July, 13 girls completed a Baristas Certificate at the Coffee School in Glebe. Some girls have already used this Certificate to obtain part-time jobs in the industry.

Perhaps the highlight of the year for Year 12 was the Hospitality Dinner in September. Students invited their parents, families and friends to dinner in the Eggleton House Dining Room and the dinner was prepared and served by the girls. Interesting and informative speeches about work placement and the course were made by Taryn Farrington, Shannon Ingersoll and Jennifer Caran. Chloe Cass spoke about the Baristas Course and Kathleen Hendry, Rebecca Li and Rachael Brown entertained us with music. We thank Mr Phil Hodges for his help in preparing the dinner.

Thank you to Ms Kathleen Crone, Mrs Carolyn Clampett, Mrs Taryn Guy, Mrs Sue Macdonald and Mrs Cropper for their hard work this year and for those “treats” they have made for the staff.



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## HISTORY

Results in the 2005 Higher School Certificate in Ancient History, Modern History, History Extension, and Studies of Religion, were impressive with all courses achieving above the State mean. Modern History students performed exceptionally well with 77.41% of students achieving a Band 5 or Band 6 result. Ancient History had 63.63% of students in Bands 5 and 6, with Studies of Religion managing 66.66% of students achieving in these Bands. History Extension had 87.5% of students achieving in the top two Bands, as well as producing research projects of the highest standard covering a broad range of Historical periods and issues. Essays by Ana Piteira and Rebecca Santos were submitted as entries in the annual NSW HTA History Extension Essay Competition. Our congratulations go to Ana Piteira (History Extension), Montana Linkio (Ancient History and History Extension), Claire Nicholson and Sarah Mulcahy (Modern History), and Sarah Lagudi, Keriss Lahiff, and Kereen Naidoo (Studies of Religion), who achieved the highest marks in their respective courses. Results in the 2005 School Certificate Examinations for 'Australian History, Civics and Citizenship' were also very pleasing with 75.8% of students achieving Band 5 or Band 6 results. This compared very favourably with other TARA subjects, and was a significant improvement on previous results in the School Certificate Examination. The excellent preparation of the students by their teachers should also be acknowledged and congratulated.

The History Department met the challenge of implementing the new Stage 4 and Stage 5 History Syllabus in Years 8 and 10, and reviewing and fine tuning its implementation in Years 7 and 9. New Teaching and Learning Programs utilising the format developed by the History Department with an emphasis on investigative learning were written and applied, using the historical 'inquiry questions' of the syllabus as a framework. Teachers widened the use of 'rich tasks' to allow students the opportunity to explore historical topics and issues in greater depth, and to give them the freedom to take their studies in new and exciting directions using multi-media resources. Teachers worked in pairs to model this holistic approach to learning through a series of multi-media lectures delivered to Year 10 students. The lectures provided an opportunity for students to experience a different form of learning, and also gave teachers the opportunity to collaboratively expand their skills in the use of IT, working closely with a colleague.

The valuable relationship with the library staff has strengthened in support of this investigative approach, and their advice and cooperation have been invaluable to both the students and teachers. Likewise the assistance of the IT staff at Tara has been an essential element in the implementation of new Teaching and Learning strategies, and the development of teaching skills. New syllabi were also implemented in HSC Modern and Ancient History, with Studies of Religion beginning the implementation of a new syllabus in

Year 11, to be continued in the 2006 HSC course. All History Department teachers attended a range of in-services and courses throughout the year that supported them in the development of resources, programs, and lesson ideas that will ensure the successful and innovative implementation of the new syllabi.

Assessment procedures introduced last year were reviewed, strengthened, and further formalised so that teachers may more accurately record and track student progress as they meet course outcomes. Individualised grids gave a clear indication of the level of student achievement from one assessment task to the next and provided teachers, students, and parents greater guidance in developing strategies for improvement in specific areas. These procedures have also contributed to consistency of 'teacher judgement' and accuracy in reporting student progress using outcomes.

Excursions that complement the lessons of the classroom were a key feature of the activities of the History Department in 2006. Mr Bonson and Mr Baker enabled Year 7 History students to learn about archaeology within the grounds of Sydney University at the Nicholson Museum. They saw their study of Ancient Egypt come to life at the IMAX theatre. Year 8 Medieval Day continues to be a very popular experience for the students, with the opportunity to dress in period costume, participate in competitive games, and enjoy a traditional medieval feast with their friends and teachers. The day was organised by Mrs Marr, Miss Kinscher and Mrs Anderson, and included a lecture and demonstration of medieval weaponry, armour and clothes by Medieval specialist, James Adams.

The mandatory 'Australian History, Civics and Citizenship' course in Year 9 and Year 10 was supported by a range of activities. Organised by Mrs Anderson and Miss Wilson, the defence of Australia during WWII was examined through a study of the fortifications at North Head, and the attack on Sydney by Japanese midget submarines was the focus of a cruise to sites of historical significance on Sydney Harbour. Students were also given the opportunity to experience the impacts of multiculturalism on Australian society and culture through an excursion to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple south of Wollongong. This was coordinated by Mr Baker, and included Year 10 students being given a guided tour of the temple to learn about the beliefs, customs and values of the Australian Buddhist community. Year 10 History Elective students were taken by Mr Bonson to a viewing of the movie *Munich*, which focuses on the terrorist attack during the 1972 Olympics. This movie supported the student's study of "terrorism" as an historical phenomenon and issue, which continues to be relevant in today's world.

Year 11 and Year 12 also used the opportunity to learn outside the classroom to support their preparation for the HSC examinations. Year 11 and Year 12 Ancient History students had the wonderful opportunity of attending a lecture on the topic of "The Cities of



*Subject Report continued*

Vesuvius - Pompeii and Herculaneum”, delivered by Dr Estelle Lazer and Dr Brian Brennan at Tara. The day was organised by Mr Bonson, and Ancient History students from The Kings School were also invited to attend. This was a valuable lecture as 2006 is the first year that HSC Ancient History students have studied this ‘core’ topic. Mr Baker organised for Year 12 Modern History students to further their study of the 20th Century personality, Albert Speer, through a visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum. Here they examined the displays, talked with holocaust survivors, and listened to a lecture on the role of Albert Speer in the Nazi regime. Year 12 Modern, Ancient and Extension History students joined the masses of other HSC students at NSW HTA lectures at the University of Sydney with Mr Baker and Mrs Caulfield, and were lucky enough to witness one of their own teachers (Mrs Caulfield) delivering one of the lectures. Students beginning their studies in History Extension in Term 4 visited Macquarie University Library to be taught about the intricacies of research.

History Debating continues to be a valuable and successful extension activity for students at Tara. The Year 11 team of Naomi Brooks, Philippa Collins, Ashleigh Shand, and Jillian Donohoo were coached by Mrs Caulfield, and former History debater and current TARA Debating Captain, Hannah Martin. This team won the Western Sydney History Debating Grand Final, defeating The Kings School. Two Year 10 teams competed in their division and were coached by Mr Bonson and Hannah Martin, with the team of Rachael Vicary, Natasha Pesce, Belinda White, Laura Parker, and Alexandra Moxon eventually being defeated in the Grand Final by The Kings School. As well as competing in this tournament Tara also hosted the semi-finals and group stages of the competition, with Mrs Caulfield coordinating up to eight schools in attendance at any one time. Once again the History Department was supported by the cooperation of the library staff. The future of this activity seems bright with Mrs Marr taking the Year 9 Elective History class along to the Grand Finals as an enthusiastic audience in support of the TARA teams.

The Tara History Department also contributed to the broader school community through Mr Baker’s involvement in the 2006 ANZAC Day commemoration in collaboration with Mr Michael Griffiths and the Performing Arts Department. Students with interests in both History and Performance were able to apply their skills to producing an engaging and thought provoking dramatic piece that incorporated music, dance, and an interview with a WWII veteran, all focussing on the theme of the role of Australian women in war time. A video recording of the performance was entered in the Australian Federal Government Schools ANZAC Day Awards. The History Department also organised for the commemoration of Remembrance Day on the school assembly.

Tara students have been given a vast range of opportunities to expand, explore, and demonstrate their interest and expertise in History.

Excursions, extension activities, competitions, and everyday classroom practices have all contributed to the development of students and the growth in popularity of the study of History. One such event was the 2006 History Teacher’s Association of NSW Year 10 History Competition, which TARA students competed in along with 13,177 students from 142 schools. Tara History students were very successful with Madeline Reid, Olivia Hartley, Amelia Hungerford, Rebecca Martin, Penelope Sinden, Laura Parker, Natasha Pesce, Nicola Bullock, and Kelly Jacobs being awarded High Distinctions. A further 18 students received Distinction awards, and 27 Credits. This was a terrific effort and an excellent demonstration of the skills and knowledge being developed through the study of History at Tara. Thank you to Mr Baker and his “team” for the splendid work in the History Department.

**LANGUAGES**

The Languages Department, led by Dr Morna King (French), has had another extremely busy, but rewarding year. This year the Department welcomed Mrs Maureen Collins (German and French) and Mrs Lisa Tang (Japanese and German) and we thank them for the hard work and commitment to language teaching they have displayed throughout the year. Miss Kendall Bowen (Japanese) and Mrs Véronique Wilson (French) have continued to inspire and enthuse their students in their language learning.

The Languages Department was extremely pleased with the 2005 HSC results in each of the three languages offered at Tara. Japanese results were particularly pleasing, with Sarah Maeng receiving 97% in Japanese Continuers and 48 out of 50 for Japanese Extension. Saem Yoo also achieved well in both Japanese Continuers (93%) and Japanese Extension (45 out of 50). Natalie Pfund received an excellent result in German Continuers (94%). Congratulations to these students and also their teachers for their preparation of, and commitment to, the students.

2006 has seen a continuation of the major project of new program writing. This project is slowly drawing towards its conclusion, but will still continue into the future with the planned introduction of Japanese into the languages rotation in Junior School. In order to give students as wide an exposure as possible to different languages, the Languages Department is planning a gradual implementation of a rotation system of French, German and Japanese in Years 5-7, with students studying each language for one year, instead of continuing with the same language for 3 years. It is hoped that this exposure to a greater range of languages will enable students to make a more informed choice of language study when they choose electives in Year 8, thus leading to an increase in the number of students studying a language.

This year students have been very enthusiastic about the creation of French and German clubs for senior language students of Tara and The Kings School. This began in Term 2 and has proved to be very popular. The aim is to meet twice a term after school for a range



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of language based activities. This is in addition to the weekly after school conversation classes with native speakers which the Languages Department has been able to offer to Year 12 students of French, German and Japanese. The conversation classes have been largely funded through a successful AIS grant and have been very helpful in increasing the students' oral confidence in their chosen language.

The Languages Department has started to make greater use of technology in their teaching, with such tools as the use of interactive whiteboards and interactive CDroms in each of the languages.

In Japanese this year, students have participated in a range of exciting cultural activities, including calligraphy and origami lessons and food sampling. Year 8 Japanese also participated in a cross-curricular activity with English and learnt how to write a Haiku poem.

Years 10 and 11 students profited from an immersion experience at the Japanese Tanken Centre in Kirrawee earlier this year, while Years 8 and 9 Japanese were able to participate in a Japanese restaurant excursion.

In March, students in the Years 8, 9 and 10 German classes were given the opportunity to participate in the Goethe-Institut High School Reading Competition. Over 270 students participated from New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, and 5 finalists from each year group were selected. Twenty students from Tara participated, and Calina Maseh was awarded 2nd prize in Year 8, with Emily Carruthers receiving 3rd prize in Year 9. After completing units of work on food, Years 9 and 10 German went to the Austrian Backhaus at Gordon, where they enjoyed a demonstration of Bretzeln making, before making their own. They then enjoyed a fabulous array of Austrian specialties at the adjoining restaurant. Year 8 German was also able to sample German food, participating in an excursion to the Löwenbräu Keller at the Rocks.

A highlight of the year for the two Year 10 French classes was their performance in Star Académie (a French version of Australian Idol) during the Macquarie University Year 10 French Day.

This excursion, jointly run by Macquarie University and NAFT, provided students with the opportunity to interact with students from over twenty different schools. The Tara girls were extremely excited to win the performance section, performing Bizet's *Habañera* from *Carmen*. The girls had given up many lunch times and attended after school rehearsals. Many thanks to Mrs Wilson for her coordination of the performance and to Mr Michael Griffiths for his help in choreographing the routine. Congratulations also to Helena Wehbe who won the judges' admiration for her lead interpretation of *Carmen*.

This year has also provided French and Japanese students with the opportunity to participate in an overseas language study tour. During the Easter holidays, 16 French students from Years 9, 10 and 11 headed off to New Caledonia with Mrs Véronique Wilson, Miss Kendall Bowen and Dr Morna King for 8 days. Their days were filled with many everyday French experiences in a tropical setting – shopping at the local markets and shops, eating at French restaurants, catching public transport and shopping for food at the supermarket.

The girls also had 3 formal French lessons with their New Caledonian teacher, who praised them for their commitment, enthusiasm and level of French. The diaries that the Year 11 students kept during the trip and then wrote up in French, were also evidence of the huge linguistic benefits of such a trip. Many of the girls said it was a life-changing experience and the teachers felt privileged to be part of that.

Miss Kendall Bowen once again headed off overseas later in the year, but ventured into more familiar territory with Mrs Lisa Tang.

They took a group of 15 students from Years 10 and 11 Japanese on a two week trip to Japan in September. They started their trip with a 5 day home-stay with our exchange partner school Tosajuku in Kochi.

At school, the girls attended classes ranging from Politics to PE with their host-sisters and participated in many different activities, including Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony and sports like judo, kendo and baseball. After leaving Kochi, they travelled by bullet train to Hiroshima, where they visited the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park. There they left paper cranes folded by Tara girls from Years 4 to 10, as a sign of their commitment to world peace. They took a ferry to Miyajima Island, where they saw the floating gate of Itsukushima Shrine, many Japanese maples and over-friendly local deer! Next stop was Kyoto, a city known for its traditional architecture. At Nara they climbed through Buddha's nostril at Todaiji, a temple which houses the largest indoor statue of Buddha in Japan. Catching the bullet train, a bus, a ferry, a cable-car and a ropeway, they did the full tour of Hakone, a hot-spring resort town at the foot of Mt. Fuji. Their final destination was Tokyo, where they sampled the night views, the fashion and electronics on display. They shopped, ate, sang karaoke and visited Tokyo Disneyland. All in all it was a very successful tour, where the students were able to learn and experience so much Japanese language and culture first hand.

The Tosajuku High School exchange was another highlight of the year for the Languages Department. This year, due to economic difficulties in Japan, only 5 students from Tosajuku and their teacher, Miss Chieko Nishimori, were able to come, but it was wonderful to once again be able to welcome the students and their teacher.

It was extremely encouraging to see our girls able to communicate in Japanese with their host sisters, but especially to see how readily the girls embraced the opportunity to live out the values of tolerance and compassion.

Language students from Years 9 to 11 once again participated in the Australian Language Certificates this year, which are conducted throughout Australia and New Zealand. The Certificate consists of tests of listening and reading skills, although the Japanese First Certificate consists of a listening test only. All of the Year 9 students who sat for this test gained a Distinction, compared with 33% of all schools, with Alexandra Coles, Michelle Kim (full marks) and Isobel Moore gaining High Distinctions. Students receiving a Distinction were: Samantha Fear, Marion McCann, Charlotte McKenzie, Catarina Min, Carla Novakovic, Carmen On and Eliza Owen. In the Beginners Japanese





*Subject Report continued*

Certificate, aimed at students with two to three years of experience in the language, Sophie Buchanan and Belinda White were awarded a High Distinction in the listening test and a Distinction in the reading test, while Alexandra Moxon and Christine Sebeih received a Distinction in the reading test. In the more challenging Intermediate Japanese, So-Young Park received a High Distinction in the listening and a Distinction in the reading test. In Beginners German, sat by Tara students in Year 9, Emily Carruthers (reading) and Elise Honeybrook (listening) were awarded Distinctions. In Beginners French, sat by Tara students in Year 9, 58% of students (compared to 34% of all schools) received a Distinction in reading and 92% (compared to 38% of all schools) received a Distinction in listening. Samantha Leggett and Charlotte McKenzie are to be particularly congratulated on their High Distinction and full marks in both reading and listening, while Annabelle Nursey also received a High Distinction in both sections and obtained full marks in listening. Hannah Graf also received a High Distinction in listening and a Distinction in reading. Emma Butchers, Eve Gallagher and Suzannah Powter received Distinctions in both listening and reading, while Monica Bordignon, Quynh Do, Olivia Hamilton-Nichols and Jazmin Kilmore received a Distinction in the listening. In the challenging Intermediate French Certificate, sat by students in Years 10 and 11, Year 11 student Ashleigh Shand received a High Distinction in both reading and listening, while Sarah Finlayson (Year 11) received a High Distinction and full marks in reading and a Distinction in listening. Thuc Do and Jillian Donohoo received a Distinction in both reading and listening and Annelise Howell (listening) and Alycia Smith (reading), also obtained a Distinction. Year 10 students Anna Gosteva and Amelia Hungerford, did exceptionally well to achieve a High Distinction and full marks in reading and a Distinction in listening. Natasha Pesce, also Year 10, obtained a Distinction in listening. Congratulations to all these girls.

Thank you to Dr King and to all the Language Department staff for their inspired teaching.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

A great privilege for the students of Tara is that they are able to be involved in an extraordinary range of performance events. In a variety of musical, dramatic, theatrical, academic and pastoral contexts, Tara students are able to give generously of their talents to audiences involving: their peers, their families, their friends, and members of the wider Tara community.

2006 has been a year that has provided dynamic and exciting challenges for Tara students in the performing arts.

A highlight of the Music year is the Jazz Cruise, sponsored by FOTM and featuring musicians and singers of the Senior School. The context for this performance event is always inspiring. Families and friends of the Tara performers were entertained by students, staff and parents and

friends of Tara on the Nepean Belle as it travelled up and down the beautiful Nepean River at dusk. This event, initiated by Adrian Sheen, continues to be a major performance opportunity for Tara Music students.

The Sheen Family Prize is another event supported by Dr Sheen. This performance was created to recognise the achievements of elite musicians at Tara. The evening, held in the Tara Hall is a true celebration of musical excellence. First prize was awarded to singer Rosemary Waugh but all performers should be highly commended for their performances. A highlight of the evening was the performance given by Adrian, Anabel and Penny of the Sheen family. This stylish and elegant evening is a strong reflection of the invaluable contribution of the Sheen family to the development of music at Tara and we thank them for this commitment.

The Shakespeare Festival is an opportunity for any student at Tara, with an interest in the Performing Arts, to participate in acting contexts involving the works of Shakespeare. This year, at the school festival level, there were a number of striking performances. At the regional level, Shannon Davis and Helena Wehbe performed an admirable duologue from *The Taming of the Shrew* and the audience was also entertained by a rollicking interpretation of a scene from *Twelfth Night*. Congratulations to Laura Parker of Year 10 who was selected from this competition for the Shakespeare Unleashed Project.

A group of Year 9, 10 and 12 Drama students in conjunction with the students and staff of the History Department, presented a collage drama piece incorporating, dramatic monologue, mime, song and music to look at the role of women in war. Four women from four different war contexts were profiled in the piece: a World War One wife, entertainers from World War Two, a nurse from The Vietnam War and a communications intelligence officer from World War Two, Jeannie Smith. A highlight of the presentation was the interview between Mrs Smith and two Year 10 History students.

*The Mikado*, a classic Gilbert and Sullivan production delighted audiences for a sell out season of three weeks in Term 1. This visually spectacular production, cleverly interpreted in a nineteen twenties design concept, provided wonderful performance challenges for thirty Year 11 Tara students in both principal and ensemble roles.

*The Mikado*, under the expert guidance of John Haigh in The King's Theatre, was one highlight of the Performing Arts year at Tara.

The Years 7 to 10 musical for 2006 was *Oklahoma!* This production provided performance opportunities for 330 Tara students and 50 King's students in the professional theatrical environment of The Riverside Theatre. The tremendous success of this production can be attributed not only to the wonderful talents of the cast, orchestra and crew but also to the Tara community as a whole. Students, teachers, parents, professional theatre practitioners and friends worked together in rehearsal to create a truly epic theatrical production. As the curtain fell on the final performance, the sense



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of exhilaration and achievement was shared by cast, orchestra and crew alike.

Particular thanks to Mr Michael Griffiths, Director of Performance, for his vision, energy and creativity in leading this production.

The Year 9 Performing Arts Festival is rapidly becoming one of the most anticipated performance events in the Tara calendar. This competition requires the participation of Year 9 students (in House groups) to devise, rehearse and present a drama /dance piece of 5 – 8 minutes duration and inspired by the topic “An historical event”. Final Assembly at the Hills Centre is another opportunity for dancers and actors in Years 7 to 11 to shine and to perform in a professional theatre context for a large audience.

We look forward to many rewarding performance challenges in 2007; most notably the Tara 110th Birthday Performing Arts Concert at The Sydney Town Hall which will provide a range of exciting opportunities for students and for many other members of the Tara community.

### DRAMA

In 2006 the Drama Department has continued to expand, incorporating four Drama teaching staff, Mrs Joanne George (Drama Coordinator), Mr Griffiths (Head of Performing Arts), Mrs Sue Lack (Acting Drama Coordinator during Mrs George’s Maternity Leave) and Mrs Susan Green. All Year 7 students studied Drama for one semester and there were two elective classes per year in Years 9 and 10.

In 2006 Tara had one Year 11 and two Year 12 classes.

There have been many opportunities in 2006 for the Tara Drama students to experience a wide range of theatre. The Year 12 students experienced “OnStage” (a showcase of exceptional 2005 Higher School Certificate Drama Group Performances and Individual Projects) and enjoyed a private tour of the Opera House, learning about the extraordinary history and architecture of the building and receiving an overview of the Australian Performing Arts scene. Year 12 also attended a performance and workshop for two of their set texts, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and *The Removalists* at the Sydney Theatre Company. The Year 11 and 12 Drama students also enjoyed an *Acrofusion* Physical Theatre workshop, led by Neesha Kohn, a professionally trained actor, gymnast, acrobat and aerialist who has worked for ‘Disney’ on Broadway. The students completed exercises in balance acrobatics, jumps/lifts and contact improvisation.

The Year 9 Drama classes went to see *Two Weeks With The Queen* – a play for which many of them prepared a set or publicity designs, at the Riverside Theatres. A new initiative of the Tara Drama Department is the ‘Tara Thespians Club’ – an optional club open to Drama students who are interested in seeing four evening performances encompassing a wide range of theatrical styles and spaces as part of a Subscription Package. Almost 40 Drama students and five staff members went to see *End of the Rainbow* at the Theatre Royal,

*Circus Oz* at the Riverside Theatre, *Stomp* at the Lyric Theatre and *Fat Pig* at the Sydney Theatre Company. Ultimately through these many experiences of live theatre students should gain new perspectives for their own performances in workshop and assessment contexts.

The Drama students at Tara are given many opportunities to represent their school and to excel in external competitions. During Term 1, Cara Novakovic and Eliza Owen (Year 9) and Tayla Hammond, Ella Smith and Helena Wehbe (Year 10) reached the Quarter-Finals in the “Interscholar Theatre Sports Challenge” that Tara proudly hosted. Three scripts from the Year 11 Drama class reached the Semi-Finals of the ‘Fast and Fresh’ Scriptwriting Competition, with many of the student’s peers and family members coming to support the girls produce and perform in their group-devised short scenes at the Lennox Theatre.

In Term Two, five students had their cartoons and caricatures selected to be displayed in the foyer of the Riverside Theatres as part of the month long *Big Laugh Comedy Festival*. In Term Three, two Melodrama films from the Year 10 class of 2005 were selected to be screened as part of the ‘Hills Film Festival’ and in Term Four a group of Year 9 students were selected to perform their Greek Drama piece at the “AHIGS Festival of Speech”. Laura Parker of Year 10 was also chosen to be a participant in the *Shakespeare Unleashed* project – a special week of Shakespeare workshops for the outstanding competitors from around Australia in the Shakespeare Youth Festival.

The many outstanding extra-curricular Performing Arts activities that have taken place over the year, such as *The Mikado*, The Shakespeare Festival and *Oklahoma!* have given the Tara Drama students many opportunities to perform on stage as actors and dancers and to work backstage in areas as diverse as lighting, sound and make-up if they wished. In addition there were subject specific Performance Evenings for the Drama students in Years 10 to 12. The Year 10 Drama classes showcased their short Melodrama films at the ‘Tara Tropfest’ where the Auditorium was transformed into a Movie Theatre and special guest judges awarded “Oscar” trophies to the best films. The Year 11 Drama class, as a supplement to their Preliminary Higher School Certificate Drama studies, performed with students from The King’s School in a lively production of *The Three Musketeers* at the King’s Theatre. Meanwhile the talented Year 12 students in their last weeks of school exhibited some of their Higher School Certificate Group Performances and Individual Projects at the ‘Year 12 Drama Showcase’ to a large and appreciative audience of family, staff and friends. Thank you to Mrs George for her leadership of this Department and we wish her well as she takes maternity leave in Term 4 to await the birth of her baby.



*Subject Report continued***MUSIC**

The students at Tara have participated in a wide variety of musical activities in 2006. The members of the music staff have worked enthusiastically and collaboratively under the leadership of Mrs Lasallian (Sal) Ciampa to continue to provide a wide range of activities for our students in 2006.

Tara Singers commenced the year with a performance at an Old Girl's wedding. This endeavor was successfully led by Mr Trevor McGowan-Slee and accompanied by Mrs Jenny Deagle. Mrs Karen Walmsley was then introduced as the new Tara Singers conductor and they have produced outstanding performances throughout the year. Of particular note was the performance at the Choral festival at Meriden in June where their quality of vocal production and musical interpretation made them stand out in the company of many other schools.

This year the Vocal Ensemble was led by Mrs Ciampa. Initially they struggled from a lack of an accompanist however Mrs Deagle filled in the gap at the Choral festival at Meriden and they presented a polished performance. In Terms 3 and 4 the group was generously accompanied by Mrs Jenny Beck and they have continued to flourish. In December this group will be the mainstay of our Christmas services. The non auditioned choir overcame their initial difficulties and blossomed under the care of Mrs Deagle. These girls have shown wonderful commitment and musicality throughout the year with a number of splendid performances at assemblies.

Our instrumental groups have also flourished this year. The strings have been ably led by Mr McGowan-Slee in the form of a String Ensemble and a String Quartet. Both groups have successfully performed at many school assemblies, liturgies and functions such as the Year 7 cocktail party. Handbells produced outstanding performances at the International Handbell Symposium for a week in Brisbane in August. They continued to delight our own audiences at the Tara Music Showcase at the end of Term 3 with performances from the balcony of the Theatre.

Concert Band continued under the baton of Mr Ashley George, assisted by Mrs Ciampa in Administration and Dr Lindy Crocker on Tuba. Miss Jo Carey has successfully instigated a woodwind ensemble and these students have been performing at many school functions throughout the year such as the Art Show and the TARAfair.

The Jazz Band has performed throughout the year, including a successful presentation at Ryde eisteddfod. The girls are to be wholeheartedly congratulated on their commitment and their musicality. The Junior Jazz has also been busy learning new pieces and should fill many of the instruments left by departing Year 12 students. Mrs Dot Cockburn is also to be congratulated on her tireless efforts with these girls and with those in the training band. She has successfully passed on to each girl a true love of making music that will be a life long passion for many of them. We would like to thank her sincerely for this.

In the classroom at Tara this year we have been 'making more music' with the purchase of a classroom set of Xylophones. These were jointly purchased by *Friends of Tara Music* (FOTM) and the school. This enables all students to successfully engage in practical music lessons. Even Year 12 have been spotted playing xylophone. They are beautiful sounding instruments and we thank FOTM and the School for financing this purchase.

Year 8 again experienced a full day celebration of music in May. This year the focus was on Music of Other Cultures. Staff and students dressed up in an amazing array of cultural costumes. The girls experienced workshops from 3 quite different groups; the first group was *Azadoota*, a Middle Eastern ensemble blending sounds from Iraq, Mesopotamia and lower Russia. A number of talented Year 8 students then presented solo performances to the year group. The second group was *Salaka*, a Nigerian percussion group that shared African cultural sounds, instruments and dance. After a pizza lunch the girls enjoyed *The Rhythm Hunters*, a duo performing the wind and Percussive sounds of South East Asia.

Forty-three students from concert band, choir and orchestra attended the 3 day music camp held at Merroo Christian Centre in Kurrajong. The weekend comprised intensive rehearsals for each group as well as fun workshop sessions in improvisation and vocal techniques from other cultures. James Greening, an amazing brass player who plays with *The Catholics* and *The World According to James* and Linda Marr from *Blindmans Holiday* were our special guest tutors. A highlight of the camp was an evening concert from Linda and *Blindmans Holiday* in which the students participated in the finale. Overall, the Music Camp was a huge success allowing students to grow in unity as a musical ensemble while learning new repertoire and improving their musical skills.

The HSC Showcase on 24 August was a very successful evening. Parents were treated to a range of performances from Music 1 and the 2/3 unit courses. Each girl presented 2 pieces from her program allowing parents and friends to experience some of the finished product. This was, for many, a culmination of up to 10 years of study. The Music Department showcase was rescheduled for 25 September. All groups performed exceptionally well, showing marked improvement for the year. The parental attendance was a little disappointing, however, word will spread and the known quality of these performances will attract greater numbers in future years.

In December, Tara will once again join with TKS and Kingsdene Special School to perform at the annual Carol Service for Anglicare at All Saints Church, Parramatta. The Music group will also be a very visible presence at Tara's wonderful Celebration on the final day of the year. Thank you to all music staff for their patience and their tireless work throughout the year. Thank you also to all the parents who have been a wonderful support as well.



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## VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts staff are Mrs Lynne Ambler ( Acting Head of Department), Mrs Caitlin Hughes, Mrs Genevieve McCrea, Mrs Anne Wilkins and Mrs Anne Langdon (Art Assistant and Ceramics Teacher). Mrs Davinia Feggans, Head of Visual Arts, has resigned to complete a digital animation course.

The very flexible facilities offered by the art centre continue to cater for all Visual Arts students. Practical lessons for Year 12 students are conducted in a studio dedicated to Visual Design and Visual Arts. Workstations are set up to allow students to work during their free time and timetabled lessons without the need to pack up materials and equipment. Year 11 Visual Design and Visual Arts classes also have a studio for their use. This enables specialised Art subjects to be taught in a professional environment which encourages high quality work.

A new printing press was delivered this year enabling students to create large lino prints and etchings. It has been used most effectively by one of our Year 12 girls this year who printed cardboard prints (collographs) for her Body of Work for the HSC.

An art exhibition of work from across all Senior School years was held in August. This event celebrated the end of practical work for Year 12, 2006. In their Bodies of Work, students explored a wide range of media areas including video, documented forms, sculpture, drawing, photography, textile and ceramics. Awards given during the art exhibition recognised excellence in Visual Arts from Years 7 to 12. Year 7 girls submitted an assessment task where they painted a portrait of a notable person from the Tara community. Year 8 students submitted artworks of a fantasy animal. For both years a list of finalists was drawn up and prizes awarded to the winners and certificates were awarded to runners up. Teachers also recognised the creative efforts of students in their classes from Years 9-12.

Students in Visual Arts continue to excel in the HSC. In 2005 three students were shortlisted for *Artexpress* – Sarah Lagudi, Sophie Corcoran and Saem Yoo. Saem's work "Changing Traditions of Asia" was exhibited in the *Artexpress* exhibition at The Armory at Homebush. This year's works are again outstanding, with some viewers moved to tears when reading the concept statement accompanying the Body of Work. Emma Louise Nutt produced a work about her grandmother and an Aboriginal girl she grew up with. Emma and the Visual Arts staff were pleased that Emma's Nan could visit the School to see her grand daughter's wonderful artwork. An artwork with the theme of the Holocaust, was created by Tonia Bell after a visit to the Holocaust Museum in New York. Viewers were moved by the understanding they gained when interpreting the visual information about this strong theme. Another creditable artwork by Gina Sacilotto explored observation and experiences gained during swimming training - swimming with monotonous regularity up and down the black lane marker.

One student in Year 12 chose the subject of "feet" for her Body of Work and produced a number of well constructed sculptures presented in a humorous manner. We wish all our Visual Arts students success in their HSC. Three works have already been selected for possible inclusion in *Artexpress* - Tonia Bell's Holocaust, Emma-Louise Nutt's memory of her grandmother and Gina Sacilotto's swimming/ water tribute.

Visual Arts students have explored a number of art locations on excursions. Year 9 walked from Bondi to Bronte taking photographs of the sea, rocks, people and textures. The negatives were developed and photos printed in the Art Centre darkroom. Years 11 and 12 viewed Postmodern Art at the Museum of Contemporary Art during the Biennale Exhibition. Years 7 and 8 visited the Art Gallery of N.S.W to view the original works of art there.

The Visual Arts staff and a band of willing helpers worked for weeks on the sets for the school production of *Oklahoma!* The sets included a house, a windmill and a 10 metre cornfield. It was a wonderful experience to see the pieces work so effectively on stage.

'After School' classes have been well patronised this year, with girls attending from Years 3 to 12. It is particularly pleasing to see the creative work produced by the Junior School classes.

Thank you to Mrs Ambler for moving so smoothly into the leadership of this Department and thank you to Mrs Feggans for her many years of dedication to Tara.



*Subject Report continued***PDHPE**

The 2006 PDHPE staff, consisting of Mrs Chris Lang, Mr Phil Nield, Miss Lisa Bauer, Mrs Jenny O'Keeffe, Miss Leanne Emmas, Miss Lisa Goldman, Miss Alex Butt and Head of Department Ms Tracey Goldsworthy have completed a very productive and successful year. In particular, the PDHPE staff has been involved in the consolidation of teaching and learning programs for the Stage 4 and Stage 5 PDHPE syllabuses in Years 7-10 and the implementation of the new content endorsed course "Physical Activity and Sports Studies" (PASS) in Years 9-10. The PDHPE staff has embraced the opportunity to enhance student centred learning approaches, exploring dynamic issues through new and improved pedagogical strategies including ICT.

This year the PDHPE staff have also focused on enhancing the students' 'Lifelong Physical Activity'. Encouraging and developing the skills required for lifelong physical activity is a fundamental objective of the PDHPE curriculum. Physical activity involves significant movement of the body and limbs. As a result lifelong physical activity involves a variety of movement opportunities that take into account the ways girls can be active in and outside of School, resulting in their best chance for ongoing healthy development. Research suggests that organised School Sport does not suit everyone and as such the PDHPE curriculum provides opportunities for all students to be involved in physical activity and as a result caters for each student's individual needs. In particular, the PDHPE faculty has incorporated a number of specific strategies and interventions to encourage lifelong physical activity. These have included:

- Exposing students to a wide range of recreational and non traditional movement activities including Golf, Aqua Aerobics, relaxation techniques, power walking, Lacrosse, Oz Tag and European Handball. All of these movement experiences contribute to students developing self confidence, self esteem and interpersonal skills.
- Working with community organisations, providing opportunities for the students to participate in activities available in the local community. For example: the use of 'Fitness First' – body pump and 'cycle spin' classes, indoor rock climbing at Castle Hill, ten pin bowling at Castle Hill, Circus skills/flying Trapeze at Sydney Olympic Park and Surf Educate at Manly.
- Providing students with choice and the ability to negotiate with staff in the type of practical activities and options they would like to participate in.

Tara HSC PDHPE students consistently perform extremely well in the Higher School Certificate Examination. 2005 was no exception and the results from the 15 candidates who completed the 2005 PDHPE HSC Examination were excellent. Four students achieved Honour roll status – Meredith Lack, Roslyn Crawford, Natalie Shehata and Elyse Foley and 74% of students were placed in the top two bands (Bands 5 and 6).

This is an exceptional result as over 10 000 candidates in the state complete the PDHPE examination. These results highlight the commitment from our students and expertise of the PDHPE teaching staff.

In 2006, Two Year 12 students, Penelope Sutherland and Heather Cook were recognised publicly by the NSW Olympic Council for their ability to participate, embrace and support the ideals of participation in sport and physical activity. These two students were the 2006 recipients of the *Pierre De Coubertin* Award. This prestigious award acknowledges Heather's and Penelope's outstanding sporting commitment and their ability to participate, embrace and support the ideals of involvement in physical activity. The award acknowledges students who affirm the values of the founder of the modern Olympics and who participate in sport for internal rewards, exhibit sportsmanship and encourage others. It is an outstanding achievement for two students to be nominated and receive this award, highlighting the depth of sporting service within our School.

The implementation of the new Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) course has been a success and proved to be a popular subject choice for students across Years 9 and 10. The Physical Activity and Sports Studies course extends upon concepts developed in the PDHPE curriculum. The aim of the course is to enhance students' capacity to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, developing skills in organisation, leadership, and communication; leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others. In particular, Year 9 PASS students were actively involved in assessing the technology used in sport, travelling to Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic centre and participating in swimming and diving activities in order to evaluate fast skin suits, timing equipment and underpool technique analysis areas. The Year 7 Sporting Gala Day, organised with The Kings School was another focus for the PASS students as they employed the theoretical principles of sports management to assist in the leadership and coordination of the day. The day was a great success with many new friendships established. Year 10 PASS students enhanced their skills in practical application and coaching by teaching Junior School students how to play golf. The Year 10 PASS students had achieved their Level 1 Junior Golf Coaching Accreditation from the Jack Newton Golf Foundation and employed these skills to teach the Junior students. PASS also supplemented their learning of concepts in Exercise Prescription and Design, the Science of Coaching and Leisure and Recreation modules through a "Learning to Surf" excursion conducted at Dee Why Beach in conjunction with Manly Surf School.

The success of the PDHPE days continued this year with the primary aim focusing on empowering individuals to exert greater control over their health and practising ways of maintaining active lifestyles. The Year 7 Beach Day "Smart Summer Safety" provided a focus on surf safety while introducing and reinforcing the many fun water



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activities at the beach. It is vital to communicate the importance of surf safety and the dangers of the beach. The Surf Education Program ensured maximum participation of students, with the emphasis on fun, to ensure effective student learning. Manly Beach was Tara's classroom for Year 7 on this occasion and learning was a most enjoyable experience.

In 2006, the Yr 8 PDHPE Day "Looking Good Feeling Great" complemented many issues being addressed in the PDHPE curriculum particularly in regard to Mental Health, Body Image and Bullying concerns. This year, 'Enlighten Education' provided two outstanding workshops for the students: 'Love the Skin You're In' - focusing on the issues of negative stereotyping, sexism, media images, the fixation on being thin, with activities which encourage girls to critically evaluate messages that bombard them every day and develop strategies that help them respond intelligently and objectively; and 'Get the Look Right' - where students were empowered to feel good about themselves with or without makeup. These workshops complemented a performance on bullying by Brainstorm Productions - 'Verbal Combat' and a session of physical activity 'Body Combat'. The overall day was an outstanding success and the feedback from the students extremely positive: "everything was the best! Love yourself ... believe in yourself - I want to do more of this every week!" "I loved the atmosphere and learned that none of us are perfect and to stop putting myself down."

Year 9 was also extremely positive in their response to the Year 9 PDHPE Day "Thrills without Spills" in 2006. They participated in a range of workshops including talks from the Police Youth Liaison Officer, a performance from Brainstorm Productions "Cheap Thrills" and two workshops from Enlighten Education: "Style file" and "Stop - I don't like It". The focus of the day is largely on adolescent risk taking behaviour and the resulting consequences. The mix of experienced presenters and real life stories make the day enjoyable with strong and positive messages being reinforced.

The Year 10 PDHPE Day "The Great Outdoors" continues to be an exhilarating and challenging experience for all students. Penrith White Water Stadium is the venue for the day and students participate in outdoor activities of White Water rafting and flat water Kayaking. All students enjoy the experience as they develop interpersonal skills, team work strategies and challenge their own limits and physical capabilities. Lifesaving skills in Resuscitation and Rescue continue to be an inherent part of the PDHPE curriculum and it was very encouraging to see the level of participation and excellent standard achieved by Higher Awards Lifesaving in 2006. With the new updates to Resuscitation procedures implemented in June this year, it has been a busy time ensuring all teaching programs have been revised and students are clear about the new changes. In 2006, 2 candidates completed their RLSSA Award of Merit Certification, 16 girls received their RLSSA Bronze Cross award and 11 students achieved the highest lifesaving award at School level - The RLSSA Distinction. All PDHPE

classes in Years 7 to 9 complete Lifesaving and Resuscitation awards with an outstanding level of accomplishment at all levels, publicly recognised by the Royal Lifesaving Society. Congratulations to all girls. On a more personal note we would like to farewell Miss Leanne Emmas who left the PDHPE Department in Term 3. Miss Emmas was a valuable member of the PDHPE faculty and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Thank you to Miss Lisa Goldman for her committed approach in undertaking Miss Emmas's position and to Mr Simon McInerney replacing Mrs Chris Lang during her Term 4 long service leave. We wish Ms Goldsworthy well as she awaits the birth of her second baby and thank her for her leadership of this vibrant department.

### SPORT

2006 once again saw increased levels of participation in Co Curricular Sporting Activities. In Term 1, Tara fielded 10 softball teams in the IGSSA Saturday competition from which a record 7 teams made it through to semi finals. Six of these teams won their semi final matches with 3 of these (Team 1, 2 and Team 7) winning premiership titles. Congratulations to Caitlin Caldwell who was selected in the IGSSA and the NSW CIS Softball Teams. Our Softball Captain, Maegan Mitchell is to be commended on her outstanding leadership this season.

Tennis continued on its rebuilding phase this year where team entries increased to 13. Five of our teams won through to semi finals where teams 5, 12 and 13 contested finals. Congratulations to teams 12 and 13 who were successful in winning premiership titles. The Tildesley Shield Tennis Competition was held at Pennant Hills Park once again over 3 days. Congratulations to Ashleigh Shand, who, for the third year in a row, won her way through to the 4th round of the singles competition. Jessica Pickering-Rodriguez captained our tennis in 2006 and was extremely encouraging and supportive of all our players.

Tara's swimming team, once again captained by Gina Sacilotto, performed well at the IGSSA Competition. Congratulations to Heather Cook, Madaleine Owen and Eloise Laws who were selected in the IGSSA Swimming Team and Jessica MacDonald and Tarnequa Smart in the IGSSA Diving Team which competed at the NSW CIS Carnival. All girls performed exceptionally well. Particular congratulations to Heather and Eloise who made the NSW CIS Team for the All Schools Championships and to Madaleine who was selected as reserve. Mr Haydn Belshaw, Head Swimming Coach at Epping Pool, continued in the position of Head Swimming Coach at Tara for Years 3-12 and we look forward to the development of our swimming program over the next couple of years.

The Tara Rowing Squad continued their association with the Balmain Rowing Club. Annabel Butt is to be commended on her outstanding leadership and support of our squad this year. Her commitment to rowing during her time at Tara has been exceptional and we look



*Subject Report continued*

forward to her returning in the future in a coaching role with our Juniors. The team competed in the 2006 IGSSA Regatta with every team member winning a gold or silver medal. Congratulations to Anthea Marriot and Sophie Buchanan who won the Junior Double Scull, Kirsten Baird won the Junior Single Scull. Our Open Quad Scull consisting of Felicity Smith, Annabel Butt, Amber Boydell, Laura Briennesse and coxed by Ziggy Lake, also won their event. Courtney Maxwell and Marianna Doumanis teamed up to win a silver medal in the Junior Double Scull and Allison Morgan also gained a second place in the Schoolgirls Open Single Scull. Results at the NSWCIS Head of the River were also excellent. Kirsten Baird, in particular, is to be congratulated on her win in the Junior Single Scull. We are extremely grateful to all the parents of our rowers who have supported our program this year. Donations to rowing have resulted in the purchase of new boats and associated equipment necessary for the programs survival. Heartfelt thanks to Miss Alex Butt for all she continues to do for the Rowing Program at Tara. Without the enormous effort, expertise and enthusiasm she puts into this sport, it would not be a viable option for our students.

Cross Country selections were made from the Inter - House events run during term 2, prior to the IGSSA Championships on Saturday 13 May. This year we had a record 35 competitors, a reflection of the enthusiasm generated by our team captain, Annabelle Strang. All team members performed very well and supported each other enthusiastically at Frensham School, Mittagong. Congratulations to Wilma Leahy who was selected as a reserve in the IGSSA team for the NSWCIS Championships.

Soccer celebrated its third year as an IGSSA sport this year with a name change. Keeping in line with the international organising body, soccer is now known as Football. Participation in this sport increased again this year as we had 10 teams entered in the IGSSA Competition. As the competition season was short, no semi final matches were contested. Finals were played between teams ranked one and two at the end of the rounds. Four of our teams (3, 5, 6, and 7) finished the rounds in the top two of their division. After some very close and exciting matches, Team 6 won their divisional premiership.

Amie Hunt captained Tara Football this year. Her leadership and enthusiasm inspired all players, particularly our Junior members.

The 2006 Basketball season was also short this year. Captained by Emma-Louise Nutt, Tara fielded 11 teams in the IGSSA Competition of which 3 teams (6, 10 and 11) won the right to play for the premiership titles in their respective grades. Congratulations to Team 10 who were successful in winning their division. Congratulations also to Nicola Heffer who was selected in the IGSSA U16 Representative Team.

Annabelle Strang captained Tara's Athletic Team as they competed in the 83rd IGSSA Athletics Championships, held at the

Sydney International Athletic Centre. We have been grateful for the commitment of our new Athletic Coaches, Rachel Pedersen and Jennifer Greatbatch, and look forward to watching their programs evolve across both Senior and Junior School in seasons to come. Heather Cook and Jenny Crooks are to be congratulated on their selection in the IGSSA team which competed at the NSWCIS Championships. Both girls performed exceptionally well with Heather placing first in both the AWD 100m and Long Jump and Jenny placing 4th in the 15 Years Shot Put. Heather was also selected to compete at the All Schools Carnival but was unfortunately unavailable to participate.

For the second year in a row, Tara entered a number of teams in the Northern Region Interschool Snowsports Competition. Students competed in Alpine, Skiercross, Boardercross, Mogul and Snowboard events. Overall our Senior team was placed 5th out of the 20 schools contesting the event, and our Junior Team 3rd of the 10 competing schools. A large number of our teams won their way through to the State Championships where Julia Cook's performances earned her a competition berth at National level. Once again we are extremely grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of two of our PDHPE Staff Members, Miss Butt and Miss Leanne Emmas, as they provide opportunities for our students in these pursuits.

On Saturday 23 September, Tara hosted the 4th Interschool Dressage Competition. All girls rode extremely well, taking home several of the ribbons. Congratulations to Rhiannon Mann who was Tara's champion rider. During the day 206 tests were ridden which represented approximately 90 riders from 35 schools. We are indebted to all the hard work put into this event in particular as well as other events the girls have competed in during the year, by our Equestrian Captain, Molly Tourish, staff - Mrs Sal Ciampa, Mrs Peta Black and the Equestrian Committee.

Term 3, once again, saw the largest participation in team sport for the year with 20 netball teams and 5 hockey teams competing in the IGSSA Saturday competition. In Netball, a record 16 of our teams qualified for semi finals, 12 of these winning their matches. In final matches 7 teams (1,2,4,5,13,17 and 19) won their respective premiership titles. Particular congratulations to our Firsts who won the top (1A) Division after a tense final against Ravenswood. Shannon Davis is to be congratulated on her selection in IGSSA Open netball team for 2006.

2006 saw 3 of our Tara Netball Teams depart on Tara's first overseas sporting tour. The teams competed in the International Schools Netball Tournament in Hawaii. All teams played exceptionally well with our Firsts winning the Tournament after defeating another Australian team, Downlands College from Queensland, in the final. Hockey was represented by Team 5 in the semi finals. After an extremely tight match which ended in a draw at full time, our team was unlucky not to progress to the final as they had finished in a



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lower position on the points table. Hockey was captained by Penne Sutherland in 2006. Krista Jenkins is to be congratulated on her selection in the IGSSA U16 Hockey Team.

Gymnastics is one of very few sports involved in training all year round. Our Artistic and Rhythmic Teams competed in the IGSSA competition early in Term 4 and are to be congratulated on their 4th placing in Artistic Division 1 and 4th placing overall in Artistic, combined with a 5th placing in Rhythmic Division 2, resulted in a creditable 8th place overall. Alissa McGlashan is to be congratulated on her selection in the IGSSA Gymnastics Team to compete in the NSW CIS Competition. The team was captained by Joleen Li in 2006. Joleen's assistance in the lead up to the event and on the day was appreciated by all staff. Once again this year we were indebted to the support and expertise of our Head Gymnastics Coach, Mr Mike Watson and Mrs Michelle Oakley. Kate Riley joined us as our Rhythmic Gymnastics Coach in 2006 and we look forward to her continuing with the enthusiastic Year 7 Squad she has started this year.

Saturday sport in Term 4 consists of water polo and cricket. Tara has entered 6 water polo teams into the IGSSA competition, this year captained by Kara Mirabito. Water Polo continues to grow as a sport at Tara with players having the opportunity to play the Barker competition in Term 1, MLC competition in term 3 and the IGSSA competition in Term 4. Five cricket teams have been entered in the IGSSA competition, co-captained this year by Bree Norris and Sarah Hando. We are extremely proud of Paige Stubbs who has been selected in the NSW CIS Cricket Team.

Inter - House Carnivals and Competitions have been enthusiastically contested throughout the year. Waugh House won the Swimming and Diving Carnival which was held at Parramatta Pool. Division winners on the day were: Junior – Eloise Laws, Intermediate – Rachel Cobbin and Senior – Gina Sacilotto. Congratulations to Ellie Laws, Gina Sacilotto and Madaleine Owen who broke records on the day. Diving enjoyed a huge increase in competitor numbers this year resulting in Danielle Raymond becoming Senior Champion; Matilda Ind, Junior Champion and Caitlin Murphy, Junior Champion. Waugh won the Inter - House Athletics Carnival. Division winners on the day were: Junior – Jessica Leahy, Intermediate – Wilma Leahy and Senior – Annabelle Strang. Other competitions have been held in: softball, tennis, water polo, cross country, basketball and gymnastics. At the Swimming and Athletic Carnivals, a Year Trophy is awarded to the year group which gains the most participation points in relation to the number of students enrolled. As well as the trophy, a 'mufti day' is also awarded to the winning year group. The Swimming Award went to Year 9 and the Athletics Award to Year 8. Congratulations! After two years of planning, 2006 saw the introduction of the Tara Sportswomen's Dinner. This was held at the Pennant Hills Golf Course on Friday 22 September. At this dinner the outstanding achievements of Tara's Sportswomen were recognised.

We were fortunate to have Alison Broadbent, vice Captain of the Sydney TAB Swifts National Netball League Team and member of the Australian Commonwealth Games Netball Team, as our Guest Speaker and presenter. Congratulations to the girls who received the major awards for the evening: the *Vanessa Kingsford Hockey Honour Board* awarded to Penne Sutherland and Amie Hunt, the *Emma Smith Tennis Shield* awarded to Alicia MacKenzie, the *Daniels Family Basketball Prize* awarded to Nicola Heffer, the *Boarders Participation in Sport Board* awarded to Annabelle Strang and the *Bev Watson Shield* awarded to Annabel Butt.

At the NSW CIS Awards Dinner this year, we were extremely proud of three of our students: Chelsea Harris, Tarnequa Smart and Chloe Wilson, who received awards for their achievements in Sport Aerobics. Mrs Chris Lang is also to be congratulated on the award she received at the dinner in recognition of her involvement in Diving at the State level.

Without the continued support, expertise and dedication of the coaching and PDHPE staff at Tara, providing opportunities for participation in all the sports we offer would be impossible. We are extremely grateful to all the parents who actively support their daughters sporting endeavours whether it is transport, managing teams, cheering on the sidelines or assisting with the well patronised Sports BBQ.

Particular thanks to Mrs Jenny O'Keeffe for all her work with Tara Sport. We wish her well for her future with CIS.





### EXTRA SUBJECTS AND CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

These Extra and Co Curricular activities are well recognised ways for our students to indulge a passion, learn a new skill, develop leadership, social and organisational skills while at the same time providing valuable service to the school and the wider community. At Tara our activities outside of the Academic Curriculum provide a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences that contribute to the total development of each participant. Private or group tuition in Music, Dance, Speech, Ceramics, Gymnastics and Tennis is available to every Tara girl. Lessons are conducted by qualified, professional teachers and coaches in over 25 subjects. This area of school activity is coordinated by Dr Lindy Crocker who is the Co Curricular and Extra Subject Coordinator and we thank her for her enthusiasm and attention to detail.

ACTIVITY	JUNIOR	SENIOR	STAFF
Piano	45	25	6
Musicianship	1	2	1
Flute	6	3	1
Singing	9	71	2
Brass	-	5	1
Cello	3	-	1
Strings	14	3	3
Guitar	7	12	2
Percussion	-	4	1
Clarinet/Sax	6	9	1
Speech	53	3	1
Tennis	53	32	3
French	3	-	1
Ceramics	14	16	1
Dance	19	23	2
Rhythmics	23	1	2
Sports Aerobics	4	-	1
Gymnastics	61	24	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>32</b>

AWARDS presented from 2005 Term 4 to 2006 Terms 1, 2 and 3

DOMAIN	HONOUR BADGE	BLUE	POCKET	MERIT CERTIFICATE
Service	-	5	31	NA
Performing Arts	1	22	63	NA
Speaking	1	8	56	NA
Academic	1	29	26	NA
Sport	5	7	137	164

### CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

\* > 600 participants annually and Teacher responsible

ACTIVITY	TEACHER	STUDENTS 7-12
Concert Band	George, Ciampa	35
Jazz Bands	Cockburn	16
Orchestra	McGowan-Slee	15
School Choirs	Ciampa, Walmsley	60
Wind Ensemble	Carey	8
Handbells	McGowan-Slee	20
Speaking	Finn, Barker, Bonson	30
Drama, Dance	Griffiths	250
IGSSA Sport	O'Keeffe & Coaches	150 plus per term
Non IGSSA Sport	O'Keeffe & Coaches	Various > 30
Crusaders	Nicholls, Crane	30
Waterwatch	Walker	10
Sound	McGowan-Slee	8
Exchange / Gap	Crocker	5
Other Clubs & Groups	Bowmaker, Walters	30
Equestrian	Ciampa	12

### Awards for Pockets, Blues and the Honour Badge 2006

Awards are presented to students for individual involvement and achievement in Co Curricular Activities. There is a regular posting on the Tara Intranet of student award recipients. The awards recognise not only participation but also enterprise, leadership, commitment, dedication, skill and effort. The Honour Badge, Blues and Pockets are presented in whole School Assemblies held at least two times per Term. Certificates are generally presented in Year Meetings which are held regularly. More details and awards criteria are listed in the Tara Orientation Booklet.

### Record Keeping

In an extension of the school's Edumate database application, awards from 2006 onwards are now directly entered into a student's portfolio and will be available upon request, in transcript form.



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### DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has been established since 1956 and is an exciting self-development program available to all young people worldwide, equipping students with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world they live in. It is a voluntary program with challenging activities, offering opportunities to experience adventure, acquire new skills and make new friends. We welcomed Miss Lisa Goldman, a Tara Old Girl, who replaced another Tara Old Girl, Miss Leanne Emmas mid Term 2.

There are four areas of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme: Community Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expedition within the Award Program: Community Service is intended to develop a sense of community and social responsibility: Skills aims to develop cultural, vocational and practical skills: Physical Recreation encourages improvement of performance and fitness whilst the Expedition area develops a spirit of adventure, discovery and an understanding of the environment. The three Award levels are Bronze, Silver and Gold, each level requiring an increasing level of commitment and effort.

Over this year, 2006, a total of 90 girls commenced the Bronze Award, 40 girls commenced Silver and 25 began their Gold Award. Canoeing and hiking expeditions have taken place this year in the following areas: Hawkesbury River, Berowra Waters, Kangaroo Valley and Myall Lakes with further trips being planned for the end of this year. These times have been greatly beneficial to the development of the girls' confidence and skills as they have had to pre-plan each trip from their food and equipment, to risk assessment and navigation route. Each trip has been challenging and successful with much fun being had by all.

In November this year the following girls will attend a special presentation for their outstanding achievement of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This presentation will be made by the Governor of NSW at Government House and congratulations to the following recipients; Annabel Butt, Annabel Baker, Georgina Harvey, Alicia MacKenzie, Danielle Raymond and Emma Nealon. Congratulations to those who have also received their Bronze and Silver awards throughout this year. A great effort was made by all students to achieve these awards!

Miss Emmas who has been developing and coordinating the Duke of Edinburgh here at Tara over the last two years, left us early September and she will be sadly missed. We appreciated all her great organisation and enthusiasm for the program and it is because of her efforts that the program here at Tara is as strong as it is. Thank you Miss Emmas.

### DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Learning and mastering Debating and Public Speaking is a life-long skill, one in which Tara students are fortunate enough to have numerous opportunities where they can develop their ability. Debating allows girls to expand their critical thinking skills, increase their academic confidence and knowledge, enhance social skills and self esteem as well as having fun and working as part of a team. Thank you to Ms Melissa Finn for her splendid Leadership of the Debating and Public Speaking activities.

This year has been a truly remarkable one with students from across all years competing in a variety of competitions. Tara has been represented in numerous Debating competitions including: Archdale, Archdale Representative Teams, Macquarie University Schools Cup, History Debating (see report under History) and in various Public Speaking competitions including: *Legacy*, *Rotary*, *Oz Speak*, Inter-House and AHIGS *Festival of Speech*.

A notable achievement this year, that must be recognised, is just how close Tara came to winning the Archdale Debating Shield. With the teams for 2006 finalised in February, the Archdale teams began a season that will be distinguished from many others – being placed second overall in a competition of 21 Independent Girls' Schools, by only 2 points. While Tara has been positioned second several times, with two teams, the Year 9 team and the senior team making it to the final, we had our best opportunity at winning the Shield yet. However, while the teams demonstrated an outstanding effort, unfortunately both were narrowly defeated. It was amazing that six out of our seven Debating teams made it through to the play-offs. All the girls in the Archdale team must be congratulated for their fine effort this season, as without the culmination of their individual team's points we would not have been in such an advantageous position. The students are even more determined for 2007 competition now. Further to this, two members from the Senior Debating Team, Hannah Martin and Alison Hammond, were nominated and selected to be a part of the Archdale Representative Team to compete in the State Representative competition against the likes of GPS, CHS and CAS. Tara was the only School to have two students selected for this Representative team. It must be noted that Hannah Martin (Debating Captain 2005-2006), is the only student to have been selected for this team for three years in a row. To be chosen twice is uncommon, but three times is exceptional, a feat that probably has not occurred since the 1960's GPS teams. Congratulations to Hannah on this magnificent effort. In the area of Public Speaking, Belinda White was the runner-up in the 2006 *Oz Speak* Competition, the same competition that she won last year. Aimee Sutton and Georgia Appleby were placed first and second respectively in the *Betty Pincott Memorial Rotary* Public Speaking Competition.



*Subject Report continued*

Congratulations and thank you to all girls involved in Debating and Public Speaking throughout 2006. Particular mention must go to Hannah Martin who has worked tirelessly this year, determined to make debating recognised and the girls united. She has demonstrated incredible leadership qualities and we hope to welcome her back as a coach in 2007.

Sincere thanks also to the coaches, Felicity McMahon (Tara Old Girl), Felicity Wilson (Tara Old Girl), Timothy Garrett and Timothy Mooney who have been inspirational in their work with the girls all year. We farewell our Tara Old Girl coaches as they move into full-time employment and work overseas, they will be greatly missed by all involved in Debating and Public Speaking. We are looking forward to 2007 and hope that it will be another successful and satisfying year for all involved.

#### LEARNING ENRICHMENT AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (LEAP)

2006 had promised to be a year of consolidation and fine-tuning as the innovations which had their origins in 2005 began their journey along the path to full implementation. Several worthy aphorisms spring to mind at this point; *Expect the unexpected* and *Hasten slowly* would seem most aptly to sum up the year.

Miss Maryanne Magri, the Learning Support Coordinator, sadly left Tara at the end of 2005 to take up a mainstream teaching position at Riverview. After an extensive search, the LEAP Department was delighted to welcome Mrs Linda Higham to the Learning Support position. Mrs Higham brought with her a wealth of new ideas and a love for Tara developed during her years as a student here. It was therefore with mixed feelings that the Department greeted the news of her impending motherhood, and she was finally permitted to leave on the strict understanding that she was to produce a new Tara enrolment! In her short time at Tara, Mrs Higham provided invaluable support to students in Years 7-10 experiencing difficulties with numeracy as well as assisting some Year 7 students through their transition into High School, and she will be greatly missed. Mrs Christine Goddard, who has worked as a Support Teacher at both Danebank and Rouse Hill Anglican College, has now been appointed to the Learning Support position at Tara. With her experience in catering for the needs of primary and secondary students, she will be a most welcome addition to the LEAP Department.

Ms Helen O'Shea, the Hearing Consultant for the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children, also left this year to work with families of hearing impaired students in remote areas. Ms O'Shea has been associated with Tara for over ten years, and her advice and support have proven invaluable for both staff and students.

The LEAP Department has been grateful for the support and assistance of Ms Jennifer Tait, the new RIDBC Vision Consultant. The work of Mrs Kate McIntosh, our Learning Support Assistant, has also been

greatly appreciated as she has monitored the ongoing implementation of the Individual Education Plans developed by Mrs Higham. Mrs McIntosh has also provided the support necessary to ensure that students with physical and sensory disabilities have full access to the school's academic curriculum and co curricular program. The Teaching/Learning Coordinator, Mrs Philippa Bowmaker, has assumed responsibility for students requiring special examination provisions for their School Certificate Tests and Higher School Certificate Examinations. She would like to extend special thanks to the mothers who offer their time and support to the girls at this critical period of their lives by reading and scribing for them. Mrs Jane Noller, Mrs Robyn Novakovic, Mrs Peta Pinchen and Mrs Anne Murray (whose daughter left Tara some years ago) have been especially helpful. The long-awaited student tracking system is undergoing final modifications and should be available for implementation next year. This is a very exciting innovation as the program should not only chart student progress but also provide an alert when there are significant deviations in a student's performance. It is understood the program also provides opportunities for parents to monitor their daughter's academic progress – an innovation which may not be greeted with equal enthusiasm by some students! Mrs Bowmaker and Mrs Anne Rumpler - Director of ICT Integration, have had significant input into the development of this package, and are very excited about the potential it affords to provide a comprehensive overview of student performance and to be proactive in ensuring students achieve to the best of their ability.

The Learning Support teams from the Junior and Senior Schools have continued their fortnightly meetings, joined by Mrs Robyn Richardson, the School Counsellor, and Mrs Anne McIntyre, the ESL teacher. Joint initiatives have included the development of a register of health professionals, modifications to the Year 6 Transition and Orientation programs and preliminary work on a manual to support teachers in their identification of students with learning needs.

There have been some exciting developments in the opportunities available for gifted students. Mrs Bowmaker has successfully negotiated for Tara to act as a venue for Sydney University's *Mind and Morality* course, a one unit HSC Board-endorsed course recognised as a Year 11 preliminary unit. The course will form part of a student's HSC record and will provide the student with a semester-length credit towards a degree in Arts or some combined degree programs. It is anticipated that this course will be offered next year. Tara Year 9 students have also participated in the Da Vinci Decathlon at Knox, scoring particularly well in the Engineering Challenge, English, Science and performance sections of the competition, and the Year 10 Future Problem Solving team reached the semi-final round, a very significant achievement for this group of talented students. The Interdisciplinary Studies course has continued under the watchful eyes of Mrs Howell (Year 10) and



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Mrs Bowmaker (Year 9), the Year 9 class being one of the first student groups to participate in a unit of work developed by The Jewish Museum in conjunction with the UNSW's Gifted Education Unit. The unit, *Developing an Ethical Framework*, had a significant impact on the students, who found their visit to the Jewish Museum, conversation with a Holocaust survivor and exploration of the issue of shifting values when life itself is under threat very challenging. *Checks and Stripes*, Tara's student newspaper, also continued with the support of Mr Jeff Williams and his company, *Impress Printers*. The girls are very grateful for his wonderful contribution.

2007 promises to be a challenging year, with new programs, new students and the chance to revisit existing policies and procedures in the light of the School's review for registration.

Thank you to Mrs Bowmaker as she leads this Department.

### CLARIDGE LIBRARY, SENIOR SCHOOL

**Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 7.30am – 6.00pm**  
**Friday 7.30am – 5.00pm**

The Claridge Library is a large air-conditioned building located in the centre of the School. It has a large open area with several specialist rooms. There is a separate fiction area. The Library houses a collection of approximately 12 500 non fiction and reference books and 3 500 fiction books. It is also home to over 120 different journals and magazines and over 1500 videos for use on the School's integrated system.

Students are issued with an ID card. This card is the Library borrowing card and is required for all lending transactions. Students may borrow fiction books for two weeks and non-fiction books for one week. Journals may be borrowed and recreational magazines are also available. The videos are not allowed to be borrowed. The Library also receives the daily newspapers.

The ID cards, from this year, are also photocopy cards which work in the Library photocopy machine. The cards require credit to be added using the machine provided. Copies remain at 10c per page for black and white copies. A colour photocopier/printer is available for student use, but the cost is \$2 per page. Students need to ask the Library staff if they require colour photocopies or colour printing.

The Library currently houses 28 computers for student use. Each computer is networked with access to the School Intranet and the ability to print to either of the laser printers. Microsoft Office and other programs used by the school are available. Personal email is not permitted on the School Network.

After School, girls may use the Library to do their homework, be it research or other set homework. They may seek additional help by attending the After School Homework Support on Mondays and Wednesdays and ESL support is also available on Mondays and

Thursdays where specialist teachers are in attendance.

A Teacher Librarian is on duty every afternoon for any queries.

Day girls who remain after 6.00pm (Friday 5.00pm) will be escorted to the Boarding House office, where they can be collected by their parents. This extra study time is invaluable for our students as they continue to complete research projects. Thank you to Mrs Anne Lockwood (Head of Information Services) and the Senior School Library staff: Mrs Anne Headley, Mrs Sue Schiavello, Mrs Jenny Uther, Mrs Megan Wade-Ferrell and Ms Diana Tilley-Winyard (Archivist).

### CAREERS

Our best wishes to all Year 12 students that they may be offered them a place in the course at university, TAFE or private college that they hope for. One of the central features of Career Education at Tara is the regular careers lessons for all students in Year 12. Congratulations to the Year 12 students who have been awarded or short listed for university scholarships, successfully passed the Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT), offered Accountancy cadetships; offered places at The University of New England under the Principal's Recommendation Scheme and to those girls who have been offered full or half scholarships at private colleges.

This year, careers lessons for all Year 10 students took place within the Business Enterprise Program. To encourage the development of a student's knowledge, skills and understanding, careers lessons included units from Self Awareness, World of Work, Understanding Secondary Education & Tertiary opportunities, Research skills, Job Seeking, Study Skills and Time Management, Decision Making and Implementation Skills.

Other important features of Careers activities include fortnightly comprehensive careers bulletins in the TARAnews, individual interviews for all students on request, a well resourced careers room, visiting speakers and the Careers site on the School Intranet. This site contains a great deal of information for students and parents including: all careers bulletins for the year; research activities and worksheets for students to collate alternatives and ideas, courses available at many popular private colleges with direct links to their websites, information on apprenticeships and group training companies, links to all universities and TAFE colleges in Australia, access to advisers for international study opportunities and scholarships offered by many individual institutions. Links to the NSW Board of Studies, TAFENSW, the excellent HSC Online, VET in Schools and The Universities Admissions Centre from which publications such as the University Entrance Requirements 2007-2009 are available, provide easy access to vital information. Also on this site are employment websites and interactive quizzes to help students understand which courses relate to their interests, values and skills. A personally compiled database summarising alternate entry schemes



*Subject Report continued*

for NSW universities was made available in 2006. Recently, an online version of OZJAC was added to assist students and parents find information on hundreds of courses, careers and tertiary institutions throughout Australia.

The vast range of current tertiary handbooks in the careers room and ready access to the Internet during careers lessons assisted students in many ways. These include: helping them to plan subjects for Year 11 and 12, complete self assessment exercises including understanding their personality type, discover or compare courses, email advisers, take online tours, understand selection criteria, search for cadetships and scholarships or update their resumes.

Attendance at advertised Open Days, Information evenings and the Careers Night at The Kings School provided excellent opportunities for all students to receive course brochures and personal advice from tertiary advisers. Many motivated students gained valuable insights into career options and employment by completing weeks of work experience in their school holidays.

Dr Marion Kratzing, an educational psychologist, conducted a Careers Assessment for most Year 10 students this year. The 12 page report and individual interview helped students clarify their aptitudes by completing tests measuring spatial skills, non-verbal, verbal, numerical, clerical and mechanical reasoning skills. Lists of relevant careers were provided for each student's vocational areas of interest.

In 2007 students will be assisted in understanding themselves, their behaviour and how they differ from others through presentations on *Myers Briggs Personality Type*. It is anticipated that a wider range of tertiary presentations as well as an expansion of the Tax File Number School program will be available in 2007. Helping students discover and work towards the many opportunities available to them has made 2006 a most rewarding and exciting year. Thank you to Mrs Michelle Williams for her work in the Careers Department.



2006

## BOARDING REPORT

The lyrics of a John Denver song claim, “some days are diamonds, some days are stones...” if we think about 2006 in the Boarding House, then it has definitely been a year of diamonds! Ably led by Head Boarder Annabelle Strang and Deputy Head Boarder, Pip Johnston we have enjoyed a wonderful year that has seen the introduction of new and exciting events. Both Annabelle and Pip have made a special effort to include all the Year 12 girls in their planning and this has created one of the strongest year cohorts that we have witnessed in the Boarding House.

The year began with very good Higher School Certificate results. The additional help the Boarders receive from the teaching staff each evening is making a difference to our girls’ attitude to study and to their results. So much so, that in the future prep will be referred to as “study” time.

Jessica Elliott Lawrence and Sophie Corcoran of 2005 Year 12 were both short listed for Art Express and their major works were outstanding. As girls leave Tara, we are endeavouring to secure some of their art pieces to hang in the Boarding House. Visitors are already commenting on the interesting variety of works we have on display and it is especially rewarding when we see the Junior Boarders admire the work of the Seniors.

During the year, the staff have planned, and with the cooperation of the Maintenance Department, carried out the redecoration of the senior common room. New furniture has been purchased, the room has been freshly painted and the blinds replaced. The difference this has made, inspired us to plan a gradual redecoration of the whole Boarding House!

The Junior Dormitory was the next to benefit from this activity, and the younger girls now have a new area painted in a slightly different manner, which appears to divide the sleeping area from the television and computer area. The girls have praised the new look and they are very happy with it. The Years 9 and 10 Dormitory will have its turn during the next School holidays.

Visitors to the house will be able to enjoy the newly painted entrance foyer and the freshly upholstered furniture. It is lovely to hear everyone remark upon the “home like” atmosphere of the house. This is what we hope to achieve. We want our girls to feel they are part of a large extended family. One of the advantages of a small Boarding House is the girls really get to know each other well and a lovely warm family feeling can develop. As in all families, we have our difficult times, but thankfully these are few.

When the Year 11 girls spoke before the voting for a new Head and Deputy Head of Boarding this year, they all made mention of the fact that Boarding at Tara is like being one of fifty plus sisters! Another of the physical changes the Boarding House is part of is the building of the cafeteria. The girls are watching the construction with great interest and wondering how this project might be made to work to their

advantage. Some are planning to use the additional space for social activities in 2007.

Throughout the year the number of girls boarding full-time has remained at approximately fifty girls. With the addition of the casual boarders who come from the day School and stay from overnight to two weeks, the numbers remain at about fifty three all year. Wednesday evening sees the influx of about twenty girls as Tara’s rowing team stays overnight! This is a lovely night with the extra girls fitting in with a minimum of fuss.

As the year progressed we applauded with pride as Annabelle Strang, Wilma Leahy and Jessie Leahy were announced as Senior, Intermediate and Junior Athletics champions at the School Athletics Carnival! Sadly, even with this help, the Day girls beat the Boarders at both the Swimming Carnival and the Athletics Carnival. However, with the Boarders all wearing their new black, red and white Boarder’s jersey they presented a formidable group cheering their team from the sidelines.

The Boarders’ jersey was one of the initiatives of Annabelle and Pip as the Leaders in the House and we are very happy to see the girls and the staff have accepted the jerseys as part of our dress. Another initiative is the Year 12 Boarders’ Thank You Barbeque. This event is held to say thank you to the Tara families who willingly give support to the Boarders during their time at Tara. These generous families transport the girls to sport each Saturday and also invite them home for the weekend on a regular basis. The plan is to make this barbeque an annual event as each future year 12 group will have families they wish to thank.

In the 2006 Boarders report mention was made of the introduction of an award for community service in the Boarding House. At a presentation assembly, Annabelle Hacon was awarded a School Blue for service in this domain. Her proud Mum, Pip (Vaughan) a Tara past student flew from Mt Isa to be present on this special occasion.

The interest and support shown by our parents are factors which contribute to a successful boarding experience for the girls.

In August the students elected their new Leaders for 2007.

The Boarders have elected Bree Norris as Head Boarder and Connie Stedman as Deputy Head Boarder. Already these girls are planning the direction in which they hope to take the Boarders next year.

They have a great tradition to build upon as their names are added to the Board in the Boarding House foyer. This Board is a gift from the Sutherland family and we are pleased the names of our Leaders are now displayed in the Boarding House.

Boarders tend to find success in all manner of activities. At the Art Show this year, where the girls’ work was placed on display for visitors to admire, five very talented Boarders exhibited their work. Jessie Leahy, Carmen On, Amelia McGuiness, Philippa Collins and Jessie



*Boarding Report continued*

Cunningham-Reid exhibited works from the fantastical to portraits of students and staff – not as fantastical!

At the end of study time each evening, the staff are able to listen to some wonderful music as the girls practise the piano, the flute or the saxophone. Last week saw the kitchen staff save fifteen dinners for the girls involved in the school production of *Oklahoma!* Being at Boarding School gives the girls access to numerous activities and opportunities, and they do not need to be driven to training sessions Before or After School. This is a great advantage, and one most girls take full advantage of.

At the time of writing this report, Bree Norris has just been elected Athletics Captain and Connie Stedman has been elected Diving Captain. Molly Tourish has been elected Equestrian Captain and Amelia McGuinness is part of the Tara Snow Team skiing in the State Titles. Year 12 music students Rosie Waugh, Anabel Sheen and Ekaterina Gikas-Rentzos are performing in the Music Showcase,

and we have already mentioned the five girls exhibiting in the Art Showcase. In every area of School life, the Boarders are participating with enthusiasm, and they are enjoying considerable success in every activity. The Boarders will continue to play a major role in the future of Tara Anglican School for Girls. Thank you to Mrs Redfearn, Mrs O'Keefe and all the Boarding House staff for their wonderful loving care of our girls.

**CATERING DEPARTMENT**

From this year, Mr Phil Hodges has been Tara's Chef/Catering Manager. Mr Hodges and his team of Mrs Lorraine Robertson, Mrs Maria Casteneda, Mrs Janet Gilmore and Mrs Marlene Cole are responsible for the catering in the Boarding House, for the Senior School Canteen and for all School Functions. The *Catering@Tara* Group are looking forward to working in the new Cafeteria in 2007.

**B U R S A R ' S   R E P O R T**

Tara Anglican School for Girls is a medium size business requiring professional financial control and management, together with long term strategic business planning. The support of Tara's educational programs in 2005 cost \$17.2M.

The Financial Management group consists of Mr John Ingegneri (Finance); Mr Mark Redford (Property) and Mr Rudy De Vos (Information Technology). Each of these men is thoroughly professional and competent, and have been successful in industry, commerce and government sectors. Mr Colin Lees is the School Bursar.

The Bursar's Office consisting of Mrs Judy Bamforth, Mrs Chris Jose and Ms Debbie Higham provide high end service to the families and staff in the areas of: billing of fees, payroll, stationery ordering, accounts receivable and payable, general ledger reconciliation and budgetary control.

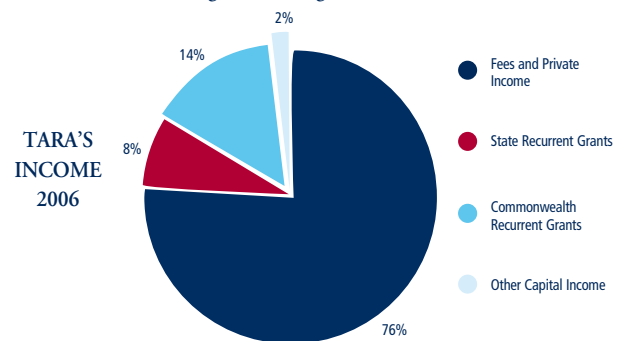
The School Council and Principal are provided with financial information and modelling, business & industrial advice from the Bursar routinely useful in decision making.

The Bursar is also Honorary Company Secretary for the Tara Anglican School for Girls Foundation Limited that provides the School with fundraising opportunities and advice on the investment of funds.

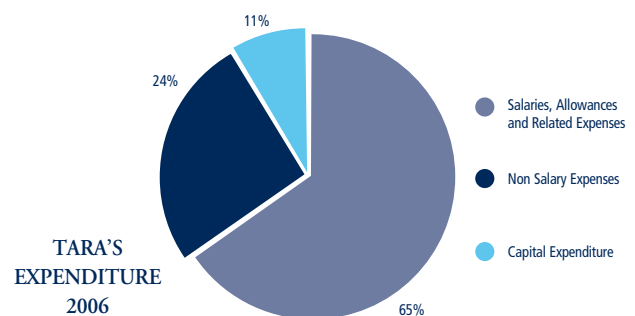
Thanks you to Mr Lees and to all in his Department for their diligence and attention to detail.

The pie charts (below) show the percentage analysis of Tara's annual income and expenses:

**INCOME** – 76% from school fees and other private income; 26% from government grants.



**EXPENSES** – 65% on salaries and other staff costs; 11% on capital expenditure; 24% on non-salary expenses such as insurance, computer costs, interest on loans, overheads and the like.

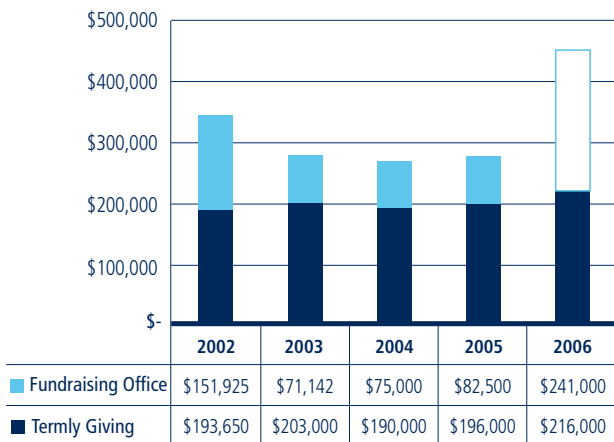


2006

## DEVELOPMENT

The Tara Foundation has enjoyed the gifts from many in the Tara community over the last 12 months. Such generosity will directly benefit the current and future students and their families, the staff and Tara community at large. We thank each and every one of you for contributing and playing your part in the Tara history. We welcome this year, as Director of Development, Ms Rebecca Palsler. Her focus is to raise funds for facilities. It is pleasing to report that the Tara Foundation has received a substantial increase in funds this year. It is the Tara Foundation Trustees' role to invest and protect the funds raised. It is the School Council's role to spend the money to support the needs of the School as recommended by the Principal.

**BUILDING FUND DONATIONS**



Figures are actual for Fundraising and estimated for Termly Giving when writing this report – Sept 2006

The money given so generously is held in one of several Trusts: The Endowment Fund, Library and Building Fund. We also have available the Australian Sports Foundation Fund, used for contributing to Tara sporting equipment. Termly Giving is extra money, given voluntarily with School fee payments. Fundraising Activities include donations given throughout the year as separate cash gifts. The Endowment Fund includes other (non tax-deductible) gifts and funds raised from the Uniform shop. Donations to Tara's Library and Building Fund are tax deductible and are invaluable for Tara's future development. We understand that financial circumstances are different, and that is why all donations remain confidential and all donations, no matter how small, are most appreciated.

In 2006 the School Council utilised some of the Foundation's funds for assistance with the following projects:

- Cafeteria
  - Air-conditioning in the Junior and Senior School
- Tara was also given several significant Gifts-In-Kind, including advertisements in newspapers and magazines and printing of school publications. We are currently working with one family to establish

a new playing field on Mouleric field, adjacent to The Kings School.

A special thanks again this year to the Tara Special Events and Parents and Friends Committees with their continued funding of the Air-conditioning project via the TARA Ball and TARA*fair*. Similarly to last year over \$40 000 was raised at the Ball and the TARA*fair* is likely to contribute further to this sum. Thank you also to all the parents who came to the TARA Ball and for their generosity.

This year the Tara rowing community made use of the Australian Sports Foundation fund, and through their efforts have raised enough funds to buy our girls 2 coxed quads (boats) and oars. Over \$22,000 was raised and more has been pledged. These funds were raised by this enthusiastic group in just three weeks!

Our future projects are substantial buildings and will require significant funds. Our aim is to raise \$5 million in five years – this will go a long way to funding the two building projects - the Senior Learning Centre and Junior School extensions, as shown in the Tara Strategic Plan. We anticipate, and are thankful for, the continued efforts of the P&F groups to raise funds to help complete the air-conditioning for both Junior and Senior Schools by 2008. Other projects in our Strategic Plan include the Aquatic Centre and Chapel.

The Principal's dinners will be held each Term in 2007 and take on a new format. These small, social dinners are a very important event on the Tara calendar as they allow the Principal to share the vision for Tara and give an update on the Tara Foundation and its projects and goals. We trust that you'll make time to attend one of these informative and inspiring dinners in the future.

We would like to give a special thanks to the Tara Foundation Trustees and Council members who give their time, expertise and commitment to the Tara Foundation each year. The Trustees include the Chairman, Mr Chris Davies with Mr David Murray, Mr David Nott, Mr Alan Locke, Mrs Katie Harvey, Mr Dallas Booth and Mr Gavin Starr. We hope that you'll join us at the various Foundation functions in 2007, supporting us as we build our future together.

## UNIFORM SHOP

The Tara Uniform Shop is run under the auspices of the Foundation of the School and is managed by Mrs Hana Blogg and Mrs Barbara Kirkby. The shop is situated between the cottage and the Mouleric Field. Besides providing a convenient purchase point for uniforms, the Shop also raises money for the School Foundation. The Uniform Shop will be open the first Saturday of each month during Term time in 2007 from 9.00am-12.00noon for greater convenience of parents and girls.

Thank you to all the volunteer mums for their enthusiastic help this year. We hope to see you again next year. New volunteers are needed so please contact the Uniform Shop if you can help. Tara would like to also thank Mrs Sandra Giblin and Mrs Faye Fellingina who work in the Second Hand Uniform Shop, for their dedication and excellent service provided for our families.





## REGISTRAR AND PUBLICATIONS / MARKETING

This section of the School has three main areas of responsibility:

The first is the work of student enrolments (Registrar – Mrs Kath Marshall and Secretary – Mrs Julie Jay): answering enquiries (telephone, e-mail and post), sending out the school prospectus, receiving applications and maintaining these records and then interviewing and enrolling new students. We presently have students on our wait list up until Year 7, 2018. We send out approximately 50 prospectus packs per month, to local, interstate and some overseas addresses. Enquiries are generated largely from personal recommendations, Old Girls, the website and advertising. The enquiries tend to be distributed between Junior and Senior School and are largely for Kindergarten and Year 7. From 2006, we have enrolled another Year 5 class so our application forms and marketing have been altered to accommodate this change.

Our enrolment as of October 2006 is 962 girls of whom 337 are Junior School girls. These numbers include the boarders. With temporary boarders and short-term boarders the Boarding House enrolments are very healthy.

LOCATION	LEVEL	TOTAL	DAY GIRLS	BOARDERS
J	K	34	34	0
J	1	47	47	0
J	2	45	45	0
J	3	47	47	0
J	4	47	47	0
J	5	61	59	2
J	6	56	53	3
S	7	84	80	4
S	8	108	105	3
S	9	93	89	4
S	10	110	103	7
S	11	114	105	9
S	12	116	101	15
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>962</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>47</b>

Our new enrolment numbers are a matter of some concern.

We are in an area where there are many Schools competing for students so we need to keep Tara's achievements and opportunities in the public awareness and hope that our current families promote the School to their families and friends as the Girls Independent School of choice. The size of the school needs to be a close balance of 'small' enough classes to be personal and individually caring, yet large enough in the Senior School to offer the range of subject choices and quality

in facilities and staffing. The School must remain consistently aware of its mission and values in offering a high level of personal care for the students entrusted to us as well as the highest possible educational offering. Student retention is a constant issue within the School. With many schools competing for students in our area and a mobile parent community, Tara is subject to student loss each year. This year, the School has embarked upon a major fact finding exercise which we hope, will result in a sharpening of our marketing focus. Dr Stephen Holmes, from The Knowledge Partnership Group, will be surveying and interviewing a large number of School families and staff over Term 4 2006.

### Enrolment Procedure

The enrolment procedures, as listed in our documentation and on the website, include payment of a registration fee which places a student's name on the "wait" list. Students are called for interview and are usually offered places in order of application date. The School is also registered to enrol a very limited number of overseas students. Tara's CRICOS number for the overseas enrolments is 02320A. Details of enrolment procedures and continuing enrolment requirements follow:

- Payment of the Application Processing fee
- Enrolment Interview – usually in the 18 month period before entry. This is not a test but merely an opportunity for families and girls to learn more about the School
- Letter of Offer from Tara after Interview
- Payment of the non-refundable enrolment fee and signing of the relevant Conditions of Entry documentation

### The Current Terms and Conditions of Entry are:

- Students are bound by and must adhere to the School's rules and regulations. Non-compliance with these rules and regulations may result in the student being asked to leave the School
- Students are expected to participate in the School's program of Core and Co Curricular activities
- Sporting and other School activities may be dangerous and result in personal injury, disability, illness or death; being aware of those risks, parents consent to their daughter participating in the full range of Core and Co Curricular activities and all activities for boarders, organised by the School from time to time, including sporting activities and excursions away from School
- Fees and charges are to be paid on the due date advised on the statement
- A full Term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before a pupil is withdrawn from the School or in default, a full Term's fees shall be payable. A change from boarding to day status requires a full Term's notice or boarding fees will be charged in lieu. Boarding for Year 12 is a full four term year
- Overseas students must give one semester's notice of leaving the School



2006

Table A represents the geographic distribution of the new girls presently at the school and Table B shows the spread of the new girls registered in our waiting lists until 2018.

**Table A – Present enrolments come from the following suburbs in descending numerical order**

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • West Pennant Hills           | • Kings Langley/Seven Hills |
| • Castle Hill                  | • Putney                    |
| • Baulkham Hills               | • Gladesville               |
| • Oatlands/Dundas              | • Northmead                 |
| • Carlingford                  | • Blacktown                 |
| • Cherrybrook                  | • Parklea                   |
| • North Rocks/North Parramatta | • Toongabbie                |
| • Glenhaven                    | • Parramatta                |
| • Beecroft/Cheltenham          | • Pennant Hills             |
| • Kellyville                   | • Galston                   |
| • Dural                        | • Denistone                 |
| • Epping                       | • Merrylands                |
| • Westmead/Greystanes          | • Wakeley/Greenfield Park/  |
| • Wentworthville               | • Edensor Park              |
| • Eastwood                     |                             |

A small number of girls come from other parts of Sydney, country NSW, inter-state and overseas.

**Table B – Future enrolments**

(Approximately 800 girls are listed from the following suburbs in descending numerical order)

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • West Pennant Hills           | • Gladesville               |
| • Baulkham Hills               | • Pennant Hills             |
| • Castle Hill                  | • Eastwood                  |
| • Epping                       | • Parramatta                |
| • Oatlands/Dundas              | • Parklea                   |
| • Carlingford                  | • Hunters Hill/Woolwich     |
| • Beecroft/Cheltenham          | • Merrylands                |
| • Cherrybrook                  | • Kings Langley/Seven Hills |
| • North Rocks/North Parramatta | • Maroota                   |
| • Glenhaven                    | • Normanhurst               |
| • Kellyville                   | • Northmead                 |
| • Dural                        | • Quakers Hills             |
| • Greystanes/Westmead/         | • Wakeley/Glenfield Park/   |
| • Wentworthville               | • Edensor Park              |
| • Putney                       | • Liverpool                 |
| • Denistone                    | • Glenbrook                 |
| • Toongabbie                   |                             |

The balance of the waiting list enrolments is made up of girls from Sydney postcodes representing fewer than 5 students, country NSW, inter-state and overseas. Our current enrolment is heavily skewed towards the Hills District and to suburbs that are very close the School. Our waiting list statistics are more widely spread geographically. It shows some movement and interest in the school particularly to the Riverside suburbs, to the “main line” suburbs to the east and south of the school, and further away to the south west of the School. The movement of these girls from a waiting list into a confirmed enrolment, is largely dependant on easy access of transport to and from School. The Hills District is our largest drawing area and the bus routes to Tara help access the school from this location. Changes to State Transit bus services, hopefully, will benefit Tara’s access. These transport links, corridors and issues are being assessed in the marketing review.

In the last five years, our enrolment intake has been greatly influenced by the large estates close to the School, particularly Hunterford Estate and the development of the Dundas/Oatlands Valley. This indicates families move closer to Tara once their girls commence School. Tara also recruits girls into Year 7 from a wide variety of primary schools – over 70 represented in the last 3 Year 7 intakes. We have noticed a greater reluctance amongst upper primary students to be the “lone” student at a new high school and our “transition to high school” and Orientation programs into Year 7 have been reviewed and reassessed.

The second function of this office is Publications for communication and marketing within the school and beyond to the wider community. This is managed by Mrs Marshall and Publications Officer – Miss Eileen Opilas. We want our girls and families to know the opportunities, interesting and exciting achievements, programs and activities that the School is involved in. We need to market the girls’ achievements to ensure that present and future girls are aware of what Tara students accomplish – hopefully encouraging further enrolments. Print advertising, the Internet, play programs, news releases, brochures, radio advertising, information books, flyers, prospectus material, business cards and name tags and a full range of promotional products from balloons and stationery to executive pens and calendars are produced by this office. Everything bears the Tara logo and name in the School’s colours as we attempt to create a recognisable marketing style for the School. From 2003, the Annual Reports have been posted to all families with a complimentary calendar diary. The Annual Report is also available on the Internet site. Our Kindy girls from 2005 have received a cute “I love my school TARA” t-shirt. This year we have trialled a ‘giant ad sign’ in Castle Towers Shopping Centre which we hope will raise public awareness of our School.

2007 is the School’s 110th Birthday and we will be creating a colourful desk calendar to commemorate the year. We are also upgrading our Prospectus and Website. We are very excited about our School DVD project – this filming has taken place during 2005 and 2006



and all families will receive a copy in the new year. The updated Internet site should be able to be linked to Tara's Intranet and Edumate from 2007.

The school's major print publications are also generated from this office: TARAnews – the blue newsletter given fortnightly to all parents and uploaded onto the Tara website and the Annual Report. The Tara website is regularly updated and very well visited by present and future families.

The Tara Circle magazine (colour publication 3 times a year with a circulation of over 4000 present, past and future families, the OGA and friends of the school) is posted to all. The annual Tara Circle Yearbook is given to present girls and posted to the OGA members who request it. This office also helps set up for functions and events and runs open days and school tours for prospective parents and girls. The 'Tuesday' tour days, which enable visitors to see the School's teachers and girls in action, have been expanded in 2006 and will be further extended in 2007.

Tara has been represented at many specialist events this year. The Education Expo in Parramatta was a promotional opportunity for the school where staff on the stand spoke to many interested families. The Principal was again at the School Expo in Hong Kong. Mrs Claire Redfearn attended a Boarding Expo in Narrabri and Ms Heidi McGuinness attended another Boarding Expo in Newcastle. We thank the Tara Boarders who supported our Tara staff on these occasions. In 2006, the school's Performing Arts Department has been assisted by the Publications Office with the provision of programs, ticketing and publicity for the Tara/TKS production of *The Mikado*. Tara's Years 7-10 production *Oklahoma!* at the Riverside Theatre was also supported by this Department as a Public relations and promotional function.

The work of our Senior Leaders as role models in promoting and marketing the School is invaluable and these girls are to be thanked for their excellent contribution to Tara. The School has featured solidly throughout the year in the local press due to our girls' outstanding achievements and charity and community involvement. We thank the Tara family who have donated significant money and expertise via the Development Office for a major newspaper and magazine promotion for the end of 2006, early 2007.

A third function of this office (in which all are involved) is liaison with the Tara Community sub-groups – the Old Girls' Association, Past Parents, Parents and Friends, including all the sub-committees such as Friends of Tara Music and Special Events Committee. The Registrar and Publications Office work closely with Mrs Black in organising the publicity, ticketing and setting up of functions for all the sub-groups. Mrs Marshall and Mrs Peta Black are also part of the School's Management Team and work together with the School Executive on implementing the School's Strategic Plan. 2007 marks a significant milestone as it is Tara's 110th Birthday and

special functions and activities have been planned. We look forward to the exciting DVD and new look prospectus and website.

We hope to implement the professional marketing suggestions proposed by Dr Stephens Holmes after he has completed his marketing assessment for Tara at the end of 2006.

We thank Mrs Marshall and her team for the warm way they welcome new students and prospective families to the School, and for the high quality of their publications.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This year has been a very busy one for our IT Department, with the extensive planning and implementation of important upgrades to the School's network. Our IT Department welcomed Mr Rudy De Vos who replaced Mr Michael Etccl in May, as our new IT Manager. We also acknowledge Mrs Lalanthi Lawrence and Mr Adrian Chin for their continued hard work in this Department.

The successful roll out of 130 new HP laptops for the staff occurred earlier in the year and upgrades from our 2000 server environment to Windows 2003 went through without any major issues.

The ISONET project, an AIS initiative, replaced Optus as the School's Internet Service Provider. The purpose of the change was to allow the School to increase its bandwidth thus giving greater internet security with better communication among participating AIS schools.

Data Projectors were purchased and installed for the Music and English Departments together with one for the Junior School Hall. Senior school History room 10 and Science lab S8 also will have data projectors before the end of this year. The installation of another Interactive Whiteboard for Years 5/6 has further increased usage of the board amongst all the students.

Report generation on Edumate has been successful with the system widely used throughout the School. One feature of the system that was added this year included marking student rolls from the staff's desktops. We look forward to adding more functionality and expanding the system in 2007.

Our Intranet has continued to be a very successful communication tool within the Tara Community. We have successfully tested a number of online mediums, including BLOG and Moodle, which we hope will soon be available for everyone to use.

Our Libraries are moving into the Clickview system allowing teachers and students to view video from the School's digital video collection from any computer on the network. This new system will help keep the videos in digital format. Videos are currently pushed across the network from a server to computers in the School. From 2007, all recording will be in digital format instead of video taped.

At the beginning of this year we also installed the new library enquiry system called *vknowledge*. This is a new web based investigation system that allows students to make enquiries from any computer within the



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School. A great advantage of this facility will be the extension for use from home. This was initially done for the Senior School and will be extending to the Junior School before the end of 2006.

Tara has also invested in *Quizzdom*, another new concept of an interactive audience response system. This easy to use and highly motivating tool will be utilised by both the Junior and Senior students. In 2007, our IT Department is looking forward to another a busy year with the following projects:

- Exchange server – email addresses for every student
- Network separation for greater flexibility and security
- Wireless capabilities to complement main network
- Boarders to make phone calls over the internet to home
- Intranet/parent portal redevelopment
- Further expansion of the new IP telephony system for separate extensions in every classroom
- Improved internet security for remote access from home

#### PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Department has had another busy year. The Property Manager, Mr Mark Redford and the Maintenance Manager, Mr Scot Foley, have worked with the maintenance team, setting up and packing away the many functions that have occurred as well as looking after the many maintenance requests that have been submitted by staff throughout the year.

There have again been a number of staff changes in the maintenance team. Mr Steven Isbister who was a new member to the team in 2005 has since left, with three new members starting. Mr Graeme Foster at the end of 2005, Mr David Wilkinson and Mr Gary Sommer joining at the start of 2006. All three new faces fitting in and working well with Mr Rob Stitt and Mr Jason Kerr who continue to give loyal service to the School.

The marvellous grounds at Tara are looked after by the Green Horticultural group. Mr Mark Corry assisted by Mr Matt Shaw looked after the gardens and grounds in the early part of 2006. Mr Mark Fox has since taken over and the gardens look to be in great shape despite water shortages. We are very careful of our water usage at Tara.

As well as setting up and packing away chairs and tables for assemblies and functions, and attending to the various maintenance requests such as fixing door locks and window runners, repairing cracks in footpaths, replacing light bulbs and tubes, the maintenance team look after the deliveries to various departments, as well as emptying the bins and cleaning the pool.

During the holiday periods the maintenance team is able to tackle some of the noisier, messy and dusty jobs that are difficult to do during the School Term. While the School is free of students and teachers we are able to shampoo carpets, repair and replace sections of footpath, clean the filters in the air conditioners and make sure that the school

is spick and span for the first day of Term.

Some of the projects undertaken by the Maintenance Department this year included:

- Continuation of the installation of height safety anchor points
- Painting of the entrance foyer in the Junior School
- Replacement of the bollards along the main drive
- Installation of heaters and fans in the individual music practice rooms
- Grinding and levelling of the trip hazards in the footpaths around the school
- Oiling of the outdoor furniture
- Air Conditioning installation in the Junior and Senior School
- Refurbishment of the change rooms in the gym
- Making No.7 Masons Drive suitable for use as a Before and After School Care Facility
- Manufacture of the sets for Oklahoma!
- Upgrading of the Boarding House access and security system
- Upgrading of the Boarding House kitchen
- Improvements to the electrical switch room

The maintenance team also deals with the physical security of the school, opening up classrooms first thing in the morning and locking up in the evening. Every member of the team takes great pride in making sure that the School is a safe and tidy place for students to learn and teachers to teach. We thank each member of the maintenance team for their continuous effort in serving the Tara School Community and particularly thank Mr Redford and Mr Foley for their leadership.

#### COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Community Liaison Office, coordinated by Mrs Peta Black, works with the students, staff, parents, past students and past parents to maintain and build the strong sense of community found at Tara. The relationships formed during girls' years at Tara continue long after their School days are completed. Parents, staff and friends of the School continue to enjoy social events and to support the School's fund-raising, knowing they are helping build the Tara of the future. Several groups work actively to support the school and these include: the Parents and Friends Association, Tara Old Girls Association, Past Parents Association, Special Events Committee (comprising the Ball Committee and the Fair Committee) and Friends of Tara Music. Other smaller groups meet throughout the year to work for particular areas of interest e.g. Equestrian Committee, Year Parents Groups and others. This year the Parents and Friends Association and the Special Events Committee once again committed all the funds raised to the air-conditioning project. Consequently a sizeable contribution has been made to ensure that further areas of the School have benefited from the installation of air-conditioning.



While the community groups organise a range of functions, the school also offers a wide range of hospitality to members of the School Community and to external groups. In order to do this, the School relies heavily on the excellent contribution of the catering staff and the grounds staff. At the end of 2005, Tara ended its association with Spotless Catering and our very talented and capable chef, Mr Phil Hodges, along with his team joined the Tara staff. The School Canteen also ceased to be a Spotless Catering enterprise and is now run by the School. The catering staff make an enormous contribution to Tara, not only providing meals for boarders, but also an impressive standard of catering for a wide range of functions and events. These have included Cocktail Parties, Parent Dinners, Leadership Dinners, Year 10 cafes and the Kindergarten-Year 12 dinner *Buccaneers and Barnacles* ... to name but a few. Construction of the new cafeteria is progressing well with building due to be completed in December, 2006. This will provide an exciting new area for students, staff, parents and friends to meet for fine food and a chat. In addition, the Community Liaison Department coordinates the organisation of external functions and hiring of facilities. These activities generate considerable funds providing additional income for the school. The Australian Youth Choir had a performance camp at Tara, staying in the Boarding House and rehearsing and practising in the Auditorium, Hall and Gymnasium. Melbourne Girls College stayed with us while the National Sports Aerobics were being conducted at Homebush and the cheerleading squad from Trinity Lutheran College, Robina, Queensland returned for lunch and a training session in the Gymnasium before their national competition. **Throughout the year the following groups have hired our facilities:**

- Australian Girls Choir – regular weekly sessions and large rehearsals
- North Rocks Rotary Club – speaking competition
- Gymnastics NSW – trials for state sports aerobics and sports acrobatics
- Metropolitan West Gymnastics competitions
- Sitting Volleyball Team – regular training and special training camp
- Parramatta /Auburn Netball – regular weekly training
- NSW Under 21 Netball Team
- Hills Dance Complex – specialised dance classes – training for: *Dancing with the Stars*
- 21st Sports Aerobics
- Sports Aerobics competition
- AIS conferences in Maths, English and Accreditation/Registration
- Conference conducted by the Computing Studies Teachers
- Conference on “Plagiarism” conducted by *Asla*
- Jo Carey and her external music students
- *Brights Stars* conducted vacation programs for young people
- Concerts by local music teachers

The relationships built with these people and groups are valued and we look forward to working closely with them again next year. Teamwork is essential to organisation. Each activity/function requires input from a number of people in order for it to be a success. Special thanks for the invaluable contributions of the following people for another happy and successful year:

- Committees of the Tara groups
- Members of the Executive and Management Team
- Mr Mark Redford, Mr Scot Foley and the Maintenance Team
- Mr Phil Hodges and the Team in the Tara Kitchen
- Mrs Kath Marshall, Miss Eileen Opilas and particularly Mrs Julie Jay for her assistance with ticketing
- Mr Colin Lees and the Bursar’s staff
- Mrs Peta Black and Mrs Clare Toohey – the Community Liaison Team
- Mrs Rhonda Christie and Mrs Lyn O’Keefe – for help with external visitors in the Boarding House
- Mrs Claire Redfearn and the boarding staff for cooperation and assistance, and most particularly the members of the Tara community for their continued support, fellowship and friendship. Above all, thank you to Mrs Black for the tireless hours of work and for her continued enthusiasm for Tara.

#### PARENTS AND FRIENDS

*Our objective is to provide the school with formal and informal interaction with parents and friends of Tara School and the wider community. The P&F plan and organise activities and social events for fund raising and friendship.*

The P&F have been working hard to place air-conditioning in priority class rooms as identified by the School. All funds raised from our activities for two years will be for this exclusive purpose. The exception being the Saturday Morning Sports Canteen which has its funds allocated to the Sports Department to assist in the purchase of equipment.

The P&F would like to thank all parents for their participation and contribution to P&F events and activities and it gives great pleasure to announce that by the end of this first year of the air conditioning initiative the P&F will have donated \$80 000 to the School.

The P&F events and activities have included the Second Hand Uniform Shop, the sale of Tara Crested items, Discotheques, Mothers Dinner, Golf Day, and finally the Saturday Morning Sports Canteen. Each of the events and activities conducted is led by a member of the P&F and an ever increasing number of willing members from the Tara community who group together to ensure the success of events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their efforts and contribution during the year. Mr Paul Masson, Secretary; Mr Gerry Murphy, Treasurer; Mrs Sandy Giblin and her



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team at the Second Hand Uniform Shop; Mr Conrad Wainwright and the huge number of mums and dads who have cooked and served at the Sports Canteen; Mrs Lee Metcalf who has managed Crested Items; Mrs Pru Buttfield for co coordinating the Mothers Dinner; Mr Laurie Doorey for hosting a great Golf Day, Mrs Heidi Scott (for the much enjoyed by the girls! Discos and Mr Graeme Martin for the Fathers Dinner which was unfortunately cancelled this year. The benefits that we provide can only be realised with the support that you give to our various activities and events and the P&F are looking forward to all parents joining their endeavours in 2007. Thank you to Mr Gregg Buttfield for his leadership of the P&F over the past years.

## OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

### *TOGA Activities*

The Association has hosted a number of functions and activities during 2005/6. The TOGA year commenced in July 2005 with a number of Birthday Celebrations. Tara students celebrated the schools birthday on Friday 29 July with a school assembly together with a luncheon.

*Dedication Weekend* was held on the weekend of 6 and 7 August, 2005, commencing with the 10/20/30 year reunions being held on the Saturday 6 August. The 10 year reunion (1995 leavers) was held at the Waterfront Restaurant in The Rocks with 40 attending.

The 20 year reunion (1985 leavers) was held at The Forbes Hotel, King Street with over 60 attending. The 30 year reunion (1975 leavers) was held at Eggleton House with 22 attending out of approximately 50 girls from that leaving year. The 5 year reunion was held at The Mean Fiddler, Rouse Hill in November with 40 attending. Dedication Lunch and AGM was held on Sunday 7 August at Eggleton House, with 40 people in attendance, who included committee, TOGA members, 40 year reunion (1965 leavers), 10 years mother's reunion (1995 leavers), past and newly awarded Honorary Life members.

Honorary Life Membership was award to the following: Committee Members – Miss Janice Lee and Mrs Barbara Edge, Past Staff; Mr Ken Bunt, Mrs Lesley Pinnington, Miss Bev Watson, Mrs Joan Levi, Mrs Julia Garnett, Miss Ros Simons and Miss Joy Hill. As an initiative starting in 2005 the TOGA Committee voted to acknowledge past Honorary Life Members with the presentation of the Honorary Life Certificate and a gift as a small token of our appreciation. These were presented to Mrs Margaret Wigney, Mrs Di McLellan and Mrs Pat James.

The Dedication Weekend now will be known as the Celebration Weekend. It is hoped that this naming will encourage the younger Old Girls to come back to school to “Celebrate” their school's birthday.

In July, Miss Janice Lee became Temporary Reunion Coordinator.

The Year 12 Luncheon was held in September under the TOGA marque on the lawn outside the Multipurpose Hall, with current students attending. After lunch, the girls were welcomed, and then

told about the role of TOGA, and of future events that they can look forward to as a Tara Old Girl.

We noted in September with sadness the passing of Dr Patricia Waugh who was related by marriage to the founders of Tara School.

TOGA sent flowers and our condolences to the Waugh Family.

The Tara OGA Craft Fair was held 22 November 2005 and a big “thank you” to the Tara Community who came along to support the Tara Old Girls and made it the most successful to date.

Thank you to the performers – Ms Trish Lillyman and Miss Joey Prestia from *Kids4Life*. The jumping castle and the face painting were also big hit. Thank you to the Dealer Principal of Honda Eastwood, Philip Spring, who brought along a very rare Honda NSX and a red hot S2000 sports coupe. The OGA were very grateful to Junior School Head, Mrs Cheryl Turner, and Principal, Mrs Carol Bown, for the use of this venue, and to everyone who helped on the day. Many Tara students were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Thank you also to Mrs Peta Black, Mrs Kath Marshall, Miss Eileen Opilas, Senior School staff, Mr Mark Redford and the School Maintenance crew who helped with preparation and packing up of the day.

A special thanks also to our Volunteer Tara Old Girls' Committee and their husbands who helped out on the day. \$7,000 profit - a wonderful effort.

December saw the awarding of the prestigious Joan Waugh Scholarship to 1992 leaver, Kathleen Riley. Her plans in 2006 are to conduct the research for her next book *“Fascinating Rhythms: Fred and Adele Astaire and the American Musical”*. Thank you to Mrs Marlene Noller for her contributions as a Judge on the selection panel of the Joan Waugh Scholarship. At the Tara Celebrations 2005 Final Assembly for the year, the Year 12 Valedictory gift of the TOGA bookmark was presented to the Year 12 2005 Alumni. TOGA also commenced a gift of a white Bible with a silver embossed Tara crest on the cover which was presented to students who had attended Tara from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The first year reunion for the 2004 leavers was held on 26 February 2006, in Eggleton House and was attended by 26 girls from a student year total of 95.

On 26 March the Old Girls and their families attended the brilliantly funny TKS / Tara Production of *The Mikado*. An excellent performance, as usual, with the day being thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We learnt with sadness the passing of Miss Noreen Butterley past Head of Tara Junior School (1971-1985). TOGA sent flowers and our condolences to the Butterley Family.

### *TOGA Information Resources*

The Old Girls page on the Tara's website has been maintaining TOGA visibility. We look forward to the “next generation” TOGA web page with special buttons for Reunions, Committee Meeting Dates, News,



Upcoming Events etc which will be revamped with the update of the Tara Internet site in 2007.

**TOGA provided financial support to current students through the following:**

- The Year 11 Boarder's Bursary was not awarded this year as no students qualified for the award which is given to the daughter of an Old Girl in Year 10 moving into Year 11.
- 2006 was the first time we have awarded the Year 7 Bursary. This was awarded to four daughters of Old Girls who received a split Bursary of \$150 each as well as receiving the \$150 Book Voucher. For 2007 the OGA have also given a bursary to the daughters of Old Girls starting in Year 7. They will receive \$500 each towards School fees.
- The Uniform Shop voucher for \$150 was not given as no new Old Girl families commenced Junior School in 2006.
- TOGA was proud to be a major sponsor of the Tara production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* that was presented in September 2006.

**TOGA also provided financial support to past students through the following:**

- The \$5000 Joan Waugh Scholarship was again awarded to a deserving past student, Kathleen Riley.
- TOGA committed to fund the wage cost of the School's Archivist for an extra five days per year in addition to the one day each month already funded by the School. The budgeted cost of this activity is \$1,050 per year.
- TOGA is also planning to apply for a \$10,000 Community Heritage Grant provided by The National Library of Australia aimed to assist in the preservation and increasing of the Tara Archives holdings. The OGA would like to thank Mrs Bown and her staff for their continued assistance and support of the Association over the past year. Particular thanks to Mrs Black (Community Liaison Officer) for her continued support, guidance and encouragement. Ms Rebecca Palser (Director of Development) and an Old Girl is welcomed to Tara.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the TOGA executive team; Mrs Barbara Edge (Secretary), Mrs Jane Noller (Treasurer), Miss Janice Lee (Reunion Coordinator) and Mrs Pauline March (Craft Day Coordinator) for their continued friendship, commitment to and support of TOGA. Thank you for the tireless energies of all TOGA Committee Members.

The TOGA Committee is always looking for ways to help Tara's current and past students while preserving our proud history. TOGA's future grows stronger every year because of this commitment.

Each year the Tara Old Girls' Association Committee seeks to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of individuals to Tara

and to the Tara Old Girls' Association by the awarding, *Honorary Life Membership and/or Associate Membership*. Honorary Life Membership and Associate Membership have been awarded to a number of past members of Tara staff. These individuals have made significant contributions to Tara.

- Mrs Vicki Bredin (Hon Life Membership)

**Honorary of Life Membership Acknowledgement to:**

- Dr Ruth Shatford – Former Principal
- Miss Norma Boston – Former Deputy Principal
- Mrs Maureen Sinclair – Former Mistress-in-Charge of Junior School
- Mrs Marlene Noller – Former School Council Member and Staff Member
- Mrs Peggy Hull – Former Staff Member and Committee Member
- Mrs Nancy Katharine Buck – Former Mistress-in-Charge of Junior School (Sadly Mrs Buck passed away in August)

**Awarding of Associate Membership to:**

- Mrs Belinda Baxter – Former Junior School Staff Member
- Mrs Sue Helder – Former Junior School Staff Member Administration
- Mrs Sue Floro – Former Deputy Head Curriculum, Junior School

Thank you to Mrs Alison Spring Lillyman 2005-2006 President for all her tireless volunteer work leading the Tara Old Girls.

**FRIENDS OF TARA MUSIC**

2006 was a busy year for the Friends of Tara Music. Both major fundraising events, the Jazz Cruise on the Nepean River and the Gala night at the Tara/TKS musical, were wonderfully supported and are now well established items on the calendar.

The Jazz Cruise provided a superbly relaxed atmosphere giving a great opportunity for many students to sing and the Tara Jazz Band to perform. Thank you to Mrs Dot Cockburn and Mrs Jenny Beck for their enthusiasm and help with the evening.

FOTM also hosted a pre-show dinner for *Oklahoma!* which was attended by over 200 people. This was an extremely successful social occasion and funds raised went to help support the production costs at the Riverside Theatre. Thanks to Mrs Lamia Wehbe for her help with the organisation of this event.

FOTM continued to raise funds to support music at Tara and it was therefore a great pleasure to donate tympani for the school orchestra. As well FOTM purchased twenty xylophones for music classes. These items have been put to immediate use.

It is always a pleasure for FOTM to support performance through the Junior School Performer of the Year Award. Congratulations to this year's winner, Joanne Lim (Year 4).

2006 saw the launch of the Secondhand Musical Instrument Register. This will provide an easy avenue for the selling and purchasing of musical instruments.



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Special thanks are due to the committee members Mrs Wendy MacKenzie (Secretary) and Mrs Lorrae Collins (Treasurer) who have worked very hard to ensure the continuing success.

Thanks also to Mr Michael Griffiths (Director of Performance), the Tara Music staff and to Mrs Peta Black for their encouragement and support. Particular thanks go to Mr Adrian Sheen for chairing FOTM and for his support of the Sheen Family Performer of the Year award which was won by Rosie Waugh (Year 12), vocalist, in 2006.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE COMPRISING TARA BALL COMMITTEE AND TARAfair COMMITTEE

These two events are the major fund-raising activities for the year. The Tara ICE BALL was held at Le Montage, Leichhardt on Saturday 12 August and was a resounding success. The committee worked very hard to ensure that all items auctioned were donated and this approach proved very successful. A total of \$46,000 was raised which will go to the air-conditioning project. The room was decorated superbly and the "icy" theme was evident on arrival with a sculpture of ICE, mist and pale blue lighting adding to the atmosphere. Congratulations to the members of the committee: Mrs Wendy McDermott, Mrs Sue Koedam, Ms Jean Campbell, Mr Max Lake, Mrs Amanda Stubbs, Mrs Debbie Amos, Mrs Tricia Moody, Mr Mark Daniels and their team of helpers who worked so hard to make the evening a success. Thanks also to those wonderful families and companies who donated items for auction and supported this fund-raising effort so enthusiastically.

The TARAfair was held on Saturday 4 November and was a great community event. Year groups chose the stalls they would like to develop and promote and several new items were added to the list.

In the past, the TARAfair has not included any outside stalls and all items have been prepared exclusively by Tara parents.

This year, a small number of external stalls were invited to attend for a fee to see if it is possible to extend the range of items on offer. A Battle of the Bands provided entertainment on the day which 7 bands competing for a day at Grove Recording Studios valued at \$2,500. With the help of the catering staff and the provision of a special function licence, an upmarket bistro and bar was added. The day was a success financially raising over \$40,000 and also proved to be a great day for the Tara community to come together.

Special thanks to our Fair Convenor, Mrs Margot Procter, for her organisational skills and also to: Mr Gerry Murphy for his endless calm and efficiency, Mr Mark Redford and Mr Scot Foley and the team for their help in so many ways, Mrs Ingrid Parkes with Miss Eileen Opilas and Mrs Kath Marshall, for advertising and marketing, Mrs Debbie Amos for sponsorship and entertainment, and the Year Stall Convenors and other specialist helpers and senior girls and staff who made the day such a success. Thank you, once again, to Mrs Peta Black for her splendid coordination of all!

#### PAST PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The members of the Past Parents Association have enjoyed catching up with friends at a number of Tara functions throughout the year. Many attended the Gala Night before *The Mikado*, the Mothers' Dinner and the TARAfair. In addition, the Association organised a special steam train trip to Mount Victoria. It was a spectacular day and all who came have asked that a similar event be organised in 2007. To support the current students, the funds raised were used to sponsor the stage at the TARAfair.

Special thanks for planning, organisation and enthusiasm to the dedicated Committee and to the members of the Executive: President, Mrs Jeanette Butchart; Secretary Mrs Maureen Tweed and Treasurer, Mr Ken Odbert.





# STAFF & COUNCIL QUALIFICATIONS

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr Peter Jensen, Archbishop of Sydney ( <i>President</i> )	PhD, MA (Hons), BD, ThL
Bishop Ivan Lee ( <i>Chairman</i> )	MTC, ThL, BD, MTh
Mrs Gillian Akers	BSc, BE, AMusA, MIE Aust, CPEng
Mr Dallas Booth	DipLaw
Mr Chris Davies	FAIM, JP
Miss Jane Furniss	BA, LLB (Hons), M Dev Std
Rev Andrew Heron*	MA (Theol), Dip Min (MTC), BD (MTC)
Mrs Bronwyn Hubbard	MA, BA, DipEd
Rev Jerryl Lowe	ThL
Rev Alan Lukabyo	BA (Hons), BD (Hons), Dip Min
Rev Sarah Plummer	BD, Dip Min, BEd
Mr Gavin Starr	B.Pharm, MPS, MACPP, JP
Rev Ian Wood	MA, MEd Admin, BA, BEd, Cert TESOL
Mr Julian Sefton	DipLaw (LPAB)
Mr Chris Hoare*	MBus, BA

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

Principal	Mrs Carol Bowern	MLM, BA, DipEd, Grad Cert Ed MACE
Deputy Principal – Administration	Mrs Sue Hammond	MEd, BSc, DipEd, SPTC, GAustMS, MACE
Deputy Principal – Curriculum	Ms Heidi McGuinness	BEd, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Ed (Comp St) MACE
Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care	Mr Rodney Braine	BPh Ed, Dip Teach
Head of Junior School	Mrs Cheryl Turner	BA, Cert School Leadership & Management, TC

## MANAGEMENT TEAM (*In addition to the Executive Team*)

Bursar	Mr Colin Lees	B Com, CPA, Dip B&M (MTC)
Chaplain	Rev Denise Nicholls	MA(Theol), BTh, DipMin, DipArts(Theol), BA DipEd
Deputy Head of Junior School – Administration	Mrs Julie Wiseman	BA, Dip Ed
Deputy Head of Junior School – Curriculum	Ms Jenny Porter	MEd, BEd, DipTeach TC Cert Gift & Ed
Director of Boarding	Mrs Claire Redfearn	BA, Dip Ed, Grad Dip (Child Lit), TAFE Cert (Learn Supp)
Director of Development	Ms Rebecca Palsler	MBA, BA (Hons)
Director of ICT Integration	Mrs Anne Rumpier	BSc, Dip Ed, BAppSc (Computing)
Community Liaison Coordinator	Mrs Peta Black	
Director of Performance	Mr Michael Griffiths	MA, BA, Dip Ed, MACE
Finance Manager	Mr John Ingegneri	Assoc Dip Bus/Dip Acct, MINA, PNA, JP
Property Manager	Mr Mark Redford	Cert C&J, Cert Arch Draft (Hons)
Registrar	Mrs Kath Marshall	MA, BA, Dip Ed

## HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Christian Studies	Rev Denise Nicholls	MA (Theol), BTh, Dip Min, Dip Arts (Theol), BA, Dip Ed
Computing Studies	Mr Daryl Hinton	MEd, BSc
Design and Technology	Mr Warwick Shepherd	Grad Dip Ed, Dip Teach, TC
Drama	Mrs Joanne George	BA, Dip Ed, Grad Cert ReligEd
English	Mrs Tanya Appleby	MEd, BEd, MACE
Food Technology/Hospitality	Mrs Judy Cropper	TC, TAFE Cert II & III (Hosp)
History	Mr Scott Baker	MEd, BEd, TC
Information Services (Library)	Mrs Anne Lockwood	MA (Info) BEd (Teach Lib) AALIA
Languages (LOTE)	Dr Morna King	PhD, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, Grad Cert Relig Ed
Mathematics	Mrs Desley Williams	BA, Dip Ed
Music	Mrs Lasallian Ciampa	BMusEd, Grad Cert DanceEd
PDHPE	Ms Tracey Goldsworthy	MHealth (Ex Sp Sc), BEd
Science	Mrs Bronwyn Walters	B Vet Sc, Grad Dip Ed
Social Science	Mrs Elizabeth George	MEd, BEd, DipEd, SPTC, TEFLA Cert, MACE
Visual Arts	Mrs Davinia Feggans*	Dip Art Ed, TC
	Mrs Lynne Ambler	Dip Art Ed

**COORDINATORS**

Careers	Mrs Michelle Williams	BA, Dip Ed
Debating	Ms Melissa Finn	BEd
Special Needs	Mrs Glenda Walker	BEd (Prim), Grad Dip Teach
Examinations and Reporting	Miss Lesley-Del Kinscher	MA, Dip Ed, PTC, MACEA
Extra Subjects & Co Curricular Activities	Dr Lindy Crocker	PhD, MEd (Admin), BA, DipEd, LTCL, CMC, JP
Intranet	Mr Martin Pluss	MEd (Spec Ed), BEd Dip Teach
Occupational Health and Safety	Dr Rod Jolly	PhD, BE (Hons), DipEd, Dip OHS, SPTC
Sport	Mrs Jenny O'Keeffe	BEd, Grad Dip (Sport Mgmt)
Teaching and Learning	Mrs Philippa Bowmaker	BA (Hons), Dip Ed, Dip Ed Stud, Cert Gifted, Dip RSA, Grad Cert Ed Studies

**ASSISTANT HEADS OF DEPARTMENT**

English	Mr Darren Barker	BA, Grad Dip Ed
Mathematics	Mrs Sarah Hamper*	MEd, BA, Dip Ed
Science	Mr Richard Dooley	BSc, Dip Ed
Social Science	Mr Jim Clark	BA, Dip Ed, Dip FP

**PASTORAL CARE STAFF**

Chaplain in Residence	Rev Denise Nicholls	MA (Theol), BTh, Dip Min, Dip Arts (Theol), BA, Dip Ed
School Counsellor	Mrs Robyn Richardson	M App Psych, BEd
Leadership Coordinator	Mrs Lorraine Caulfield*	BA, Dip Ed
Year 7 Coordinator	Mrs Julia Mills	BA, Dip Ed, NZLA Cert
Asst Year 7 Coordinator	Miss Adele Crane	BSc(Hons), GradDipEd
Year 8 Coordinator	Miss Kendall Bowen	BA, Dip Ed
Year 9 Coordinator	Mr Darren Brett	BA, Grad Dip Ed
Year 10 Coordinator	Ms Kathleen Crone	BEd, Grad Cert (Ed St)
Year 11 Coordinator	Mrs Taryn Guy	B App Sc (Food & Nutrition), Dip Ed
Year 12 Coordinator	Mrs Adele Hyland	MEd (Admin) BEd (Mus), Grad Dip Ed (Comp Stud)

**TEACHING STAFF - SENIOR SCHOOL (in addition to the above)**

Mrs Christine Anderson	BA, Dip Ed	Mr David Hudson	BEd, BSc
Ms Colleen Booth	BA Dip Ed	Mrs Caitlin Hughes	M Teach, BFA
Miss Lisa Bauer	M Teach, BAppSc (Ex Sp Sc)	Mrs Sue Lack	BA (Hons), Dip Ed, Cert TESOL
Mr Matthew Bonson	BA, Dip Ed	Mrs Chris Lang	MEd(Health), BEd(PE)
Miss Alex Butt	BAppSc (Ex Sp Sc), BEd (HMHE)	Mrs Melissa Losco	BBus, Grad Dip Ed
Mrs Cherida Chapman	BA (Hons), Grad Dip Ed	Mrs Kaye Marr	MA, BA, Dip Ed, PTC
Mrs Kelly Christie	BEd	Mrs Meena Mathew	BSc, BEd, MA, MEd Rel Edu Cert
Mrs Carolyn Clampett	TC	Mrs Genevieve McCrea	BA Art Ed, TAFE Ceramics Cert
Mrs Maureen Collins	BA, Dip Ed	Mr Trevor McGowan-Slee	BMusEd, DipMusEd, AMus
Mr Bruce Comerford	BAppSc (App Chem), Dip Ed	Mr Simon McInerney	BSc (HumMov't), Grad Dip Ed
Dr Timothy Dabbs	PhD, BSc (Hons) Grad Dip Ed	Mrs Anne McIntyre	BA, Dip Ed
Mr Geoff Dale	BSc, Dip Ed	Mr Phil Nield	BEd, DipTeach
Mrs Jenny Deagle	B Mus Ed, TC	Miss Anne-Maria Romeo*	BEd, Cert Religious Ed
Miss Leanne Emmas*	B Health Sc, T Grad Dip Ed PDHPE	Mrs Lisa Tang	BA (Hons), Dip Ed
Mrs Lesley Forder	BSc (Hons), BEd	Mrs Robyn Thurston	BA, Dip Ed
Mr Ashley George	BMus, Dip Ed	Mrs Jenny Uther	MEd, BA, Dip Ed, Grad Dip (Spec Ed)
Mr Ben Gilbert	BA (Hons), Dip Ed	Mrs Sue van Zuylen	BSc (Hons), Grad Cert Ed
Miss Lisa Goldman	BEd (PDHPE)	Ms Megan Wade-Ferrell	BA, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Sc (Lib)
Mrs Susan Green	BA, Dip Ed	Miss Melanie Walker	BBus, Grad Dip Ed
Mrs Sandra Gregson	BA Dip Ed, LPCert	Miss Pamela Wilson	BA, Dip Ed
Mrs Kay Hoban	BA, Dip Ed	Mrs Veronique Wilson	BA, Dip Ed
Mrs Dawn Howell	M Teach, BSc (Hons)		

**TEACHING STAFF - JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Miss Elizabeth Astle	BA (Hons) Dip Ed	Miss Amy Maloney*	B PhEd
Mrs Melissa Baxter*	BEd (Early Childhood)	Mrs Janene McCorkindale*	TC, BEd (Prim)
Mrs Wendy Abernethy	BTeach, BEd (Prim)	Mr Chris Munn	BA, Dip Ed, Dip Eng
Mr Nigel Cockington	BA, Dip Ed	Miss Olivia Nolan	BEx Sc, Grad Dip Ed
Mrs Gail Donohue	Dip Teach, TC	Mrs Roslyn Patrick	BEd (Prim), Dip Teach
Miss Fiona Eatough	BA, DipEd	Mrs Carole Pyne (Junior School Maths Task Centre)	TC
Mrs Carmen Gaspersic	BEd (Prim)	Mrs Wendy Quadrio	BA, Dip Ed, Grad Dip (Child Lit), Dip Bib St, TC
Mr Ashley George (Music)	BMus, Dip Ed	Mrs Helen Scoular	Dip Teach
Mrs Deborah Gillis (ESL) *	MA, BEd, TESOL Cert	Mrs Christine Sinden (Teacher Librarian)	Grad Dip (App Sc), Dip Teach
Mrs Margaret Gray	TC	Mrs Jennie Tredinnick	BEd (Prim)
Miss Rachael Harris	BEd, BA	Mrs Glenda Walker	BEd (Prim), Grad Dip Teach
Miss Yvonne Howard	MEd (Creative Arts), Bed (Prim)	Mrs Ann Wilkins (Creative Arts)	BA (Art), Cert Adult Ed, Grad Cert Child Art
Mrs Susan James	BA, MTeach	Mrs Larissa Wright*	MEd, BA, Dip Ed (Prim)
Mrs Lorraine Le Claire	TC		

**ADMINISTRATION STAFF**

Mrs Judy Bamforth (Bursar's Secretary)	Mrs Sue Helder (Junior School Administration)*	Mrs Bev Newham (Student Reception)
Mrs Karen Bramwell (Student Reception)	Ms Debbie Higham (Bursar's Office)	Mrs Vanessa Nolan (Junior School Administration)
Miss Angela Bryan (Administration)	TAFE Cert IV Bus Mgt, Adv Cert Cred Mgt, Dip Bus (Cred Mgt)	Mrs Dianne Reynolds (Student Reception)*
Mrs Rhonda Christie (Reception)	Mrs Chris Jose (Bursar's Office) TAFE Acct Cert	Mrs Clare Toohey (Community Liaison/Development)
Ms Melanie Cousins (Junior School Administration)*	Ms Maree Kennedy (Principal's Secretary)	Miss Tania Vallario (Deputy Principal - Administration's Secretary)
Mrs Kaye Davidson (Junior School Administration)	Mrs Meaghan Lingard (Student Reception)	Mrs Liz Kew (Junior School Administration)
Ms Linda Davies (Administration)	Mrs Robyn Linton (Student Reception)	
Mrs Mischeal Fenton (Deputy Principal - Curriculum's Office)	Ms Maureen McAlister (Administration)	
	Mrs Lyn Muir (Student Reception)	

**REGISTRAR / PUBLICATIONS STAFF**

Mrs Julie Jay (Registrar's Secretary)	
Miss Eileen Opilas (Publications)	BA

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF**

Mr Adrian Chin	BSc	Mr Michael Etccl *	Electron Eng
Mr Rudy De Vos	MBus (IT)	Mrs Lalanthi Lawrence	MCSE

**MAINTENANCE STAFF**

Mr Scot Foley (Maintenance Manager)	Mr Steven Isbister*	Mr Rob Stitt	Mr David Wilkinson
Mr Graeme Foster	Mr Jason Kerr	Mr Gary Sommer	

**BOARDING HOUSE STAFF**

Miss Catherine Andrews (Boarding Mistress)	Miss Lesley-Del Kinscher (Boarding Mistress)	Mrs Carolyn Pike (Support)
Miss Vivian Au (Boarding Mistress)	Mrs Anne Langdon (Boarding Mistress)	Mrs Margaret Plane (Support)
Mrs Maureen Dunlea (Support)	Miss Laura Murray (Junior Mistress)*	Mrs Marilyn Ware (Support)
Mrs Pauline Flaskis (Boarding Mistress)	Rev Denise Nicholls (Chaplain in Residence)	Miss Pamela Wilson (Boarding Mistress)
Miss Hollie Folpp (Junior Mistress)	Mrs Lynne O'Keefe (Boarding Mistress)	
Miss Lyndall Jay (Junior Mistress)	Miss Martine O'Keefe (Junior Mistress)	

**HEALTH CENTRE**

Sr Colleen Harrison (School Nurse) RN

**ANCILLARY STAFF**

Mr Evan Bonser (Junior School Library Support)	Mrs Anne Langdon (Ceramics/Art)	Mrs Melanie Sanderson (Junior School Canteen)
Mrs Robyn Clear (Junior School Learning Support)	Miss Amelia Loney (Junior School Teachers' Support)	Mrs Sue Schiavello (Senior School Library Support)
Mrs Jennie Conolly (Junior School Teachers' Support)	Mrs Suzanne Macdonald (Food Technology)	Mrs Diana Sidney (Junior School Teachers' Support)
Mrs Christine Goddard (Senior School Learning Support)	Mrs Kate McIntosh (Special Education)	Mrs Alana Smith (Junior School Canteen)
Mrs Anne Headley (Senior School Library) Dip NSTC	Miss Maryanne Magri (Senior School Learning Support) * MEd, BA (Hons), Dip Ed, MACE	Mr Ross Sneddon (D&T)
Mrs Linda Higham*	Mrs Jean Missio (Junior School Library Support)	Mrs Carol Symonds (Junior School Library Support)
Mrs Linda Higham* (Senior School Learning Support)	Mrs Yvette Piggott (Junior School Learning Support P/T) DipTeach, Grad Dip Sp Ed	Ms Trish Thompson (Senior School Laboratory Assistant)
Mrs Heather Jones (Junior School Teachers' Support)	Mrs Amanda Pooley (Junior School Canteen)	

**UNIFORM SHOP STAFF** Mrs Hana Blogg  
**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**Mrs Barbara Kirkby  
Mrs Barbara Edge**CATERING** Mr Phil Hodges (Chef) / Mrs Maria Casteneda /  
Mrs Marlene Cole / Mrs Janet Gilmore / Mrs Lorraine Robertson

# THANK YOU



Finally, I want to express my thanks to the members of the Tara School Council, our governing body. Under the chairmanship of Bishop Ivan Lee, the Council members serve the School in a voluntary capacity. I thank them for their time and for their invaluable expertise. I would also like to thank the many members of the School staff on whom I rely for the effective running of the School. I work closely with my Executive Team and thank them for their wisdom and their willingness to work as a close unit: Mrs Cheryl Turner (Head of Junior School), Mrs Sue Hammond (Deputy Principal-Administration), Ms Heidi McGuinness (Deputy Principal-Curriculum) and Mr Rodney Braine (Deputy Principal-Pastoral Care). I thank my Management Team who, with the Executive Team, help in the broad planning and administration of this School in a most professional manner: Mr Colin Lees (Bursar), Mrs Kath Marshall (Registrar and Publications), Mrs Julie Wiseman (Deputy Head of Junior School-Administration), Mrs Jenny Porter (Deputy Head of Junior School-Curriculum), Mrs Claire Redfearn (Director of Boarding), Mrs Peta Black (Community Liaison Coordinator), Mr Michael Griffiths (Director of Performance), Mr John Ingegneri (Finance Manager), Mrs Anne Rumpler (Director of ICT Integration), Rev Denise Nicholls (Chaplain), Mr Mark Redford (Property Manager) and Ms Rebecca Palsler (Director of Development). My appreciation also goes to the Academic and Pastoral Coordinators, the Teaching staff, the Administration and Ancillary staff, the Boarding House staff and the Grounds and Catering staff. I thank each one of our staff members for the commitment and dedication that they show to the School and its students. With each year there are changes to staff with retirements, resignations and periods of maternity leave. For those who leave Tara at the end of this year, my very good wishes for the future and my thanks for all that you have contributed during your time here.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who contribute with their skills and gifts to our School Community. To the students and their families who I have grown to know so well – thank you for your encouragement and your confidence. Thank you to the whole Tara community of staff, students, parents and friends who work together for our School. On a personal note, I thank particularly my family – my husband Rick and our son, Scott – for their continued love, patience, understanding and support.

I wish every member of our Tara community a refreshing and safe holiday season, a Joyous Christmas and God's Blessings to you and to your loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Bowern". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Carol Bowern • Principal



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