



## Scotch College

### College Council Members

<i>Chair</i>	Mark Paginin
<i>Deputy Chair</i>	Tim Wiese
<i>Moderator (Visitor)</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Member</i>	Saschelle Blake
<i>Member</i>	Terry Bowen
<i>Member</i>	Prof Simon Anderson
<i>Member</i>	John Flecker
<i>Member</i>	Alan Murray
<i>Member</i>	Rev Margaret Tyrer
<i>Member</i>	Greg Ledger
<i>Member</i>	Prof David Gibson
<i>Member</i>	Roy Kelley

Nominees of Old Scotch Collegians: Mr Alan Murray  
Mr Greg Ledger

Life Members and Life Governors: Mr Gavin Bunning  
Mr Robert D Keall  
The Hon. N (Neil) W McKerracher  
Mr C.A. (Sandy) MacKellar

The College's Headmaster, Dr O'Connell, ensures that as a College of the Uniting Church, we have as part of our underlying guiding framework, 'The National Educational Charter' and the principles to which it promotes. These are:

- Values all people as created in the image of God
- Believes that all people have rights and responsibilities for the wellbeing of society
- Understands that education is a 'lifelong journey by which all people develop the ability to participate in society and lead lives that are life creating and life sharing'
- Calls for quality education that is accessible and equitable for all
- Encourages excellence in education by which the God given gifts and talents of people are fully developed
- Commits itself to promoting education for its members as part of their faith, ministry and community responsibility
- Promotes the value of diversity in educational provision, expression and access
- Affirms the contribution of Australian society of the teaching profession and those engaged in educational research
- Acknowledges the primary importance of families in the context of education
- Commits itself to pastoral care and chaplaincy within educational institutions

The College is guided by its strategic plan to deliver excellence for members of our community and encourage outreach beyond the bounds of our internal operations through our vision to be a learning community with an international standard of excellence and our mission to develop young men with strength of character, self-understanding with a passion for sustained learning and spiritual inquiry who will become active members of the global community.

As per requested this year by Synod, following is our reflection of mission and strategy, financial and risk management and governance.



## **I. Mission and Strategy**

As a College we align with Uniting Churches four pillars as follows.

### **I.1 Open communication**

#### **Networking with other parts of the Uniting Church (Church centre, congregations, agencies and other schools)**

- Much of the networking with other parts of the Uniting Church (UC) happens through the chaplains, Justine Wall and Gary van Heerden, and through the service-learning activities.
- Serving on a number of sub-committees Justine and Gary maintain links with the wider UC community. Regular chaplaincy gatherings enable networking with other chaplains.
- The recent restructuring and realignment of the Service and Citizenship program to fall under the chaplaincy team will provide further opportunities to network within the UC and beyond.
- An audit of the Service and Citizenship program is currently underway to ensure that the program articulates the spiritual component of all service.
- Every Friday afternoon Year 10 Scotch boys are divided into 13 groups who each head off and engage with a range of service providers.

#### **Enhancing the Uniting Church brand**

- Tapping into our Celtic Presbyterian roots, particularly the Celtic emphasis on the presence of God and the lack of dualism (between a good spirit and a sinful body) informs much of what we do in our community.
- We strive and are encouraged to see the Divine in each other, which must affect the way we treat each other.
- Last August we held 'Church in the City' for all Year 7 and 8 boys to attend a special Scotch College service at Wesley Church in the City. The purpose of the visit was to give the boys an understanding of the Christian identity and heritage of Scotch College as a school of the Uniting Church in Australia. This was highly successful, and we hope it will become an annual event for the Middle School.
- As a College of the Uniting Church, every activity we engage in reflects on the Uniting Church.

#### **A Christian prophetic voice to the community**

- Many young people are keenly aware of social justice issues which our Chapels and other programs provide a voice for students to engage and consider social justice issues of significance both locally and internationally.
- A regular theme of our chapel services and assembly talks focusses on the Christian calling to walk alongside the poor and oppressed in society. The 'Pop-Up Prayer Space' in the Junior School for students to pray for the planet was a creative response to the Uniting Church's call for action on Climate Change.

#### **Communication with your own communities**

- COVID-19 has forced us and continues to force us to take a long, hard look at what it means to be a 'Scotchie'.
- What has become apparent in this time is just how important community is to all of us.
- We market Scotch as providing 'a community for life'. As part of the service program, boys have been writing letters to (very) Old Collegians on Friday afternoons and sending out packs to them reminding them that we are thinking of them.
- The chaplains have been asking for prayer requests and spending time each day in the chapel praying for our community.
- Online chapel recordings have been circulated into the wider community.
- Every day while not at school, a thought for the day and a prayer for the day was circulated to the wider community.
- Rev Gary and Rev Justine shared an annual report to the College Council which provides an important opportunity for Council to engage in the role of Chaplains at the College.

## **1.2 Faith Formation and Faith Sharing**

### **How the Christian faith shared in word and action**

- In a logical, postmodern world, the concept of 'spirituality' may appear outdated, otherworldly or even irrelevant. Deconstructing what it is thus imperative.
- In the Junior School chapels Rev Justine tries to focus on the major Biblical stories and in the Middle School chapels on early adolescent concerns and personal values such as identity, acceptance, faith and integrity.
- In the Senior School, Rev Gary uses Biblical themes to dialogue with contemporary issues like racism, sexism, climate change, the increase in totalitarian leaders around the globe.
- An ongoing challenge to the chaplains is to find the words and images that boys and young men can relate to in presenting the Gospel. The Christian values are as important now as they have ever been in 'preparing boys for life'.
- As we deconstruct what it means to be a man in our world today, the threads of 'integrity, stewardship and service' underpin the kind of gentlemen that graduate into the Scotch 'community for life'.
- With the dark clouds of COVID-19 still hovering and change and uncertainty all around, the significance of the spiritual component of 'preparing boys for life' has taken on a new dimension. Where for many the pre-COVID world seemed predictable and even secure, the sudden change has left many feeling very insecure.

### **Working with indigenous or ethnic groups and sharing with other faiths**

- We are very privileged to have 37 Indigenous boys at Scotch College. This allows us to engage with issues of racism, reconciliation, identity, culture, what it means to be an Australian in respectful, 'real' ways.
- On special occasions such as NAIDOC and RUOK weeks, Indigenous boys have been part of discussion panels and have shared some of their struggles and celebrations.
- Scotch College is a bit of a microcosm of our wider society, and in this multicultural, multifaith community, there is no place for religious or other forms of intolerance.
- Learning to engage respectfully with others in our interconnected world forms a big part of 'preparing boys for life'.

## **1.3 Community Engagement**

### **Ways of connecting with local and/or target community**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has provided novel and creative ways to stay in touch with local communities. On ANZAC Day, a number of our trumpeters and pipers paid tribute to past and currently serving members of our armed forces by playing in their driveways at allocated times during the day.
- Pipe Major David Stulpner and a team of pipers walked to three local old age homes near the school (<https://youtu.be/bGdoGzZwRoo>) and stood outside and played. It was very moving to see how much this meant to the residents, to people in apartments and neighbouring homes and to passers-by who stopped to pay their respects (many in cars).
- During this time, part of being community-minded and service-oriented has included doing what is required of us in order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to keep the vulnerable in our midst safe.
- With active outreach being put on hold, a number of Scotch teachers have been cooking meals for the Salvation Army as they have struggled to keep up with the demand. Every Friday the Salvos have collected more than a hundred frozen meals and the project still continues.
- Scotch tennis courts and fields being open has been a great service to our local community. It has allowed so many people to enjoy getting out with their pets and to engage with others in safe and responsible ways.

## **Engagement of chaplains with the community, Presbytery and Synod body**

- Rev Justine and Rev Gary are involved on a number of committees and sub-committees. Rev Justine is the Chairperson of one of the Candidate's Formation Panel and serves on the Interfaith Dialogue Committee.
- Rev Gary serves on the Candidates for Ministry Committee, is on three Formation Panels for Candidates for the Ministry, has been a member of the Selection Panel for Candidates for the Ministry for the last few years and serves on the Synod Committee of Counselling.
- Rev Justine and Rev Gary have participated in all the Chaplains gatherings organised by Rev Andrew Syme.

## **2. Financial & Risk Management;**

The Church Office receives a copy of the audited Financial Statements and auditors report each year. The Audit Report was unqualified and there were no major issues or concerns raised by the Auditors in their Key Issues Memorandum presented to the College Council. The College has very low levels of debt and is able to meet payment of debts as and when they fall due. In addition, the College has external borrowing facilities which are undrawn.

There is a Risk Committee of Council which meets four times per year and reports to each meeting of Council. The College has a well-developed risk management system and is compliant with its Schools Registration obligations. Top risks are identified, and strategies have been put in place to mitigate these as much as possible. The College has come through the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in a strong financial position.

## **3. Constitutional, including Governance and Board appointments;**

There have been no changes to the College Constitution in the past 12 months.

Since the 2019 Synod the College has appointed Mr Roy Kelley to the College Council effective from 1 January 2020. This appointment was approved by Standing Committee on 9 December 2019. Mr Phillip Idle resigned from the College Council effective 31 December 2019. There have been no other changes.

Over the twelve previous months the Council has passed eight significant resolutions, five through Finance and Planning Committee and three through Council. All were approved unanimously by both committees. Details of these can be found in the College's formal minute records.

The Council proposes that the Synod receives the report.



Mr Mark Paganin  
Chair of Scotch College Council  
[ChairofCouncil@scotch.wa.edu.au](mailto:ChairofCouncil@scotch.wa.edu.au)