FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents have no doubt noticed the emphasis on our School's early history over the last couple of editions of School Talk. As our Board is presently focusing their efforts on strategic planning for the future, I thought it important to hark back to our foundation years in reinforcing the core ideology at the foundation of our school.

This is the 40th year of the School's history. There have been many changes over that time. ‘John Wycliffe Christian School’ has become ‘Wycliffe Christian School’. The school has grown and contracted in size over the years, according to demographic changes and increased competition in the schooling market. The enrolment policy has become more inclusive, allowing the school to serve a broader cross-section of the community. And then there are practical aspects that have evolved like uniform, facilities, not to mention technology.

These changes have not been unique to Wycliffe, and have been evident across the Christian school sector. While it is important for schools to move with the times, it is vital that the core ideology of the School, the reason for its existence, does not fade or become lost.

Recent articles in School Talk have deliberately focused upon stories and images from the School’s early days. While it is important to appreciate that school's change over time, and such change is to be expected and embraced, keeping in touch with our roots links us with our founding reason for existence.

The last week of the upcoming winter vacation (July 18th – 24th) is our annual staff professional development week. A significant focus will be exploring Wycliffe's core ideology and its centrality to future strategic planning. It would be great to have parents join staff at relevant times throughout the week. Whilst details are still being finalised, Foundation Principal, Mr Bob Johnston, will be leading Thursday's (July 21st) program, ‘God's big story’. This will provide staff and parents the opportunity to learn of the unified nature of the Bible, and it's ongoing relevance today.

In a future edition of School Talk I will provide greater detail of other sessions during the week that may of interest to our broader school community.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Declan Myers of Year 10.

Declan has a huge heart for service of others, and in the recent Destiny Rescue, Make a Stand fundraising event, remained standing for an incredible 41 hours and 21 minutes.

This broke the existing national record previously established by Josiah Toft.

Through sponsorship Declan raised substantial funds to support Destiny Rescue's cause in freeing children worldwide from slavery and sexual exploitation.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

After featuring photos of students from the first year of the School in last week's newsletter, I received an email from Don Clugston who was a student in that first year through to the end of his schooling days in 1988.

Don shared the following reflections:

Initially we had only one teacher, Geoff Wheaton, who later taught at Tyndale. School was held in the church hall of Warrimoo Anglican Church.
We were divided into 3 groups “The Littlies” (Kindergarten), “The Biggies” (Year 5 and 6) and “The Mob”. The Littlies and Biggies were in rooms at opposite ends of the church building. The Mob were in the middle. Mr. Wheaton had to keep running from one class to another, keeping us all busy. Most afternoons there were parents helping as well. Every Friday the whole school would go to the Biggies’ room and do experiments. Mostly they seemed to involve sitting on balloons until they burst. On Friday afternoon we had to clean the classrooms so that it was ready for the church to use. While the older kids did the vacuuming, the Kindy kids had to sleep next to the pulpit.

The school theology was a bit...weird. At the first sports carnival, they used the Biblical principle “the first shall be last, and the last first”. So you got a ribbon if you came last. If you were first, you got nothing. Instead of "shot putt" we had "brick putt", where you threw half a brick.

In 1976 a second teacher, Bill Oates, joined Mr. Wheaton. He taught K-2. He pushed us very hard. In second class he taught us about negative numbers, and our spelling lists included words like "eucalyptus" and "deciduous". Some of the parents weren’t able to do their kids homework!

The school was at two churches then. The older classes remained at Warrimoo, but we were in Mount Riverview. We used to play soccer with, first class versus second class. This didn’t work very well because year one had three times as many kids as year two.

In 1977 Bob Johnston started, as the first Principal. Mrs. Bradbury started as School Secretary. They stayed with the school for decades...

There was a dramatic change in the school culture in 1978. In that year, the school moved to its present location, and it started to feel like a real school....

A section of bushland near the back oval was roped off and called "Cubby Land". We were allowed to build cubby houses there during lunchtime. There were hard-core cubbies. Kids would bring timber, nails and tools from home. One tree house was 3 stories high, with solid floorboards on each level. Mr. Gilbert used to inspect the cubbies for safety, and give architectural advice...

Two boys, "Mouse" and "Slim" used to skip classes and go into the bush. Mouse painted some pictures in a cave near the school. Years later, we found that a Kindy teacher was taking her classes on excursions to see the "aboriginal cave paintings"...

By the mid-80’s the Wild West era was over. After that, the school was more-or-less civilised.

Don now resides in Berlin, Germany.

### LIBRARY NEWS

**READING HINTS FOR THOSE WITH ADD OR ADHD**

Helping children to develop regular reading habits is an important part of assisting them to succeed at school and to become effective lifelong learners. Each child will learn to read differently and for some becoming absorbed in a book is easier than for others. American blogger, Kate Scott, has suggested the following reading tips for people with ADD or ADHD, which may be helpful for parents and teachers.

The first is to listen to a story being read, either by a parent, in the form of a read-along book or an audiobook for older readers. Scott says that having something interesting or exciting to listen to helps to bring the listener’s attention back when they find their mind wandering.

The second is to read books with short chapters or chapters that are broken up into small sections. Even classic books and popular novels have chapters broken up in this way. Use these as markers and set these sections as the reading goal, rather than trying to finish lengthy chapters in a reading session.

The third is to read illustrated books. These are helpful, not just because the illustrations provide visual clues for the text but because, for older readers, the illustration becomes a goal – a reason to continue reading for an extra few pages until they reach the illustration. Scott says that the visual incentive is helpful and rewarding.

Finally, Scott is a strong supporter of print books rather than ebooks, which, she says, provide too many opportunities for distraction.

*Mr Cooney*
Declan Myers, in Year 10, broke our school record for standing the longest in the Make A Stand charity event for Destiny Rescue. His extraordinary achievement started on Friday 20th May and finished after 41 Hours and 21 minutes!!

The record keeper for many years was Josiah Toft on an amazing 36 hours. Josiah’s sister Siobhan presented a special achievement certificate to Declan last Thursday. Mr Zanardo, one of Wycliffe’s resident ambassadors for Destiny Rescue, received news from the NSW office that the students at Wycliffe helped raise more than $6500 for Destiny Rescue. The money will help support the rescue, care and prevention of young children trapped in modern day slavery.

Shelley Whittington (Destiny Rescue NSW/ACT Support Manager) shared this congratulatory message:

"Thank you to all the students of Wycliffe Christian School for being a part of Make A Stand. It’s because of your effort that children can be set free from child trafficking and are given hope for their future. Thanks so much for your ongoing support!!"

Lachlan Smith, in year 12 at Wycliffe Christian School, has been playing football at FNSW State League Club Nepean FC since being first selected as an 11 year old in 2010.

In the last few years he has been helping with some younger teams to help the club out after first getting a taste of coaching at school holiday clinics. Lachlan took to coaching straight away and his natural talent was rewarded with a permanent role with a Skills Acquisition team on his own. The coaching requirement for this level of competition is an AFC/FFA C Licence and these courses are restricted to coaches over 21 years of age and quite strictly enforced by the Asian Football Confederation.

Due to Lachlan’s potential, Nepean FC TD and FFA Course Presenter James Rankine was able to successfully lobby the governing body to consider an exemption for Lachlan.

Lachlan has since attended the 7 day course and is now in the process of completing his final assessment task which is a 20 minute video of his training session. No mean feat for someone also completing his HSC in his final year of school.

Wycliffe will be hosting a morning tea to support the Cancer Council’s vital research, prevention programs and support services to make a difference to those affected by cancer.

The morning tea will be held at recess (from 10am) on Thursday 23rd June outside Cafe 133. All members of our community are most welcome to join Wycliffe staff and Year 11 and 12 students.

Bring along a donation of $5 (or more if you are so inclined) and enjoy a cappuccino or latte from Cafe 133 and a delicious spread of morning tea options. Tea will also be provided. Relax in fellowship and community whilst supporting this worthwhile cause. A tax deductible receipt can be arranged on the day.

For catering purposes, please email reception@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au to indicate your attendance.

For more information please feel free to contact the school.

Congratulations to all our students both Primary and Secondary who ran so well at the CSSA State Cross Country on Friday 27th May. The school had a number of students finish in the top 20 with those placed in the top 10 progressing to represent CSSA at the CIS championships later in the term.

An exciting aspect of the day was how all students had a positive attitude. This was evident in how they gave their best against some talented opposition and a large number of competitors. The Primary races had over 150 competitors in each race.

The following students were placed in the top 20:

- 4th, Mia Williams (Yr 7)
- 5th, Connor Edwards (yr 6)
- 8th, Samuel Casey (yr 10)
- 10th, Olivia Greenaway (yr 6)
- 12th, Grace Blackwood (yr 5)
- 13th, Ethan Wallace (yr 10)
- 16th, Frehiwot Ward (yr 10)
- 20th, Ben Jenner (yr 6)

Carnival Days are a good opportunity for Community
and it was nice to see so many parents and grandparents at the event supporting their children/grandchildren. It was nice to have the opportunity to have a chat.

**SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

*Helpers required*

The Primary Athletics Carnival is on 14th June and the Secondary Carnival is on 22nd June. Parent helpers are needed for both days to perform various roles including timekeeping, field judges, refreshments, running the BBQ etc.

If you can assist with the Primary Carnival please contact Mr Brown on jbrown@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

If you can assist with the Secondary Carnival please contact Mr Stewart on stewy@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

*Parents who assist for at least 4 hours will be credited with PIP hours.*

Mr Stewart  
*K-12 Sports Coordinator*

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**OH, WHAT LOVE - FREE CONCERT**

*When*: Sunday 12th June - 6pm, Tuesday 14th June - 7pm

*Where*: Glenbrook Baptist Church - 45 King St, Glenbrook

*Bookings Essential*. Call 4739 3974 or email office@glenbrookbaptistchurch.org.au

Learn more at watoto.com