BEROWRA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL  Inc in N.S.W.
A.B.N. 58 003 853 174.

Excellent Education ‣ Values for Life ‣ Hope for Eternity

2010 Annual Report for the 2009 School Year
Changes abound in education and 2009 was no exception. National agenda’s of building, reporting and curriculum direction were applied to all school communities bringing some controversy. Berowra Christian Community School has benefitted greatly from the Building the Education Revolution provisions and has also been recognised for its academic strength. Its prior focus of seeking to apply its vision statement through its curriculum reforms continues to unfold in 2010 with the means of affecting policy goals now much better articulated following a major review of programs.

When Building the Education Revolution funding was announced in 2008 it was unclear what impact the school would feel, but today having $1million spent has allowed an extension to the hall, renewal of the library, creation of change rooms and kitchen, relocation of staff room and the provision of shade, seating, play equipment and IT infrastructure - a great gain which also includes a National Solar Schools Grant providing Solar panels and water tanks.

Release of the MySchool website allowed results to be published which demonstrated the academic strength of the school and its place in local community culture. Even with questions surrounding the MySchool ‘snapshot’, the results supported what has always been acknowledged - that the school holds consistently high standards.

As each child leaves the school there continues great confidence that not only has the Board of Studies Course been applied in full, but the gospel of Jesus has been explained and modelled. All children have the benefit of living in a community reflective of the values of Christian faith and been encouraged to follow suit.

The generous nature of the community was again demonstrated in the giving of some $11,000 to compassionate needs by children (mainly World Vision and Victorian Bushfire Victims) apart from general school fundraising activities. By working as a team the children sourced information, identified need and set about achieving goals. Their success is a measure of their growing faith and commitment to its outworking.
Sporting results saw two represent at State level and one gain silver at NSW All Schools PSSA. The need to draw on all children in team events and activities provides a fertile environment for successful endeavour. The many carnivals and activities undertaken again gave the school excellent exposure to high levels of involvement and competition, allowing those with particular skills to achieve at a level of challenge.

It is a privilege to be a part of such a wonderful supportive community.

Stephen Spies
Principal
June 2010

BCCS Chairman’s Report

The 2009 year was extremely hectic but very rewarding. Almost $1million was received in Government Grants for major building works. These works are now substantially complete and make a significant benefit in the life of the school.

I would like on behalf of the Board to acknowledge the commitment of Principal Stephen Spies and his team to Christian education and achieving excellent results in spite of significant disruption during the building works.

I would also acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the school Board and parents to ensure that the school continues to make Christian education available to all who seek it.

Further to my report last year the Board governance model is now in place and I am confident it will ensure continued successful functioning of the school.

Finally I would like to thank Rev Bil Ghali, Alan Anderson, Chairman Church Board, and the whole Board for the ongoing support of the school.

Ross Hillyard
Chairman
2009 was no exception as to what parents have come to expect from the BCCS community. The school has always and will always continue to be a place where we value the nurturing environment which the children experience in their day-to-day life at school. It’s always exciting to welcome new families who decide on BCCS for their children. Similarly, despite the sadness of the year 6 farewell, it’s a privilege to see the children who have come so far at BCCS go into secondary education.

Thanks to our year parents, who coordinate class and year social events and who keep the BCCS spirit strong by helping out those who may be in need. The connection between staff and parents remains strong.

Parent help is an area which is strongly supported by parents (and other family members) as an opportunity to participate in the learning activities children complete in class. The children enjoy having their parents help during these times and it is a great way to build relationships with teachers.

During 2009 BCCS raised money to help the families affected by the disasters of the Melbourne bush fires and we as a school continue to raise money to support a village of people from New Guinea whom our Principal had the honour to visit and build a relationship with.

Bi-annually BCCS holds a Pet Show. This is one of BCCS’s major fundraising opportunities for the school. As 2009 was our Pet Show year, the whole school contributed too, to making it the success it was.

‘Fresh Food Friday’ continues to be very popular, with a variety of healthy and delicious food options being served and prepared by parents to encourage healthy food choices. Health Dept NSW Grant money enabled the setting up of a vegetable garden at school. It is hoped foods grown by the children will be used in the food options available.

2009 also saw BCCS with a new school hall, library, boys & girls change room area, shade covers over the seated area in the playground and new bubblers. All this was funded by the Building the Education Revolution Grants.

The Parents & Friends Association meets once a term and welcomes all families. All parents are encouraged to attend, as these meetings are a great way to get involved and be informed.

Nicole Do Rozario

President BCCS Parents & Friends Association
Rich History
Since its inception in 1986, Berowra Christian Community School has been dedicated to providing families with an outstanding junior school experience where children’s learning is founded on a knowledge of God, His world and their place in it.

We are a K-6 school with an average enrolment of 110 students serving the northern Sydney wooded ridges between Hornsby and the Hawksbury River. Our teaching staff are fully qualified professionals who are deeply committed to the holistic development of each child in their care. Inter-school sport, choir, debating, accredited camping programs, excursions, drama, school band and community service constitute some of the opportunities where our students are encouraged to discover and develop both individual and collaborative interests and abilities.

For over 20 years, BCCS has fostered strong links with community groups local and abroad, as well as families and students current and past.

BCCS is a founding member of Christian Schools Australia and Christian Schools Sports Association.

Teacher Standards.
All staff at Berowra Christian Community School are practising Christians of evangelical persuasion who subscribe to the school’s Statement of Faith. They are committed to teaching from a Christian world-view and are highly dedicated and well trained. All classroom, part-time and support teachers have teaching qualifications from a higher education Institution within Australia or as recognised by the National Office of Overseas Skills recognition guidelines; ie category (i) teachers as defined by the Act. They hold predominantly bachelor degrees or higher, plus Dip Ed or equivalent.

In 2009 there were: 3 full-time teachers (including the Principal) 8 part-time teachers (total 3.7 FTE)

Mrs Jodi Dagan returned from Maternity leave capably undertaken in her absence by Mrs Melissa Grassick. Mrs Sabrina Shields gained Professional Competence during the year having upgraded her previous teaching qualifications.

The retention rate for staff from 2009 to 2010 was complete with all staff retaining substantially the same work load.

Staff attendance stood at 98%, not including Long Service Leave or Leave Without Pay.

Average teaching experience exceeds a decade, ranging from 5 to over 30 years. Teachers are assisted by part-time specialists in Music, Languages Other Than English and Special Education.
Professional Learning
During 2009 the staff undertook 9 days In-Service together on:
  Child Protection Protocol
  Occupational Health and Safety
  Development of Pro-formas and key questions for program development
  CPR to ensure continuation of Senior First Aid qualification
  Sector meetings with CSA Metropolitan Schools
  Interactive Whiteboard Induction
Individuals also attended: Class room Development Program for Difficult Children, Library and Principals
Conferences and Special Education Teaching Strategies. This amounted to course costs of about $5,000,
salaries of over $30,000, creating an average Professional Development cost of around $4,000 per staff
member.
Reports complied with the A-E grades required by Department of Education Employment and Work
Relations. Induction procedures were formalised for NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation for New
Scheme Teachers.

Enrolment Policies and Profile.
In 2009 the school continued its pastoral plan to meet the needs of the children by dividing grades to
produce classes of even size. Because Yr 1 was a large cohort only the Year 5 class were split giving
2009 classes Kindy, Year 1, Year 2-3, Year 4-5 and Year 5-6.
The majority of children speak English at home, with Chinese, Afrikaans, and Persian also represented. At
the census date in 2009 the enrolment stood at 103. The maximum allowable enrolment of 120 remains,
with ceilings being 25 in composite classes and 20 in Kindergarten. Student absence throughout 2009
was less than 4%.
School Policy remains the same as last year in stating that:
Berowra Christian Community School is open to all children whose parents are seeking to give them an
education which is consistent with the aims and objectives of the school, provided the school has the
resources to meet the child’s particular needs, and subject to the availability of places.
It is the school’s aim to have broadly equal numbers of boys and girls in each year level.
The school Board is responsible for setting the enrolment policy and is the final avenue of appeal in all
matters relating to it. It is expected that families enrolled in the school will have an active association with
a local church. At present, around 15 churches are represented.
Upon application and again upon acceptance of enrolment, parents are required to sign a Declaration of
Support stating they:
  Undertake, by their example and instruction, to encourage their child in the establishment and growth of a
  personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
  Will support the decisions and aims of the school, ensuring their child abides by the conditions and regulations,
  attending school at all the times required by law.
  Support the school in its aim to foster a spirit of co-operation and encourage the pursuit of excellence in all areas
  of endeavour, including the active and willing participation of our child in all aspects of school life, including
  Christian teaching.
Accept the discipline policy of the school, and the School’s discretion in the event of their child’s failure to comply, in its recommendation for suspension or termination.

Agree to pay fees promptly by due date, and to contact the School as early as possible if they encounter hardships.

Agree that, since the School has a policy of not collecting an enrolment guarantee upon entry, they will be required to give one term’s notice of termination of enrolment. They are aware that failure to do this will render them liable to payment of that extra term’s fees, on the understanding that this payment helps sustain the school’s viability.

Continuing enrolment is conditioned upon parents maintaining this support throughout their child’s enrolment.

This abbreviated description includes key aspects of the policy which can be obtained from the school on request.

Student Welfare
The School Handbook contains a raft of policies concerned with the care and protection of children, their educational and welfare boundaries and support mechanisms. Key elements of this document, which remains substantially unchanged from last year, are:

1. The Child Protection Policy which articulates adult responsibility for the care and protection of children from any form of abuse or neglect, especially those matters pertinent to recent legislation and procedural fairness. Principles of policy development and duty of care guidelines are outlined with clarity, along with investigative protocols and procedures for dealing with allegations.

2. The Discipline Policy focuses on the development of a safe and caring environment by setting boundaries with rewards and sanctions. Bullying is the subject of a clear definition and detailed best practice, which includes fundamentals of the National Safe Schools Framework. Corporal Punishment is not used in the school, in compliance with the Education Reform Amendment Act 1995.

3. The Resolving Conflict Policy items refer to those practices developed to enable the early resolution of disagreement to prevent it becoming conflict. Scriptural support is given, along with parental support to ensure harmonious relationships are maintained and procedural fairness guaranteed.
Teaching and Learning

Berowra Christian Community School follows the NSW Board of Studies requirements and covers the Six Key Learning Areas (KLA’s) of English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). Berowra Christian Community School continues to seek ways to encourage children to "grow up into Christ." This phrase from Ephesians 4:15 guides all our school programs and aims.

To this end Christian Growth and Development is a key part of our PDHPE program and this is applied across the curriculum by
* encouraging daily prayer and class devotion
* conducting assemblies with directed themes according to Scope and Sequence, learning verses (Term 1 - Prov 3:5-8, Term 2 - Matt 7: 24-27, Term 3 - 2 Tim1:7, Josh 1:9, Rom 5:8, Heb 12:1, Term 4 - Isaiah 9: 2&6)
* presenting weekly Bible Study lessons in age appropriate ways across the grades
* fund raising for those in need including World Vision, MS Society, Victorian Bushfires, Breast Cancer "Pink Triathlon", Baptist Aid Food Can Drive.
* building relationships with community groups (senior citizens)
* visiting local nursing homes to sing Carols at Christmas.

Also as part of PDHPE work, Berowra Christian Community School enjoyed two wonderful sports carnivals. Our Athletics Carnival was held at Berowra Oval in Term 2 and was a great day for the school community. Every student also took part in the Swimming Carnival in February which again took place at Galston Swimming pool in Term One.

During the Year other opportunities arose for BCCS students to extend their skills in the PE area which included
March - CSSA Zone Swimming at Warringah Aquatic Centre
- CSSA Super 8 Cricket Tournament at Castle Hill

Tiana Hazlewood represented the School, Zone and State System, CIS Sector and State PSSA, and at the National School Sports Athletics Championships in Homebush receiving a silver medal in the 10 year Girls Discus with a throw of 32.45 metres, a PB of 2 metres. This theoretically sets Tiana as the second best 10 year old female discus thrower in Australia.
April - A team represented BCCS at the CSSA Cross Country at Eastern Creek
July - Every student participated in a soccer clinic run by Edusport
- All students also took part in the Small Schools Carnival at Brooklyn
- Every student participated in a clinic run by NSW Cricket
Aug - Zone athletics at Narrabeen Sports Academy
- CSSA Metro Cup Soccer & Netball Gala Day at Kellyville
- Kate Debney and Tiana Hazlewood took part in the CSSA state athletics. Kate progressed to CIS & Tiana to National PSSA, winning Silver in the 10 yr old discus.
Sept - Junior and Senior netball took part in the CSSA State Netball Gala Day
Oct - 6 students took part in the CSSA Tennis Gala Day
Personal Development was also covered from a Biblical foundation and we benefited from a visit by a speaker, Bruce Coleman from Choices to Life as part of our Year 5 and 6 Growing Up unit. This was also covered in class and, once again, a night for boys and dads, daughters and mums provided a great opportunity to learn about growing up and reproduction in a friendly, informative and fun setting.

In 2009 Creative Arts were highlighted through in house performances by the school choir and band. This was a wonderful night and the students played with skill and energy.

In-school performances by individuals also took place in class and Assemblies. There was also an Open Day in Term 3 which was very well received by a huge and proud audience. Music, Dance and Drama culminated with the performance of the Christmas Play, “Three Wise Men and a Baby” an original production in our newly refurbished school hall involving every student on stage. This wonderful musical was also repeated for our Senior Citizens.

Visual Arts remains a strength with children successfully taking part in competitions and having a multitude of creative works displayed. Yr 5/6 benefitted from specialised Art lessons by a Visual Art Specialist teacher.

Students received many opportunities to learn about the amazing world that God has created and how humans interact with it in Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE). HSIE themes work on a 3 year cycle.

Upper Primary students studied Federation and Government. Infants and Lower Primary students learnt about the “Way We Were” and how things have changed through the generations. Later in the year we learnt about celebrations all over the world, learning to value and respect one another.

During the year many learning experiences took place linked to these units. These were used to create integrated learning experiences across different Key Learning Areas.
**Excursions and Camps**

In semester One Yrs 4, 5 and 6 travelled to State Parliament. Years 5 and 6 also travelled to CARES (Community And Road Education Scheme) to learn about road safety and this again proved incredibly practical and worthwhile.

In June, a small team of World Vision Staff visited Years 4/5/6 to help us understand poverty better via a simulation game.

Semester Two was highlighted by the 3 day overnight excursion to Canberra and the Snow by Years 4, 5 and 6 at the end of Term 3. It was a memorable and educational experience for all the students.

The whole school benefited from a visit by a Hornsby Council Representative to talk about waste and composting during Term 4. The school was honoured when two students Brittany Shapcott and Angela Clarke won the Hornsby Council Recycling Bin Naming Competition.

During the last week of Term 4, Years 2-6 again delighted the residents of two local Nursing homes with some Christmas Carols.

**Leadership**

As students move through Berowra Christian Community School they are given many responsibilities and opportunities to show leadership. Each Year 6 student has the opportunity to be a Prefect for a semester and there are many responsibilities that accompany this position. In 2009 these involved leading groups, school errands, fundraising, peer support, public speaking and prayer. The partner scheme enables the school’s secure environment to be strengthened and this is particularly important because of the support given to Kindergarten students when they start school. A small group of Year 6 students took part in the World Vision Global Leadership Conference. They were informed of a need in a third world country and what they could do to help. They then put a plan in place to act on this need. Students from BCCS were very effective in implementing this plan. Led by Years 5 and 6, BCCS were (for the 5th year in a row) among the highest fundraisers, per capita, of all Primary Schools in Australia in the World Vision Forty Hour Famine.

Students also led many celebrations during the year including Thanksgiving Night, Senior Citizens Days, Open Day, Anzac and Remembrance Day Services. Daily leadership responsibilities and Assembly duties continue to build confidence in children. They had opportunities to set an example and be accountable for their actions, resolved conflict peacefully and learned to contribute to the welfare of society.
Respect and Responsibility
Respect and Responsibility initiatives were addressed in many ways in the school. Our Partner and Prefect programmes have continued and these have given older students the opportunity to lead and serve others throughout the year. Assembly and class themes continued to address consideration for others and the need for appropriate respect for authorities in our community. All these are taught with a Biblical foundation. As part of the NSSF framework we have an Anti-Bullying Policy. This is a pro-active initiative that runs during the year. Assembly and class talks are given, communication sent home. In 2009 the annual Bullying Survey continued to show a reduction in the amounts of bullying being reported by students. This is very encouraging as this is the 5th year in a row, since surveys began, that bullying has shown to be stable and has not increased.

Student Performance – 2009
In 2009 BCCS once again took part in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), undertaken by children in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across all schools. The students at BCCS from years 3 and 5 did very well again last year, particularly compared to other schools in our local area. It was pleasing to see that the school’s academic results were reflected well on the My School website. Our average scores as a school were well above the state average scores for both Literacy and Numeracy, in both years 3 and 5. Our year 3s fell within bands 4 to 6 for Literacy, with 86% in the top two Bands. In numeracy they ranged from Bands 3 to 6, with 73% in the top two Bands. Our year 5s fell within Bands 3 to 8 for Literacy, with 36% in the top two bands. In Numeracy they ranged from bands 4 to 8, with 65% in the top two Bands. Our averages were around bands 5, 6 and 7.

As NAPLAN continues to be administered, we will see the trends of our school across years as well as in terms of national comparisons. We are pleased to see that our school Literacy and Numeracy results significantly increased from 2008 to 2009, and in three areas we improved above the average for our school group (Association of Independent Schools).

Literacy and Numeracy remain the focus for all teachers and these assessments help pinpoint any students that may be struggling and any specific areas that may need to be addressed across the years. We have some children who need additional support, which is given through the Special Education teacher working in conjunction with the classroom teacher to design an individualised program that targets a students specific area of need.

Additional testing is carried out by BCCS on all students K-6, which provides comprehensive information about individual student performance. They are tested twice a year with standardised tests. The focus is on Literacy (particularly reading) for K-2, and Literacy and Numeracy for students 3-6. In 2009, once again most students improved their scores in November testing compared to May testing, particularly the K-2 reading tests and 3-6 maths tests.
In 2009 the students from Years 3-6 were entered into the University of NSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in both English and Mathematics. Years 5 and 6 were also entered into the University of NSW Science Competition. In all three competitions we gained scores around the average for the state. In Science our results included 1 High Distinction and 10 Credits; in Maths our results included 1 Distinction and 18 Credits; and in English they included 4 Distinctions and 6 Credits. On top of this, ten of our Year 5 and 6 students were entered into the Mathematics Challenge Competition. This is run by the Australian Mathematics Trust, in association with the University of Canberra. Six of these students received Distinctions, one of which gained full marks for all 4 problems.

Satisfaction Report

Satisfaction of the school community was demonstrated in:

* High participation rates in school parent help
* Strong involvement by parents in prayer, fund raising, management initiatives etc
* Confidence declared in staff by numerous written testimonies
* Happy, joyful constructive playground tone noted by visitors
* Acknowledgement and approval noted in parent surveys following reporting cycles
* Children eager to return to class after holidays
* Praise poured on teachers at year ends by parents and children
* Volume of ex-students and parents returning to work experience or to offer support post school years
* Negligible staff turnover and strong social interaction
* Strong church and school leadership relationships.
School Determined Targets for 2010
In 2010 the school aims to:
* Complete all BER works, opening and attention to subsidiary work
* Satisfactorily submit documents to Inspection panel during 5 year cycle visit in May. Any items outstanding to be rectified.
* Review National Curriculum.

Targets determined for 2009 were achieved as follows:
* Pro-formas were introduced for all new programming units with key questions, KLA overview and topic planner. These included key statements demonstrating distinctives and Outcomes.
* KLA Scope and Sequence tables all reviewed.
* BER works substantially completed to occupancy.
* The school was unable to build on PNG connection due to highland tribal fighting. It is hoped 2010 will allow recommencement of communications.
Summary Financial Information:

During 2009, grants were received for recurrent income on a per capita basis and also for Special Programs in LOTE (French), Literacy and Numeracy, ESL and Intervention based on demonstrated programs and need.

Income and Expenditure figures are greatly affected this year by the inclusion of Building the Education revolution Capital ($850K) and Maintenance ($37K) grants and the National Solar Schools Program ($50K) grant.

Individual Policies and Statement of Faith are available on request at the school.
For further information, please contact:-

The Principal
Mr Stephen Spies
Berowra Christian Community School
Cnr. King Street & Berowra Waters Road
Berowra NSW 2081
P.O. Box 425, Berowra Heights NSW 2082

Tel: 02 9456 2444  Fax: 02 9456 5141
Email: enquiries@bccs.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.bccs.nsw.edu.au