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Principal's foreword

Introduction

The 2005 school year marked the first year that Varsity College had a Year 12 cohort. This small group of students were wonderful ambassadors and leaders of the College community. The first Year 12 Formal at the College was held in November and attended by all students and parents. The Year 12's were a close knit group and worked particularly hard to achieve their objectives. School staff were very pleased with their final results with two students scoring an OP score of 1 and 63.0 % of the students scoring in the OP 1 to 15 range. Ninety percent of the students secured either an OP or VET qualification, with 98.0% of applicants receiving a tertiary offer.

A significant highlight of the year was the award received by our VET department - the Schools Excellence Award for the innovative program conducted at the College.

Preparations for the implementation of the Preparatory Year in 2007 continued in earnest with a strong community awareness program as well as planning for facilities and resources.

School performance on the standardized testing in Years 3, 5 and 7 was sound, but the overcrowded curriculum in Years 5 and 7 underwent a review to ensure adequate coverage of basic KLA learnings.

The Rich Tasks were completed across Years 2 to 9 at the end of 2005, providing enriching, challenging and real-life learning experiences for the students. Higher than State averages were received in all Tasks. Seven percent of Varsity Rich Tasks received an A (State average 3.0%), 18.0% of all Varsity College Rich Tasks received B/A (compared to 11.0% across the State).

The Chinese Immersion Program was launched with the inaugural pre-immersion class formed in Year 6. These students received a daily program led by a Chinese speaking teacher. In conjunction with the pre-immersion program, the Year 6 students performed the Lunar Moon Festival, which attracted widespread media attention and was attended by representatives from the Chinese consulate.

A number of international tour groups visited the College during the year and a sister school relationship has been established with the Wagor Elementary School in Taiwan.

Results of Opinion Surveys from parents, students and staff reveal strong support of the largest P-12 school in Queensland.

The P&C Association continued a vigorous role within the College. As well as raising funds to purchase much needed resources and equipment, P&C members were active participants on strategic sub-committees.



Highlights

- Middle School Leadership Program featuring a 'Leadership Day' and induction of Year 9 leaders.
- Social development programs for Year 8 boys – 'Allowing Boys to be Boys', Year 8 girls – 'Love Your Body' – self esteem and body image.
- Year 9 Girls – 'Shine Program' – eight week program that enables girls to recognise their self importance.
- First cohort of Year 12 students to graduate from the College.
- The school was awarded the DET VET in Schools Excellence Award for the innovative VET curriculum at Varsity College.
- Full implementation of the ETRF agenda including reshaping the Senior years to cater for the diversity in our clientele.
- Professional development for P-3 staff to develop a common language in the teaching of reading.
- Development of the STAR (Striving to Advance Reading) program across the P-3 sector.
- A successful and vigorous QCS preparation program.
- Single sex classes in Years 5 and 6 – in an attempt to match learning styles and characteristics.
- Robotics program in Year 6 with IDT staff fostering links between Middle School and Junior School.

Key outcomes and goals achieved

- Middle School Outdoor Education Program – all students engaged for one week in diverse range of outdoor activities incorporating physical, social and mental well-being.
- A more consistent understanding of Middle School philosophy and expectations of staff were promoted through Year Level and sub-school meetings and via the development of a Middle School policy folder and information brochure.
- Fully developed Year 10 as a dedicated transition year with Senior Education and Training Plans (SETP) fully implemented with built-in student review cycles.
- Senior curriculum is designed and modified to ensure all students are able to achieve a QCE.



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2005 School Annual Report

Future outlook

- Year 7 literacy / numeracy results as measured on the Year 7 Test will receive a heavier focus to reflect a more upright value addedness from Years 3 and 5.
- Fine tuning of the curriculum in Preparatory, Junior and Middle Schools to provide a balance between the traditional KLA's of English and Mathematics, and the New Basics curriculum.
- Focus on improved and more inclusive intervention programs for SEC, gifted and LD students.
- A detailed action plan has been written for the improvement of our 2005 data especially in relation to phase B students.
- Further development of the ELF (Early Literacy Fundamentals) program, which screens students in Preschool and Grade One to ensure appropriate early intervention in phonological awareness and fine motor skills.
- Better assessment and tracking tools to be implemented in junior school to improve performance and better utilise intervention resources.
- Stronger focus on extra-curricula participation especially in inter-school sport and music.
- Reduce the percentage of students receiving neither an OP nor VET qualification from 10.0% in 2005, to less than 5.0% in 2006. Aim for 95.0% of our Year 12 students to receive an OP or VET qualification.
- Improve the percentage of students receiving an OP 1-15 from 63.0% in 2005 to between 73.0% and 80.0% in 2006.
- Improve the number of VET qualifications awarded, with the aim that all VET pathway students achieve at least one AQF VET qualification.
- Engage VET students and raise their level of self-esteem through a review of curriculum offerings, timetable arrangements and improved pedagogy.
- The development of a culture of data analysis and performance across the whole College.
- In 2006 we aim to establish a mentoring / peer coaching program to support new staff and further improve pedagogy in the Middle School.
- An intervention strategy – 'PAT Test', will be utilized to identify students requiring learning support as well as those students who are gifted.



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2005 School Annual Report

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Varsity College is a coeducational school with students enrolled from Preschool to Year 12. The July effective enrolment by class, in 2005, was:

Year Level	Student Numbers	Year Level	Student Numbers
Preschool	50	Year 7	185
Year 1	219	Year 8	211
Year 2	163	Year 9	190
Year 3	174	Year 10	212
Year 4	221	Year 11	176
Year 5	226	Year 12	84.4
Year 6	197	Total	2308.4

Curriculum offerings

- Cross-curricular integrated Tasks incorporating the New Basics Curriculum and School Based Tasks commencing in Year 2 and culminating in Year 9.
- Chess Club and inter-school competitions.
- Robotics Extension Program.
- School of Excellence in Tennis.
- High standard Instrumental Music Program commencing in Year 3.
- Mathematics Olympiad.
- Public speaking / debating competitions.
- Middle School specialist lessons – Fine Foods, IDT, and Technology.
- Dedicated VET Pathway program that requires students to study English, Mathematics, Life-Skills Education and two AQF Certificate courses. Students have a built-in 'Earning or Learning' day each Wednesday to enable them to partake in work transition programs such as work experience, structured work placement, part time work and school based traineeships and apprenticeships.
- Senior School strives for quality over quantity with the emphasis on subjects that promote intellectual rigour, depth of learning and thinking skills.
- Senior students have a weekly 'Futures' lesson, which enables the delivery of a comprehensive life-skills, career education and QCS preparation program.
- VET subjects are timetabled after 3.00 p.m. to enhance the uptake of AQF Certificate courses for OP eligible students. OP students have the opportunity to select an additional AQF certificate course.

Computers

- Very high student to computer ratio. Computers are located in labs or in pods at the rear of classrooms.
- Full integration within 'Foundation' classrooms for research and multi-media presentations for Rich Tasks and school-based Tasks. Years 1 and 2 students receive specialist lessons to develop computing skills that can be transferred to other computer programs in later years. Year 3 students develop web pages and produce multi-media presentations to complete Rich Tasks.
- Immersion of integrated software and technology within specialist subject offerings, eg., Computer Aided Drawings, Video Studio, Photo Shop and Multi-Media.



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2005 School Annual Report

Social climate

- A Middle School philosophy permeates all aspects of curriculum, teaching pedagogy, infrastructure, behaviour management and professional development. Pastoral care is well supported by the foundation teacher and scaffolded by the 'TRAKS' (Tolerance, Respect, Acceptance, Kindness, Support) program, which underpins the social fabric of what is a supportive, resilient, futures-oriented Middle School.
- Students in the Preparatory School are able to participate in special programs, e.g., Social Skills, Anger Management and Confidence Building.
- Year 4 student mentors are trained in managing playground equipment and are responsible for assisting the Year 1s with their playground games.
- In Junior School, lunchtime activities are organized for students requiring structure or support. These activities include beading group, dance group, craft club and skipping club. These activities are facilitated by teachers, teacher aides and parents.

School Opinion Surveys

A synopsis of School Opinion Surveys relating to school climate shows satisfaction levels.

Parents (2005)

% Very Dissatisfied	% Dissatisfied	% Neutral	% Satisfied	% Very Satisfied
<i>About Behaviour of Students</i>				
0.0%	5.7%	31.4	54.3	8.6
<i>That Your Child is Happy to go to School</i>				
0.0%	0.0%	17.2%	31.4%	51.4%

Students (2005)

% Very Dissatisfied	% Dissatisfied	% Neutral	% Satisfied	% Very Satisfied
<i>That You are Happy to go to School</i>				
0.0%	3.4%	21.0%	23.5%	47.1%
<i>That You are Safe at this School</i>				
0.8%	9.3%	12.7%	37.3%	39.8%

Parents and the community

- Parent – Teacher conferences.
- Parent Information Evenings.
- Student-led conferences in Term 4 where students update parents on academic and social progress.
- Representatives from each sub-school on the Executive of the P&C.
- Parent Education Programs have been provided in; Year 2 net Process, Support-a-Reader volunteer training.
- Parent open days for culminating activities for the Rich Tasks.
- Parents involved in the development of SET plans in Senior School. In 2005, over 90.0% of parents attended meetings to assist in developing the plans and then signing-off on these.

Parents (2005)



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Queensland the Smart State

2005 School Annual Report

% Very Dissatisfied	% Dissatisfied	% Neutral	% Satisfied	% Very Satisfied
<i>That You Have Opportunities to Participate in School Decision Making</i>				
2.9%	5.7%	28.6%	48.6%	14.3%
<i>That the School Makes You Feel Welcome</i>				
0.0%	0.0%	22.9%	45.7%	31.4%

Parents (2005)

% Very Dissatisfied	% Dissatisfied	% Neutral	% Satisfied	% Very Satisfied
<i>That this is a Good School</i>				
0.0%	0.0%	8.6%	57.1%	34.3%

Students (2005)

% Very Dissatisfied	% Dissatisfied	% Neutral	% Satisfied	% Very Satisfied
<i>That this is a Good School</i>				
3.4%	1.7%	11.8%	32.8%	50.4%



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2005 School Annual Report

Performance of our students

Key outcomes in the early and middle years

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Performance measures: percentage of students not requiring additional support

Strands	Results (%)
	2005
Reading	82.3 (%)
Writing	93.9 (%)
Number	89.0 (%)

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Year 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.

Strands	Measures	Results for 2005		
		Year 3	Year 5	Year 7
Reading	School average on Queensland Test	557	618	690
	Queensland average	548	614	689
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	96.9	84.2	92.8
Writing	School Average on Queensland Test	565	635	748
	Queensland average	509	606	746
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	93.8	93.2	89
Numeracy	School average on Queensland Test	568	612	674
	Queensland average	534	605	663
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	96.9	89.5	89



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2005 School Annual Report

Performance of our students

Key outcomes in the Senior years

Outcomes for our Year 12 Cohort of 2005

Total Number of Senior Certificates awarded in 2005	84
Percentage of OP-eligible students with OP 1-15	62.9%
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded a VET qualification	25.0%
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP-eligibility or awarded a VET qualification	90.0%
Percentage of QTAC Applicants receiving an offer	97.7%

At the time of publishing this Annual Report, the results of the 2005 Year 12 post-schools destinations survey, *Next Step – Student Destination Report* for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be on our website as soon as it is received.



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2005 School Annual Report

Our staff profile

Professional engagement in 2005

Key Teacher Training	Innovation & Enterprise Symposium
Speech Language Impairment Workshop	ASD Workshops
National Safe Schooling Framework	Education Adjustment Plan Training
QSA In-Service English Communication	First Aid Certificate Courses
SCIS Training	Industry Liaison Training
Excel Training	Queensland Schools International Network Conference
GST & BAS Training	MS Access SMS Training
Purchasing Policy Training	International Students Workshop
Behaviour Management Workshop	Website Training
Certificate IV in Library Management	Green Machine Training
Drama Panel Training	Special Educators Annual Conference
Myer Briggs Training	First Aid and CPR
WISC Workshop	Spatial Technologies in Schools Conference
Early Years Curriculum Framework	Middle Years of Learning Conference
Managing Learning for Diversity	Hospitality Workshop
INTAD State Conference	QASSP P-12 State Conference New Basics Moderation
Literacy Training	Beginning Teachers Seminar
CAD Program – Archicad	Film & TV Training
QSA PE Workshop	Working Scientifically Workshop
QTAC Advanced Workshop	Maths Syllabus Workshop
Study Tour Accreditation	Critical Literacy – Visual Literacy
Rich Task Local Consensus	Maths Games Workshop Transport Assessor Training
Geography Teachers Conference	AVT Induction
MUSK Conference	ECTA Conference
Advanced Robotic Workshop	SMILE Workshop
Boys' Gender Issues Workshop	Learning Together State Conference
QTIC Currency Training	QTU Educational Administrators Conference
ICT Curriculum Integration	Learning with the Brain Workshop
Leadership Breakfasts	Reading Recovery Tutorial
Relaxation Therapy	Secondary Teachers' Seminar
Science Workshop	National Conference on Tourism
Certificate II in Hospitality	VET Information Seminar
Appraisal Modernisation In-Service	Hospitality Training



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2005 School Annual Report