2014 has been another successful year for Torrens Valley Christian School. There have been many wonderful events and moments throughout the year. A significant start to the year was our Opening Service, when the Board Chair of the Torrens Valley Association for Christian Education, Mrs Jane Dewing, prayed for our school community and all our staff came forward and dedicated themselves to the year ahead at Torrens Valley Christian School.

Our Past Scholars are a strengthening part of our community as past students are now reconnecting with Torrens Valley Christian School. We welcomed our Past Scholars from the ‘Class of 2012’, for their first reunion and the ‘Class of 2004’, for their ten year reunion. We celebrate the achievements of our Past Scholars and enjoy their continued contact with the school. Our annual magazine TVCS-PS keeps our Past Scholars connected to the community.

At the end of this year we farewelled three of our much loved staff: Elizabeth Stuart, Lyn Castle and Enid Grace who had been teaching at Torrens Valley Christian school since 1985, 1986 and 1987 respectively. All these years of committed service to our school are acknowledged and their contributions over many years cannot be underestimated. A significant passing of the guard has taken place as the year came to an end.

I pray that our community continues to work together to see our school go from strength to strength and to always acknowledge the blessings God has given to our school.

Sue Learey
Community Development Officer
TRANSFORMATION!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12: 1-2

Dear Past Scholars
If I have not yet had the chance to meet you personally, let me introduce myself! My name is Julie Prattis and I commenced as Principal at TVCS in January 2013.
I hope that when you are in the area you will pop in and say ‘Hello’! I warmly invite you to come and have a cup of coffee with me when you are able.

Torrens Valley Christian School is a wonderful school and that has been borne out in a newspaper article in the June 21-22 2014 issue of The Weekend Australian. Torrens Valley Christian School was listed as being one of Australia’s TOP SCHOOLS! Our school was rated Number 25 in the Nation’s Top Schools in South Australia. Figures were based on results from the 2013 National Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests and information published from the My School website. Aggregate scores from the testing were calculated based on results in reading, writing and numeracy, with tests judged to give the best indicator of overall performance. I’m sure you have fond memories of the school from your time here!

Sadly, 2014 saw a number of staff leave our school community after many, many years of involvement, having made long-standing contributions to the school. Words on paper, can not express the deep love our community have for these staff members.

A member of our community for over 28 years, Mrs Lyn Castle retired at the end of 2014. Lyn brought great commitment and skill to Primary Educational Support over numerous years and leaves a legacy in the lives of so many.
Mrs Enid Grace has been a dearly loved, long standing member of our community over the past 28 years and is deeply missed. She leaves a legacy in the lives of our young people, as well as in the hearts and lives of our staff and parents.
Mrs Liz Stuart, too has been part of our community for 30 years, with her resignation at the end of the year leaving an enormous gap in the heart of our community. The life of the party, Liz’s pastoral heart and vivacious nature will be missed by all.
I pay tribute to Lyn, Enid and Liz and acknowledge the significant contribution that each has made to the life of the school.
Past scholars, as you embark upon those new directions in your life, please know that the staff and I are upholding you in our prayers and we look forward to catching up with you in the near future if the opportunity arises:

May the immortal, invisible, only wise God go with you, going before you, behind you, around you and within you; may the God who made all things, who sustains all things, rules all things, sees all things, give you insight and understanding from this time forward and for evermore. Amen.

Yours in Christ’s service

Julie Prattis

Principal
Old Scholar News
Brad Chilcott Class of 1996

Torrens Valley Christian School has been very blessed to have Past Scholar Pastor Brad Chilcott (Class of 1996) from Activate Church, Bowden reconnect with the school. Pastor Brad Chilcott delivered the 2013 Graduation Speech where he commented “It is a great pleasure to be back at a school I truly love and can honestly attribute with forming much of my worldview and direction today.”

Pastor Chilcott has participated in our ‘Year 12 Forums’, addressing the students, challenging them to think critically about the current social issue surrounding asylum seekers in Australia and our response as Christians. Pastor Chilcott has been recognised and received awards for his passionate work with asylum seekers in Australia, founding ‘Welcome to Australia’ which is now a national movement of people, communities and organisations committed to the vision of a welcoming, inclusive Australia known for its compassion and celebration of diversity. It exists to give new arrivals a warm, dignified and positive welcome to their new home while at the same time offering Australians the opportunity to be involved in practical acts of welcome. Brad’s dream of a national Walk Together campaign was realised in 2012 when events were held in 11 cities around Australia attracting thousands of participants. Brad’s contribution was recognised when he was named a People of Australia Ambassador in 2012. Described as a ‘voice for the voiceless’ Brad is a dedicated campaigner for human rights and social justice.

At the Governor’s Multicultural Awards, presented on February 19, Pastor Chilcott received a community sector award for his work founding ‘Welcome to Australia’. He says being recognised for making a difference is rewarding, and he hopes more people will get to know refugees, as he has.

“It’s so inspiring meeting new Australians and hearing their stories,” he says.

“Why wouldn’t we want to welcome such resourceful and resilient people?”

On Friday 24 January 2014, the City of Charles Sturt awarded The Australia Day Award - Citizen of the Year Award to celebrate great achievements and significant contributions to the Charles Sturt community to Brad Chilcott.

Brad Chilcott is a visionary leader and mentor, who is not only inspiring, but compassionate. Brad is a worthy recipient of this award, a selfless individual who puts others first and is making an extraordinary contribution to not only to the City of Charles Sturt but across Australia. “I want my children to grow up in a community where everyone feels they belong and we’re not divided by fear and suspicion ... and where everyone is recognised as equally deserving of human dignity and respect.” Pastor Brad Chilcott

Mr Adrian Benz (Kilkenny Woolworths representative), Phyllis Skinner OAM and Mayor Kirsten Alexander with Brad Chilcott, our 2014 Citizen of the Year.
Matthew Glaetzer Class of 2010

Past Scholar Matthew Glaetzer (Class of 2010) has been very busy since leaving Torrens Valley Christian school. In 2012 he took home gold in the team sprint at the World Track Championships and finished fourth in the team sprints race at the London Olympics. In 2014 he was crowned Australian and Oceania champion. Graeme Zucker, vice-president of Glaetzer’s club, Central Districts, has known the rider for five years. The devout Christian has been described as a fighter and as a role model. Zucker says, “He’s got such an aura. He’s a great ambassador for our sport.” “He’s a great speaker, kids love him,”

Matthew visited Torrens Valley Christian School to talk with students while working with The String Movement, which exists to disarm bullying by creating a global movement and community that everyone can be a part of. Empowering people, especially of high school and primary school age, to have a voice — to speak up for themselves and for those who can’t speak for themselves. Their goal is to change our culture so that bullying is no longer tolerated in our societies and communities, locally and globally. Our students had an inspiring time listening to the message from our Past Scholar and Olympian.

Terry Rogers Class of 1997

Past student, Terry Rogers (Class of 1997) is an actor. Terry’s work includes the movies “Offside” (2009), “The Boys Are Back” (2009) and “Vamphyri” (2008). Terry is the current presenter and co-host of a national travel show on the Channel 10 network called “What’s Up Down Under”, a travel and lifestyle program celebrating the Australian caravanning and holiday park experience. See some of his work at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prZRnjozMOM
Reunions

Torrens Valley Christian School has been working with our Past Scholars to promote regular reunions. We include in our Past Scholars all students who completed Year 10, 11 or 12, not just the graduating year. We are working on our database trying to track down current email and contact addresses and we encourage our Past Scholars to update their details on the school website, in the Past Scholars section.

Class of 2012

Torrens Valley Christian School hosted the first reunion for the Class of 2012 on Friday 14 March 2014. It was wonderful to have 23 of our past Scholars and their partners return to the school to be welcomed into the Past Scholars Association. Past Scholars enjoyed the opportunity to talk with staff, share new announcements and to view their graduation video. Congratulations to Emily Healey (Class of 2012) and Jon Dodds who shared the news of their Valentine Day engagement, with plans to marry in 2016. The formal section of the reunion held at the school concluded with a tour of the Art Gallery before Past Scholars headed off to enjoy time together and a meal at a local restaurant.
On Friday 22nd August 2014, Torrens Valley Christian School celebrated the 10th Reunion for the ‘Class of 2004’. It was a great evening and there were a number of current and past teachers there to welcome them back. Some 20 past scholars, wives and partners attended and several children including Phoenix, daughter of Caitlin Bormann and Bev Dinham’s granddaughter. There was a real buzz in the staffroom as everyone caught up with each other, reminisced over memorabilia and chatted with the teachers who impacted their lives 10+ years ago. After an official welcome we conducted a guided tour of the school. Past scholars were amazed at the changes to the facilities and the growth that has taken place since they left, but all still felt a strong connection to our community. They then enjoyed a relaxed dinner off campus catching up with old friends and sharing school tales.
Reunions

Class of 2013

We hope this first year after graduating from Torrens Valley Christian School has been successful for you. We would love to invite you and your partner to the First Official Reunion for the Class of 2013. It will be held on Friday 13 March 2015 commencing at 6.30pm with an Official Welcome at Torrens Valley Christian School and tour of the school, followed at 7.45pm with a meal at Café Primo, Tea Tree Plaza, Modbury. Don’t miss this opportunity to catch up with your classmates and reminisce. Please RSVP to the school by Friday 6 March 2015 for a group dinner booking. The dinner and drinks costs will be your responsibility and dependent on your meal choices.

Class of 2005

Torrens Valley Christian School has been rebuilding our Past Scholars network and arranging 10 year reunions. With collaboration from Leigh and Tom Atkinson and Marisa Davey, we would like to invite you and your partner to a 10th Reunion for the Class of 2005.

**Friday, 14 August 2015**

6.30pm Official Welcome and Tour of Torrens Valley Christian School

7.30pm meal at Sfera’s Mint Room,

191 Reservoir Road, MODBURY SA 5092.

$32 per person, payable to Torrens Valley Christian School by Monday 10 August 2015

Don’t miss this opportunity to catch up with your classmates and reminisce. Please RSVP to the school by Monday 10 August 2015 with full payment. Drinks costs will be your responsibility on the night. If you are interested in attending the reunion and require further details please contact Mrs. Sue Learey, Community Development Officer on 8265 2077 or sue.learey@tvcs.sa.edu.au
No Icing on the Cake!

When I started teaching at Torrens Valley Christian School at the beginning of 1986, I found I was required to read a classic book on Christian Education called ‘No Icing on the Cake’. As I looked around at the most basic of buildings and resources that then made up the school, I thought that title fitted perfectly the situation in which I found myself.

I had no real place to work for the first few weeks as the main building (which now houses the Home Economics Centre and Senior school classrooms) was running behind in its building schedule, and so until the new office was completed, I worked in the existing office which also housed a very basic library. As there was no room in which to teach, I typed letters for the Principal and made myself useful in whatever ways I could, until I could finally share the library space, working with small groups of students each morning. “Yes,’ I thought to myself, “there is certainly no icing on this cake. This is the very basic cake mix with no added extras here!’

Of course, I did go on to find that the meaning of that book title was about something far more profound than a serious lack of space, money and resources. It was about the truth that Christian education is about the whole essence of the cake, with all the ingredients and flavours inspired by and based on our belief in Christ and His work for us and in us. The Christian flavour is not just the added extra or afterthought, as icing can be on a cake.

Our first staff conference was held on a houseboat! We spent several days on the River Murray, and had the most wonderful time. Imagine fitting all of our current staff into one houseboat. I’m sure our Principal, Peter van der Schoor, led us in some discussions on the nature of our calling as Christian teachers, as we also shared great times of fun, fellowship and prayer. Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Stuart, Mrs Kutchen and Mr Schumann were all on the staff then as well.

As the years progressed I worked in some very strange corners of the school. One building was called ‘The Train’ and another was christened ‘The Castle’ – in my honour, of course, but I can assure you there was nothing palatial about it! The whole time I worked in there I had bruises from where I kept banging into the furniture as I tried to move between the table and the filing cabinet. Another sign of progress is that now we have some excellent programs and resources that actually enable students to grow in skills and confidence, and we are able to measure their progress as their reading improves. It is a real blessing to see that the programs we have initiated have made a real difference to children’s ability to succeed.

When I first came to TVCS, my youngest child was at Kindergarten, and now I have four of my grandchildren attending this school. It is good to think that when I leave at the end of this year, there will still be some of the Castle family here after I have gone.

Lyn Castle
In The Bard’s immortal words, “Parting is such sweet sorrow…”

(I had to get a reference to my beloved Shakespeare in somewhere!)

As I have resigned from TVCS and conclude my many years of service in December, I have been asked to write something for the Old Scholars’ Newsletter. As writing has always been reasonably enjoyable and effortless, I imagined this task would be the same. However, that has not been the case! It has been very difficult to articulate and encapsulate my thoughts in some coherent manner, as many wonderful memories and faces tumble through my mind.

In all those years of experiences and memories I hold of my students, I hope that most of you will remember me kindly, and that I may have, in a small way, helped some of you in achieving your career and educational goals. However, what I would most like you to remember of me is not the many nagging lessons regarding the folly of writing “waffle” or the hazards you faced in writing a lot as one word, but our explorations, through the magical world of fiction, poetry and film, of the human condition. The narratives and characters which explored and exposed, enthralled, uplifted, fascinated, inspired, encouraged and also repelled and repulsed our senses, are the purveyors of all the strengths and weaknesses of the human condition - that which “binds us together” in shared life experiences. The steadfast moral fibre of Atticus Finch, the fatal flaw of the tragic Macbeth, interwoven with the unforgettable humour of Guido, and his insistence that “life is beautiful” even in the most horrific circumstances, are some examples of engaging with human experiences through our shared class texts. The study and exploration of these texts in our classes touched, I know, many of your hearts and this is what I would like you to remember if you think of me - the lessons spent which delved into these memorable characters and their life-changing experiences and all that you learned and experienced about “the lives of others.” As I always said, “the more we learn about others, the more we learn about ourselves and the better person we become because of that understanding.” These are the teachings and memories I hope I gave to you - any competent teacher can instruct on the rules of grammar and how to construct a relevant essay - what I hope you learned is the importance of those values of the human spirit, which are, of course, part of our basic Christian truths, which we know we all seek to live by anyway.

Some of you will be aware that I have never been one for pomp and ceremony, nor do I seek to be “the centre of attention,” so I have humbly declined any participation in farewells at TVCS. I do, however, include my personal email address with this and encourage you to keep in touch. I pray that each and every one of you has found happiness and fulfilment in life and that you are holding God’s hand tightly as you continue your life’s journey, with Him by your side.

Finally, I wish to thank you, for many years of wonderful memories - you are “what it’s all about” - many of you have still included me in your lives since you left my classroom (not too soon for some, I do realise!!) What a great privilege it has been to see many of you call in to the Library to say “hello” and to share with you in the joy of engagements, weddings and babies, and sadly, in an occasional time of grief.

My daughter recently asked me what I will miss most about TVCS, and my (emotional) response was “my dear, dear students from many years.” “Then said a teacher “Speak to us of teaching” and he said...

If he is indeed wise, he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.”

(Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet)

With much love,
Vaya con Dios,
Enid Grace (AKA Gracie)
enidgrace@bigpond.com
Staff News

Elizabeth Stuart

This is one of the most difficult decisions I have made but I’m writing to inform you of my intention to resign at the end of this year, 2014. Torrens Valley Christian School has been a major part of my life since my interview 30 years ago with Peter Vander Schoor, who supported and inspired my early teaching career and who remains to this day a very special and dear friend.

Throughout my journey at Torrens Valley I have worked with many wonderful, unique and special colleagues and have been blessed with many special and treasured friendships. One very special person and a mentor to me, was Bob Stunell. I recall the time working with Bob with many happy memories and fun working experiences. It was however, one of the most challenging times for the fledgling school community. During this period, we as a small staff group witnessed the growing sickness and death of our colleague, Vere Fulwood. Vere was an extremely talented teacher, a wonderful father (with two children at the school) and a perfect gentleman. During this time we also shared in the grief and suffering that followed when two of our beloved students died, Katherine Poulton and Joel Castledine. These experiences although very painful and difficult to bear strengthened our small staff group as a consequence of shared faith and the love that we were able to support and comfort one another with. These times I recall as one with many close and precious relationships.

We had many more adventures and fun times with the enthusiastic and caring Andrew Mackenzie. It was a lovely surprise to welcome Nigel Bennett to the school in 2004. I had worked closely with Nigel almost 20 years previously in the area of science and enjoyed teaching science together with him at Torrens Valley. There were always camps, musicals, fairs, and as the years passed by, improved resources and facilities. From a few log cabins in 1984 to today’s wonderful campus with state of the art facilities, especially the science labs and art studios, we have accomplished much and have been blessed in all abundance.

The most important and special thing for me has been the teaching and nurturing of the many thousands of individual and unique children. I truly believe this to have been my calling and I have loved teaching and am continually being blessed by bumping into old scholars everywhere I go.

On a personal note, the last two years has been difficult for my family and I. Two of my children have been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and this provides a variety of daily challenges (and parental worries) in relation to ensuring their continued health and well-being. My father has also been seriously ill for the major portion of this year and in between admissions to the intensive care, coronary care and the spinal unit has required my parents to live with us for much of this year so that we can provide the practical care and support needed during this difficult time. As you are aware a few weeks ago I had a severe anaphylactic reaction at school. Peter and I would like to again thank the office staff for their professional and immediate response. It was a difficult and frightening time for all involved. I would like to personally thank Julie, for your ongoing support and loving kindness throughout this time. Thank you for the phone calls, visits, wisdom and prayers. Your calling to TVCS has truly been a blessing to my family and I. You are a wonderful and very special lady.

I have decided to resign to allow me more time to support and care for all of my family. I look forward to continuing to be a special part of the Torrens Valley Christian School Community as Lucy is in year 8 and Matthew is in year 11. I also look forward to continuing to be part of the school community with relief teaching.

Thanks and I pray that the school will continue its journey with its Christ centred vision and focus to teach, nurture and bless many more young people and impact their lives and the wider community and in everything look to our loving God and acknowledge Him.

God’s richest blessings, Much love Liz
Elizabeth Stuart
Snap Shot News

Judy Clayton (Office Coordinator), accepts a very special enrolment application. Judy Clayton’s grandson, Cameron Clayton dropped off his application to Grandma for Reception 2018. Judy’s looking forward to having another of her boys here at Torrens Valley Christian School.

Births & Marriages

Births

Michael and Ashleigh Kasjan (nee Tielen-Fry, Class of 2008) celebrated the arrival of their little boy Sonny Kasjan on 25 November 2014. Born 5 weeks early, he was a healthy 7lb 11ozs and simply perfect with dark hair and rosebud lips.

Marriages

Danielle McAllister (Class of 2010) married Josh Horne on Saturday 13 April 2014. Sisters Catherine (Class of 2014) and Bethany (Class of 2008) and Sarah Zuccolo (Class of 2010) were in the bridal party. Lisa Ballard, Emma Jonnek, Hannah Hewitson and Rebecca Learey, from the Class of 2010, were there to celebrate the occasion.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Website:
On our website the dedicated Past Scholars section will enable you to update any changes to your contact details so we can keep in contact with you.
Give permission for your name to appear with your ‘Class of’, so you can see who we still have contact with.

Email:
Email us if there are any questions about reunions. There is a dedicated email address for Past Scholars to use: oldscholars@tvcs.sa.edu.au
We invite Past Scholars who are interested to create a group to organize social events and even help plan the official reunions so that they will be events that you will enjoy.
We encourage you to make contributions to TVCS PS, which we will be emailing out to all Past Scholars. Contributions can be about your successes, career choices, employment, engagements, marriages, and children.

Telephone:
For direct contact and further details, phone Mrs Sue Learey, Community Development Officer on 8265 2077.