



**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
ST EDWARD'S CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE
EAST GOSFORD
FOR THE
2005 SCHOOL YEAR**



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PREAMBLE

St Edward's Christian Brothers' College is registered and accredited by the Board of Studies (NSW) and is part of a the system of Edmund Rice Schools managed under the auspices of the Trustees of the Christian Brothe

St. Edward's College



Gosford

ABN 75 045 585 228

13 Frederick Street

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College Board

The Board, receiving its mandate from the Trustees of the Christian Brothers, is responsible for advising and assisting the Principal in maintaining the Catholic nature of the College. Presently the board consists of the Principal, a member of the Province Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers, several members of the school and wider community, and other co-opted members.

Parents and Friends Association

The College supports and promotes the membership and activities of an enthusiastic and pro-active Parents and Friends Association. The College Executive considers the existence and operation of this body an integral component of open communication and parental interaction which is encouraged in the provision of education services at St. Edward's College.

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

As part of the Christian Brothers' Independent Schools' system, St. Edward's embraces the deepest Catholic principles and Christian values. These principles have their foundation in the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ as presented by the Catholic Church. The College also takes direction from the spirit and charism of the Founder of the Christian Brothers - Blessed Edmund Rice.

Opportunities for students to deepen their faith and the practice of it are provided by regular classroom religious instruction along with formal and informal Liturgical celebrations. These celebrations are provided by the teachers of the College and the Parish Priests of the Central Coast.

On a regular basis throughout the year, the celebration of the Eucharist - the central action of our Catholic Faith - is provided for the whole school community. Reflection Days and Retreats are provided for all students culminating in two three day retreats in each of Years 11 and 12. The retreat in Year 11 has a social justice orientation and involves visiting a number of sites in inner Sydney; the Year 12 retreat is more reflective in nature allowing each boy time to engage in personal reflection about his life while at the College and how it might evolve in the future.

Edmund Rice showed an option for the poor of his day and it is hoped that the students of St Edward's College will take on this spirit and express it through involvement in the comprehensive Social Justice Program conducted by the College. The program aims to develop the Christian awareness of the students and to positively help those in need on the Central Coast, the wider Australian community, and the world at large. Each student must complete the "Waterford Project" which aims to expose students to a number of charitable organisations on an individual and collective basis. This outreach includes mentoring, collections for charitable groups, support for community institutions and other activities. Some students choose to be involved in the Edmund Rice Outreach Program where they contribute in a practical way to promote Social Justice by supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society, Matthew Talbot Hostel, Vincentian Village, Donnison St Outreach, and others. The College, through this programme, continues the work of the Founder, Edmund Rice, to help the 'marginalised' in our society



CURRICULUM

St. Edward's College recognises the need for a broad curriculum to cater for individual student requirements. All students study similar courses in Years 7 to 10 in a mixed ability class setting.

In *Years 7 & 8* students study:

Religious Studies	English	Mathematics	Science	History & Geography
Technology	PD/H/PE	Visual Arts	Music	French

In *Years 9 & 10* students choose a subject combination that satisfies the requirements for the award of the School Certificate. Some courses are studied by all students:

Religious Studies | Science | English | Mathematics | PD/H/PE | Australian History & Geography

Students also choose two courses from a range of elective courses. In recent years students have been able to choose from:

Commerce	Food Technology	Design and Technology	Music	Industrial Tech/Timber	Drama
French	Visual Arts	Industrial Tech/Metal	Graphics	Physical Activity and Sports Science	

Courses in *Years 11 & 12* vary from one year to the next and are determined by student interest.

Learning Area	Examples of Courses Offered
Religion	Studies in Religion
English	Advanced, Standard, Extension 1 and Extension 2
Mathematics	Extension Mathematics, Mathematics and General Mathematics
Science	Physics, Chemistry, Senior Science and Biology
Human Society and It's Environment	Ancient & Modern History, Geography, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Extension History
The Arts	Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Photography
PD/H/PE	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.
Language	French
Technology	Information Processes and Technology, Industrial Technology, Design and Technology, Software Design, Food Technology and Engineering Studies.
Vocational Education	Retail, Furnishing, Construction, Hospitality, Information Technology and Entertainment

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The Haven Education Centre



The school provides a comprehensive exam support service. Each year the school organises for a number of students to make application for Special Provisions so they may have access to exam support in both the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate. When students qualify, they may have a reader, a writer or perhaps extra time to complete exams and assessments.

Religious Education

Religious Education provides for a study of religion in our contemporary culture. This study of religions and religious issues pr



Outdoor Education

St Edward's College runs an Outdoor Education program through camps, which are held in Years 7 to 10. The aim of this program is to develop students' skills in a variety of recreational activities, to foster personal character and to develop positive relationships between students and teachers. The program provides a sequential course for the four years, developing skills of a higher order each year. All activities are supervised by accredited staff of 'Outdoor Education Australia', as well as a member of staff from the College. Some of the activities conducted on these camps include archery, canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, abseiling, rock climbing, mountain biking, initiative challenges and fencing.

COLLEGE PERFORMANCE IN ELLA, SNAP, SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMS

ELLA



SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

The results in the School Certificate Exams for 2005 were above average for English, Mathematics and Science but below average for History and Geography.

- In all courses but History, the number of boys in bands 1 and 2 (i.e. those with marks less than 60%) was small – it was less than the state average as has been the case for many years now.
- In English, Mathematics and Science the percentage of boys with marks in bands 5 and 6, i.e. boys gaining marks over 80%, was similar to the state average. English and Science showed an improvement in this area in 2005 when compared to earlier years. In these three courses the percentage of boys in bands 4 to 6 (i.e. marks over 70%) continued to be above state average in 2005.
- While the results for History were below average in 2005, these results improved significantly from those in 2003 and 2004. Unfortunately the Geography results did not show the same improvement.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

The Year 12 cohort of 2005 continued the improving trend of previous years' HSC results. The College presented boys for 32 courses with the following trends evident.

- Results in 9 courses were between 3 and 14 marks above the state average.
- Results in a further 17 courses were either just above or on the state average.
- Most boys achieved marks in the 70 to 95 range for all their courses.
- In 3 courses, all students scored marks over 80.
- In a further 10 courses, 50% of the boys finished with marks over 80.
- St Edward's rated fifteen mentions achieved by fourteen students in the HSC Honour Roll (for students who gained marks of 90 or more in a course).
- St Edward's is committed to supporting boys across a range of academic abilities. Therefore it was pleasing to note the continued improvement in the Standard English and General Mathematics Courses and the maintenance of satisfying results for the boys undertaking Extension English, Extension Mathematics and Extension History Courses.
- Other areas of strength were the results in the Technology area, Visual Arts, PD/H/PE, Studies of Religion, the Vocational Educational Courses and History courses.
- A minority of students who would have expected not to complete their HSC or to perform poorly did, in fact, perform quite solidly creating opportunities to continue further study.



TEACHER STANDARDS

In 2005 the College had 74 teaching staff, 14 of who were part time, which was equivalent to a total of 68.2 'full time' teaching staff. In addition the College employed a total of 34 non-teaching staff (a total of 26.2 in 'full time equivalent' terms). The Haven Education Centre employed four teaching staff (3.3 in 'full time equivalent' terms). As is evident from the table below, all of the teaching staff have their teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia and have attained the necessary standard of competence as determined by the Minister of Education.

1	Number of teachers who have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia	74
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ENROLMENT POLICY AND STUDENT PROFILE

The College's enrolment policy can be obtained from the College office, is available on the College website – www.stedwards.nsw.edu.au – and is distributed to the parents of prospective students with an enrolment package.

Places are available at St. Edward's for young men, who together with their families, wish to develop their relationship with God and the Catholic Church community and live accordingly. It is expected that students strive to develop their talents and realise their potential by accepting the challenges offered by the College. Academic criteria are not used to exclude Catholic students from the College.

The College Enrolment Committee offers places to families according to five categories giving priority to the sons of Catholic families who, by their actions, have shown a commitment to the Catholic community over a number of years. Under certain circumstances the brothers of boys who are already at the College and the sons of ex-students of the College are also given priority.

Prior to returning to Year 11 and 12 students sign an agreement where they indicate their willingness to accept responsibility for their learning, to attend school and classes, to maintain an acceptable level of behaviour and personal appearance, to continue their involvement in curricular and extra-curricular activities, and to participate fully in the Religious Education program of the College. A prerequisite for returning to Year 11 is appropriate behaviour in Year 10; students whose return to Year 11 may be in jeopardy on behaviour grounds are given notice early in Year 10 so they have time to amend their inappropriate behaviour.

In July of 2005 there were 947 boys enrolled at St Edward's College, including a group of 15 boys at The Haven Education Centre. There were 324 classes from Years 7 to 12. 2% of the total student enrolment included 'students with disabilities'.

Year	7	8	9	10	11	12
St Edward's Campus	168	168	162	188	138	108
The Haven Education Centre	0	15	0	0	0	0
Total	168	183	162	188	138	108



STUDENT WELFARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

The College student welfare and discipline policies are distributed on enrolment, can be obtained from the College office on request and are available on the College website under the heading 'Pastoral Care' – the direct link is www.stedwards.nsw.edu.au/pastoral.html

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- Development of a strategic plan for the College for the years 2007 to 2011
- Consolidation of the risk assessment procedure used for excursions and other co-curricular activities
- Investigation of recent research on teaching approaches that enhance student learning
- Investigation of ways of grouping students to enhance their academic performance, including approaches to extend talented students
- Review of the approach taken to performance review at the College
- Continuing the skilling of staff in computer and related technologies with a view to further incorporation of technology into the classroom experience of the boys

MAJOR AREAS OF EXPENDITURE ON PLANT AND RESOURCES

During 2005 the College completed a building program that involved the following.

- Two classrooms and three offices were converted to an area containing the College Reception and Sick Bay, Principal's Office, and ten Pastoral Care Offices.
- Three new classrooms were constructed to replace the two that were lost as part of this building program, with the additional classroom converted to a computer laboratory containing 32 computers.
- Access to the classrooms in the central quadrangle was improved through the provision of additional stairs. A lift was also installed to assist students with disabilities in their movement around the College – the Commonwealth Government contributed \$60 000 towards this (approximately a quarter of the cost) via a grant administered through the NSW Catholic Education Commission.
- Other areas were also refurbished or upgraded, e.g. separate resource rooms were provided for English, HSIE and Religion, the grease trap for the Food Technology area was upgraded and the fire detection system was changed to enable the Fire Brigade to locate the area of the College where there may be a fire or other hazard.
- This area of the College was keyed using a new system that will be gradually moved through the whole College – this system will improve the overall security of the College and reduce the number of keys needed by staff members.

Towards the end of the year the Technological and Applied Studies workshops were refurbished.

- Dust extraction units were upgraded.
- Four of the rooms were divided with floor to ceiling walls to reduce the noise travelling from one room to another.
- The switching on all machines was replaced to conform to OH&S regulations.
- The driveway to the car park was widened to become two-way.

As part of the ongoing Information Technology maintenance strategy the following was achieved in 2005.

- 85 desktop computers were replaced.
- 6 computer notebooks were purchased and provided to year 7 core teachers.
- Two computer laboratories were refurbished and enhanced with the installation of a further 10 desktop computers in each, bring the total number to 32 in each Laboratory.



- 4 computer laboratories and eight classrooms were upgraded to include audio visual equipment (e.g. data projectors) to enable teachers and students to more effectively use technology in learning.
- One network server was purchased to host *Clickview* digital library. *Clickview* allows teachers and students access to over 900 digital videos across a number of subject areas via computer desktops, data projectors or computer notebooks.
- A number of subject departments purchased equipment such as televisions, video projectors, cameras and Technological and Applied Studies equipment.

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