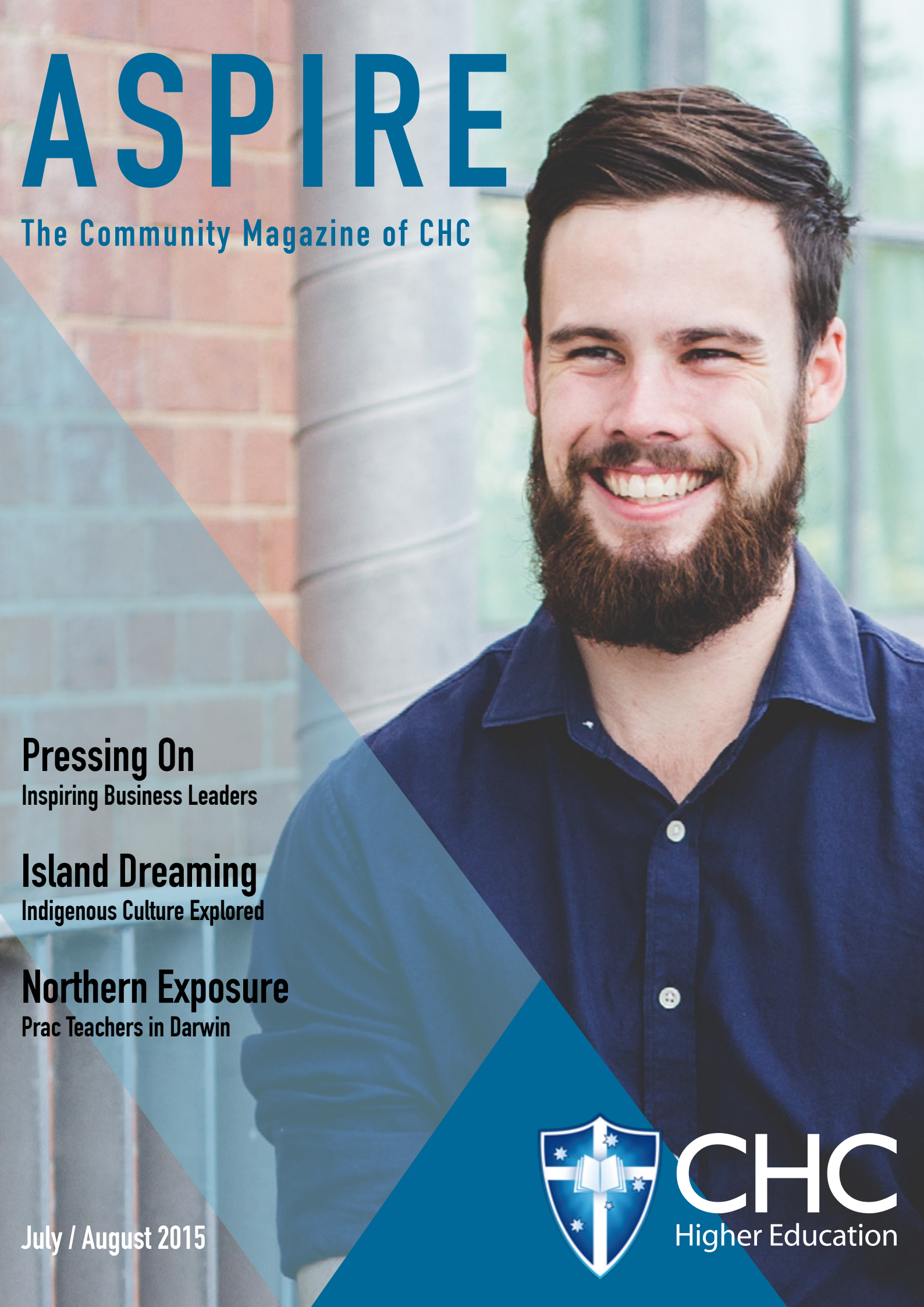
ASPIRE

The Community Magazine of CHC



Pressing On
Inspiring Business Leaders

Island Dreaming
Indigenous Culture Explored

Northern Exposure
Prac Teachers in Darwin

July / August 2015

CHC
Higher Education

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FIRST THINGS

CHC PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR DARREN ISELIN

The current debates regarding higher education are underpinned by powerful assumptions. Assumptions about success, intelligence, utility, quality, employability, graduate outcomes, education and learning fundamentally drive current policy and decision making processes. A vision for Christian higher education is also cultivated by assumptions and it is through the re-imagining, re-defining and re-iterating of these assumptions that a truly Christian model of higher education can find expression and flourish.

Such a re-imagining inevitably challenges popular assumptions. In a world where measures of success are placed on sterile distribution curves and efficiency models of output and percentile ranks, the making of persons - good, wise, truthful, sincere persons - is a truly radical assumption for higher education in this reductionist age. The roots of a university education were originally framed around the assumption of making good people… shaped with civility and goodness and honour and beauty - about the cultivating of the mind AND the shaping of the heart.

In short, an educated person was equipped for every good work - in whatever sphere such work found expression as vocational calling. Sadly, many universities now only clamour for viability and utilitarian ends in this production line age.

Wendell Berry responded to such a deficit model of higher education by highlighting the contrasting assumptions that shape old and new models within the academy. He contended: Avoid thinking of yourselves as employable minds equipped with a few digits useful for pushing buttons. You will have to recover for yourselves the old understanding that you are whole beings inextricably and mysteriously compounded of minds and bodies, hearts and souls, spirit and flesh.

The logic of what our society means by "success" supposedly leads you ever upward to any higher-paying job that can be done sitting down. In contrast, the logic of vocation (calling) holds that there is an indispensable justice, to yourself and to others, in doing well the work that you are "called" or prepared by your talents to do.

We talk a lot about call at CHC. Why? Because higher education is not merely about a job or a skill set or a training program – rather, quality higher education is based upon assumptions relating to developing people who are equipped for a unique and specific calling. Please enjoy reading this edition of Aspire and the stories of people making that are contained within these pages.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

DR RYAN ANDERSON
DR RYAN MESSMORE

The Millis Institute has launched a new initiative to help Year 11 and 12 students contribute to public conversations in a thoughtful, coherent and winsome way. It's called Socrates in Senior School and is named after the philosopher famous for asking tough questions. On Friday 21 August, the Institute held its inaugural forum at Citipointe Church (Carindale) entitled, "Marriage: What Questions Should We Ask?" The two-hour forum featured Dr Ryan Anderson from The Heritage Foundation in the US and Dr Ryan Messmore, Executive Director of the Millis Institute. Dr Anderson argued that the most important question to ask concerning marriage is "What is it?" He provided a philosophically robust vision of marriage as a union binding a man and woman together to care for any children their love brings about. Dr Messmore discussed how this definition fits within a larger Christian worldview. Over 200 people attended this inaugural event. Stay tuned for others like it in the future!

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OPEN NIGHT
7 OCT 5:30 - 7PM
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WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Citipointe Ministry College, CHC's School of Ministries, is pleased to announce that Ps George Salloum is joining the teaching team. George is a powerful communicator and minister. Here is how he was introduced recently before he spoke in a church:

Hailing from an Arab family, with 127 first cousins, George regularly overindulges on kebabs, hommus and tabouli. English may be his second language but you won't be left wondering what he said.

He is passionate, energetic and will get you laughing as he equips people with Biblical and spiritual truths. George lives his life loud, is zealous for the House of God and fanatical about the Word and its explosive power. Prepare to be blown away.

George was born and bred in Sydney, but now resides in Brisbane. He is husband to a Wonder Woman, Heather, and father to the Furious Five (Michael, Trinity, Aiman, Indiah and London-Rose).

As an Associate Pastor at Citipointe Church, George oversees the Citipointe International Locations in Bulgaria and Northern Colorado, USA. He regularly preaches across all the campuses and trains the upcoming Platform Team. He directly oversees the multiple services at the main campus in Brisbane and the services in general across all Citipointe locations. Along with other roles, George works closely with Ps. Mark Ramsey (Senior Pastor) on new church initiatives and projects.

Previous to this role, George and Heather launched and pastored the Young Adults department at Citipointe for nearly ten years, where it grew to one of the largest young adults gatherings in Australia.

RISE OF THE MEGACHURCH

Dr Sam Hey from the School of Ministries has recently returned from presenting a paper at the British Sociological Association (BSA) in London, UK.

His paper, "Social Change and the Australian Megachurch," was well-received by the members of the Sociology of Religion Study Group, which has become one of the largest in the BSA. Professor Linda Woodhead, who has been described by the head of the Royal Society of Arts, Matthew Taylor, as "one of the world's leading experts on religion", was particularly encouraging. She is director of the £12m Religion and Society research program.

Earlier this year Dr Hey received a bursary scholarship from the BSA to attend their 40th annual Sociology of Religion (Socrel) Conference. The conference focused on new developments in the study of religion and society. Dr Hey was invited to present a paper on a topic that he researched in his PhD regarding megachurches in Australia. He is recognized as a leader in the understanding of Australian megachurches. Dr Hey has spoken many times about the history and sociology of contemporary Christianity, and on the megachurch phenomenon at universities and conferences around Australia, and on national radio and television.

The conference was held at the High Leigh Conference Centre at Hoddesdon, north of London. It is a former manor house of the London banker, Robert Barclay, that he gave to be used to promote evangelical Christianity and missions. It was established as a place where Christians might "take counsel together about the affairs of the kingdom of God, and be a centre for Christian light and love." Barclays Bank also continues in this tradition with the aim to give 1% of profits to charity and Christian work.

While overseas, Dr Hey also had the opportunity to visit churches that his grandparents and great grandparents physically built in London. He was also able to visit some of the world's largest churches and oldest universities in Europe.

Dr Hey is a representative from the School of Ministries on the CHC Research Committee. He is Senior Lecturer in Citipointe Ministry College, Chairman of the Brisbane branch of the Australian New Zealand Association of Theological Schools (ANZATS) and is a director of ANZATS Australia. Dr Hey is also an active participant in the Australian Sociological Association.

MISSIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE
SHARING THE SECRETS OF BUSINESS SUCCESS

The School of Business hosted the fifth annual Missional Business Conference – Pressing On – on Tuesday 11 August. Under the direction of CHC's Dean of Business, Dr Rod St Hill, and his team, this year's event provided exceptional quality in the calibre of the speakers and the extent of real world experiences afforded to the delegates.

"Missional Business" is a term adopted by the CHC School of Business to embrace all the ways the gospel of Jesus can be taken to the marketplace and beyond. The theme for this year's conference was predicated on the apostle Paul's exhortation to "…press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Phil 3:12). Each of the guest speakers presented an inspiring testimony of the grace of God as they have followed their unequivocal call to business and the marketplace.

This year's panel included engineer and former politician Michael Choi, who held the State seat of Capalaba for 12 years.

Another guest was Graham Leishman whose varied businesses in transport, student and retirement accommodation, and property development employ 5000 staff globally and move over 220 million people a year.

There was an added international flavour this year via a video interview with Jeff Matt in Minnesota, USA. Jeff owns Victory Auto & Glass and now has six shops in various cities and states. Jeff's daughter, Lauren, came to CHC as part of the Australia Studies Centre program.

Probably the most travelled and experienced member of the guest panel was John Gagliardi, a CHC Fellow. John spoke of some of the highs and lows he has experienced in the business world, including having a $400m company one day, to virtually nothing almost overnight, and now embarking on a new career with the Haggai Institute at the age of 72.

The audience was also inspired by Rebekah Strachan, a CHC business graduate who has recently started her own personal training and nutrition business, New Me Health and Fitness. Her other venture, Raw Training, has been accepted by a large gym chain and now has potential to expand nationally in a very short time.

As always, there were exciting testimonies of attendees affirming their call to ministry in business and the marketplace, with many receiving fresh vision for what God wants to do through them.

CHC PARTNER SCHOOLS

Assisting schools with the enhancement of their vision, mission and ethos is part of the School of Education and Humanities' (SEH) heartbeat at Christian Heritage College. In 2015, two major professional development programs have been implemented with Heights College, Rockhampton and Trinity Christian School in Canberra. The sessions were conducted by Dr Robert Herschell, Senior Lecturer and former Dean of the School of Education and Humanities.

The Heights College/CHC partnership began in the early 1990s after the staff learned about the new CHC Bachelor of Education course that was being promoted.

According to Heights College Head of Primary and Professional Development Coordinator, Mr Ian Head (CHC '94), the fledgling school was determined to become truly Christian and viewed the course as a means to educating staff in how to teach "Christianly" within a Christian worldview framework.

"A number of staff enrolled in the Bachelor of Education course while others completed the four foundational units that made up the Graduate Diploma of Christian Education," said Mr Head.

Since those early years, Heights College has streamlined this process so that all staff now have PD in each of the four foundational units on a rotational basis over a four-year period. SEH lecturers visit for three sessions each year, laying foundations for new staff members and challenging all the staff as they continue the process of becoming the teachers God wants them to be.

The Headmaster of Heights College, Mr Darren Lawson, is a strong supporter of the program.

"Partnering with CHC over the last 25 years has allowed Heights College to access a range of PD opportunities which have undoubtedly strengthened the Christian teaching foundations of the College and helped to create and enrich the Christian culture which is so evident in the school today," said Mr Lawson.

A new venture was launched in 2015 at Trinity Christian School (TCS), a P-12 co-educational school in the ACT, with the design and implementation of eight Professional Learning sessions each of 1.5 hours that were approved by the ACT's Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) for professional learning credits for participants.

Dr Herschell's mix of biblical and research-based evidence provided an inspiring and practical experience for the teachers, according to Naomi Cole, the Director of Studies at TCS.

"Dr Rob Herschell came to Trinity Christian School (TCS) for two days of Professional Learning, six months apart, for our whole staff. The topic was The Heart of Christian teaching: more than a patchwork quilt," said Ms Cole.

"The staff enjoyed hearing Rob's obvious passion and of his extensive knowledge and experience in teaching the whole curriculum from a Christian perspective. His style of delivery was engaging as he used a mix of lectures, group work and technology to inspire us."

"Above all he was practical, as at the end of the second day we were challenged to each design an action plan of how we were to implement what we had learnt into our teaching programs."

The School of Education and Humanities is currently redeveloping and enhancing its professional development partnerships with schools, particularly Christian Schools. The emphasis is on workplace learning integrating with postgraduate degree requirements.

For further information or to arrange professional development for your school, call the CHC School of Education and Humanities on (07) 3347 7900.

WITHERSPOON FELLOWSHIP

In June, the Millis Institute hosted a two-day gathering of emerging leaders on the CHC campus. The Witherspoon Fellowship provided these 60 senior school students with a grounding in the liberal arts that prepares them to engage the pressing issues of our day.

Coming from 12 different schools in Brisbane and Toowoomba, the delegates engaged in several seminars examining great texts of history, literature, philosophy and theology. They also heard from established leaders in various career fields about facing and overcoming challenges in their respective disciplines.

Participants also honed their skills in liberal arts subjects such as rhetoric and logic through a public speaking competition and formal debates. Having read together, in Shakespeare's *Henry V*, the famous St Crispin's Day speech—as well as Henry's attempt to woo the daughter of the French King he defeated—delegates chose to deliver one of the following presentations: 1) a locker-room talk to a hypothetical sports team about to enter the grand finals, or 2) a persuasive attempt to woo the (real) daughter of the CHC President! The results were as impressive as they were hilarious.

Finally, an event pursuing "leadership through the liberal arts" would not be complete without an Oxford-style formal dinner and that unique combination of gymnastics and music known as ballroom dancing. Who knew pursuing the good, true and beautiful could be this much fun?

To register your interest in future events, contact enquiries@chc.edu.au

TEACHING IN THE TOP END

Two CHC School of Education students, Amelia Wooderson and Sara Hurnen (pictured), undertook their Professional Experience Program (PEP) in Darwin (Northern Territory) in Semester 1 2015.

Amelia:
"I had the amazing experience of being one of the first students to go on PEP in the Northern Territory. A fellow student and I received placement at Palmerston Christian School, a small K-10 school just outside Darwin. The experience itself was incredible. I received a very supportive and accommodating mentor who went out of her way to ensure all my needs were taken care of. As part of the program I was able to participate in a Grade Six history camp that explored Darwin and its significant World War II and Cyclone Tracy sites. The school went above and beyond its requirements for me as a practicum teacher. They settled me with a wonderful family, the Principal took me on a tour of Darwin and I was even provided with a car.

I was certainly not expecting these gifts and felt truly blessed to be part of such a Christ-centred and supportive community.

Of course, for the Northern Territory Christian Schools this adventure was part of an initiative to try and attract Christian teachers to the North. The Spirit is alive and well in the Top End but there is a shortage of educators with faith. My experience has left me wondering if teaching in Darwin is something I would like to do some day, and I would encourage everyone with the means and passion to consider putting 'Darwin' as your first preference for your next PEP. Darwin shows a whole different side of Australia and I am so pleased to have experienced its schooling system, culture and community."

Sara:
"I had the privilege to teach Transition (Prep) at Palmerston Christian School in Darwin, Northern Territory. This whole endeavour was truly an experience I will never forget. The most important message I received from the people of Palmerston was the concept of community. No matter who you are and what you are doing, there is always room for advice from someone else. Students and teachers together taught one another and learned from different experiences. Never have I felt more at home in such a tight knit community.

This experience showed me that no matter our upbringing everyone has a place in the world. If ever you need to understand the impact of community take a prac in Darwin and see how this influences your students. The Transition Year was a blessing to teach and I felt as though I was able to learn so much more from my students than I could ever teach them.

From this experience alone I have become stronger as a person, ready to accept and help others feel part of a community and enable those I am around to flourish into the person they are truly meant to be. This school forever has my thanks for teaching me important life skills such as this.

If you can ever visit, I truly suggest you do!"

PUBLICATION BOOST

Wendy Collins, a Chartered Accountant and Course Coordinator in the School of Business, has recently discovered a love of writing and has had approximately 20 articles published in professional journals in the last three years.

Wendy is now a regular contributor to Australian Educational Leader, Education Today and ACEL's e-leading series. Wendy writes about a variety of practical leadership and management issues affecting school principals and heads of departments. Some of her topics have included, "The Power of Words", "Bring in the Organisational Pest Controllers", "Public Speaking Know How", "How to Love Critics" and "Mental Health – it IS your business". Following her recent publication "Accounting is not a dirty word", she was approached by the editor of Education Today to pen a series about budgeting issues for school leaders and finance managers. Her article, "Budget Basics for Bosses", was well received and the follow up article, "School budget black holes", will feature in the Term 3, 2015 edition.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Karenne Hills from the School of Social Sciences recently presented a paper at the Summer Institute for Theology and Disability 2015 conference which was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Her paper, "Spirituality and People with a Disability in the Context of Human Sexuality" was extremely well received. As this is one of the few conferences internationally which deal with the topic of disability and spirituality, Karenne had the incredible opportunity to network with many of the experts in the field including John Swinton, Bill Gaventa and Hans Reinders.

Following the conference Karenne was also able to spend a few hours with Joni Eareckson Tada (pictured), who authored the book *Joni: An unforgettable story* which has become a classic in disability literature.

Through her networking with the Summer Institute for Theology and Disability, Karenne was invited to join the steering committee for an inaugural Disability Theology Conference in Melbourne in 2016.

This conference, the first of its type in Australia, is titled "Exclusion and Embrace: Disability, Justice and Spirituality" and will be held from August 21-23 in Melbourne.

This year's Uni Games was a battle of the seven seas with teams competing in crazy "Under the Sea" themed games. Our teams dressed up in all kinds of crazy costumes with characters such as pirates, sailors and sea animals making appearances. Fearsome war cries presented by each of the teams opened the events of the day and then the fight for the ultimate victory began.

Challenges included capturing golden tridents, battling it out in a sea of slime, and racing down a giant 12m water slide which was completely covered in mountains of bubbles.

The competition was fierce but in the end only one team could reign victorious and this year it was Team Justice League who took home the prize, 10kg of Dairy Milk Chocolate and bragging rights for the remainder of the year. Well done to every student who competed and made the day so much fun.

UNI GAMES

OPEN DAY

CHC was awash with colour on 22 August as the campus welcomed guests to the 2015 Open Day. As the staff laid out the proverbial welcome mat to prospective students and their families, the current students battled in the annual Uni Games.

With plenty of food and drinks available, the festive atmosphere was further enhanced by the live music provided by Just Jazz, the Citipointe Christian College senior jazz ensemble.

Visitors spoke with CHC staff about their course options in business, social sciences, education and ministry, toured the campus and enjoyed the entertainment.

For the first time, staff were able to showcase the Millis Institute and its focus on liberal arts. As always, to the delight of the staff, the Red Frogs team were on hand to provide pancakes, lollies and slushies to the guests and Uni Games contestants.

"Boss Frog" and Red Frogs Founder, Andy Gourley, was distributing free donuts (which proved understandably popular) and shared the story of the beginnings of Red Frogs and its connection to CHC in an interview.

Visiting staff from QTAC and the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training were able to assist students with questions about HELP programs (fee deferral) and application processes.

Everybody keenly awaited the results of the Uni Games, which were eventually claimed by "Justice League", who enjoyed the 10kg block of chocolate prize.

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS

A new subject in the CHC curriculum is bringing new perspectives for Australian and visiting American students. Australian Indigenous Worldviews was originally created as part of the core studies for visiting overseas students undertaking the "BestSemester" Program at CHC's Australia Studies Centre.

It is also open to local students who are now experiencing the benefits of a practical introduction to Australian indigenous cultural and spiritual concepts. The subject unit is taught by local Aboriginal woman, Lea Yettica-Paulsen, who has worked extensively to support indigenous Australians through government and community organisations.

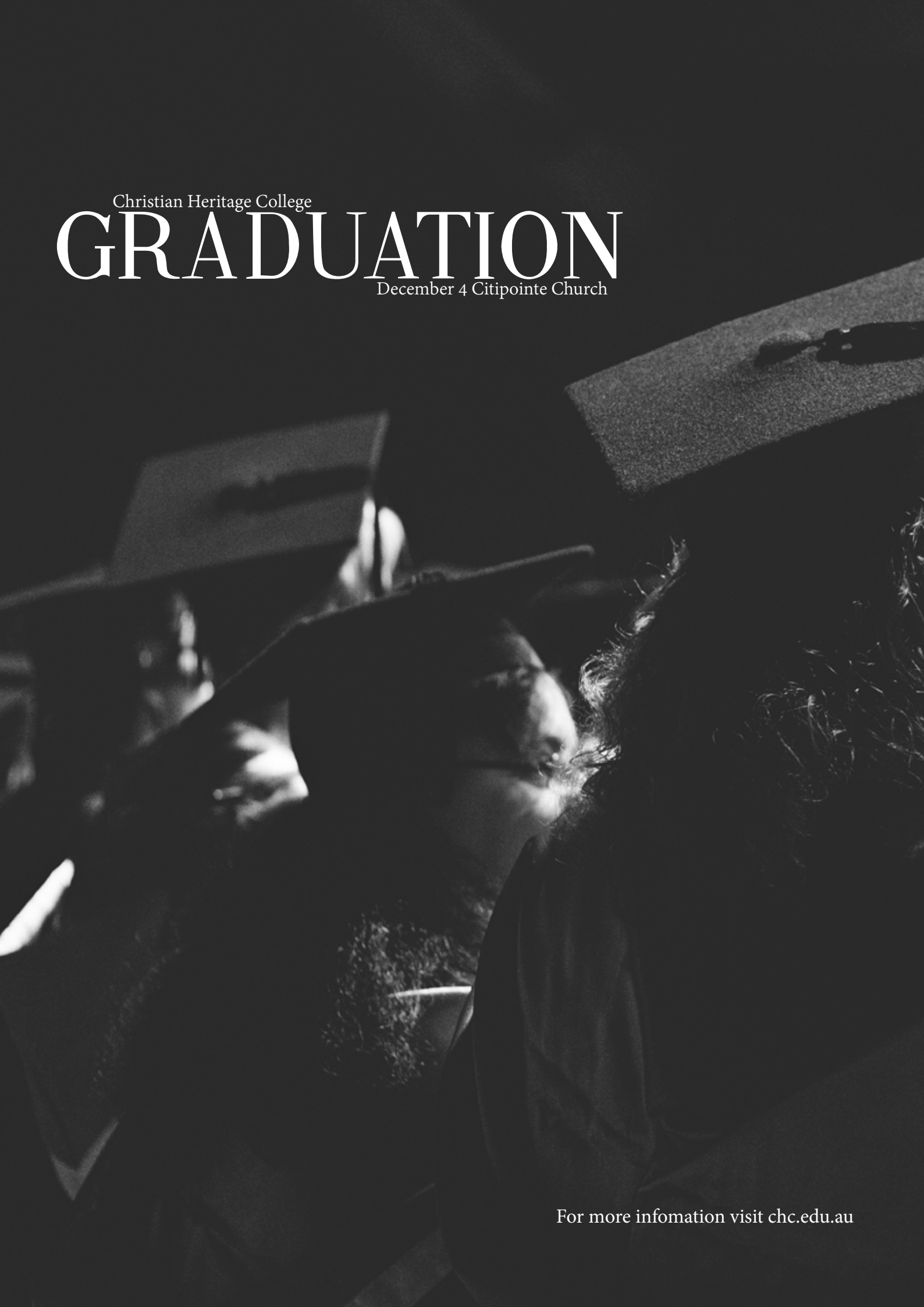
A major feature of the unit are the in-country experiences including, this year, a visit to North Stradbroke Island and engagement with the local Quandamooka people. The students fashioned sand art (pictured) following a discussion about local stories and totems.

It is hoped that through this unit, and a greater understanding of indigenous worldviews, meaningful dialogue may emerge for the transformation of the Australian national story.

SRC NOMINATIONS

It is that time of the year again where we elect the Student Representative Council (SRC) to lead the student body into 2016. The SRC is a student-run committee that is responsible for promoting and enhancing the social, academic/educational and Christian spiritual lives of each present and future student at Christian Heritage College (CHC). In striving to attain this, the SRC is also a forum for student expression. Members of this team focus on coordinating events, representing the interests and views of the students, assisting administration in raising morale and promoting productive and purposeful relationships between staff and students.

If you are interested in being a part of this dynamic and culture shaping team, please submit your nomination to the Community Development Officers by 25 September.


Christian Heritage College
GRADUATION
December 4 Citipointe Church
For more infomation visit chc.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21	Common Ground
October 5	Beach Trip
October 7	Open Night (course information)
October 22	Rave Cave
December 4	CHC Graduation

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE "CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY"

If "all truth is God's truth," then each individual is free by nature, right and disposition to pursue and engage with it in their own manner. This freedom is the right of all.

The critical issue, then, is not freedom, but the basis (or "being") from which you use freedom and to what end you focus this freedom. The spectrums of "being," as alluded to by Francis Schaeffer, are either based solely in the individual or absolutely in God. All individuals start from a position that is uniquely in themselves, in their own consciousness, and then begin to internalise and integrate a view of the world.

Holmes suggests a possible turning point for a life occurs when an individual experiences new life as a Christian and commences their "first glimpse of truth" from their "being" within God. A Christian then has the opportunity to pursue truth within this new wider spectrum toward the absolutes of God. Such a pursuit of truth is: subject to the individual; will only be partial in this life; and will at times be flawed (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 1:8).

CHC is a collective of such individuals who possess the same dispositions. Huffman argues that there is only one ultimate biblical worldview, "Christ's view of the world" and consoles that none fully possesses it, however, CHC as a collective of individuals should nonetheless seek to pursue that end. The critical task, therefore, for CHC as a Christ-centered Christian higher education institution is to foster an environment for scholars, staff and students to identify, reflect on, and deepen their own individual ontology in Christ and to progressively move from that which is "absolutely in ourselves" toward the revelations of the "absolutes of God."

In other words, CHC's worldview did not begin with a finite set of arbitrary absolutes, but commenced and continues to flourish with a collective of individuals who confess and possess faith, and seek to live and learn with Christ through faith for Faith (the set of God's absolute Truths). Your task is to actively contribute within that collective toward such an end.

The strength of CHC's Christ-centred worldview, therefore, rests on its ontology – which inevitably is embedded in the member's faith commitments of which yours is vital. Such a worldview is positioned in a commitment to humility and seeks to decrease and have Christ and God increase (John 3:30) – one in which it is no longer you and I living as independent, isolated individuals, but having the fullness of Christ's life in us and outworking through us to transform our world (Galatians 2:20).

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1 By "first glimpse of truth", Holmes means from special revelation as distinct from general revelation (cf Huffman, DS 2011).
2 Holmes, A 2010, "Integrating Faith and Learning", http://www.apu.edu/live_data/files/219/integrating_faith_and_learning.pdf [Accessed 2 August 2013].
3 "Wider spectrum" being special revelation as distinct from the more limited general revelation (cf. Huffman, DS 2011).
4 Huffman, DS 2011, 'Is There Just One Biblical Worldview?', in Christian Contours: How a Biblical Worldview Shapes the Mind and Heart, (p. 48), ed. DS Huffman, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. Holmes, A 2010, "Integrating Faith and Learning", http://www.apu.edu/live_data/files/219/integrating_faith_and_learning.pdf [Accessed 2 August 2013].
5 Through Bible, tradition, reason, experiences and others as expounded in McGrath, AE 2011, Christian Theology: An Introduction, 5th edn, Wiley-Blackwell, West Sussex, UK. p. 120.
6 Sites, EC, Garzon, FL, Milacci, FA, & Booth, B 2009, 'A Phenomenology of the Integration of Faith and Learning', Journal of Psychology and Theology, vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 28+.
7 As opposed to the apparent pride within Descartes humanistic examination (cf note 10 Dicker, 2013, pp. 41,42.)

Brian Mulheran is the Dean of the School of Ministries at CHC and an Executive Pastor at Citipointe Church, Brisbane.

STAY IN TOUCH

Name (maiden name, if applicable)

Home Address

Suburb | State | Postcode

Postal Address

Suburb | State | Postcode

Telephone | (home) | (mobile)

Email

Current Job Title | Organisation

Years at CHC (eg 2002-2006) | CHC Course

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