

Annual Report

'Hot Mikado' Smash Hit

Musical highlights the depth of artistic talent in the School



Rosie Funder (Yum Yum), Robin Power (Nanki Poo) and Will Osborn (The Mikado)

One of the features of this year's school program was the secondary production of 'The Hot Mikado' held at the start of Term Four.

The production was staged at the Warwick Town Hall to allow for greater community access to the show. It was very well attended and drew a highly

appreciative response from audiences.

There was a high level of participation by students with most of the secondary school being involved in some way. Thanks particularly are due to the teachers behind the production and the parents who supported it in so many ways.

Twenty Years of Graduations

2007 marked 20 years since the first Graduation from The School of Total Education in Warwick in 1987. The guest speakers were all former graduates of the School. These included Grace Dugan (author and university tutor), Penny Lane (physiotherapist) and Anthony Smith (psychologist). Anthony (pictured) spoke about his experience of the school and painted a vivid picture of the School in Warwick as it was in its formative years in the 1980's.



TWENTY YEARS OF SENIOR PLAYS BY DRAMA DIRECTOR NEIL RASMUSSEN

This year marked 20 years of Senior plays by the School's elder statesman of Art and Drama, Neil Rasmussen.

Neil, and his wife Beryl, joined the School as parents in the first year of the Melbourne SOTE, 1977. They later moved to Warwick and Neil joined the teaching staff first in a voluntary capacity and then later full-time.



The first senior production in 1987 was a student-written piece *Sleep on It* and this was followed in 1998 by Gogol's *The Government Inspector*. 'Mr. Razz' has created a tradition of excellence in the Senior Productions and he is loved and respected by all his students.

A special tribute was made to Neil at the 2007 Graduation which included a slide show of all his senior productions.

Distinctive Curriculum

Total Education

The School's distinctive curriculum is based on the concept of *Total Education*, devised and implemented by School Founder Vijayadev Yogendra. This provides for a balance between Academic, Health & Physical and Character Development.

School Meals

The School provides a hot lunch twice a week. Even on days where lunch is not provided, the teachers and students sit down together and share their meals.

The new school Dining Facilities were opened in Term 1 after a building swap utilising a State Government grant. The project was well supported by hours of voluntary labor from parents.

Film, Television and New Media

Film and Television is offered at Years 10, 11 and 12. This year, the School was fortunate to gain the services of In Hee Jeong, a graduate of the Australian Film and Television School, and with a long career in the film and television industry.

Year 12 Film and Television students produced a documentary on *Youth Homelessness* in Warwick which included interviews with State Opposition Leader, Lawrence Springborg and local youth workers.

Quiet Time

Quiet Time is for primary children and emphasises the value of spending time settling and finding a sense of quietude. Stories involving positive values are used to settle the children and are told rather than read. They then spend a few minutes with their eyes closed listening to music or ambient sounds.

Two Hours of Physical Education

All students from Grade 1 to Year 12 participate in a 15-minute Daily Physical Education Program. For students in Grades 1 to 3 this focuses on the *Movement for Learning Program*, which includes cross-patterning exercises and co-ordination activities which stimulate brain development.

All students also take a weekly sport class with a duration varying from 45 minutes at junior primary to 90 minutes at secondary level.

Interest Groups

Twice each term, primary students have the choice of a number of activities offered by teachers through the Interest Groups Program. Each group runs for four weeks. It is a chance to follow a passion and mix with students from other classes and to connect up with a teacher who is sharing their interest and talent.

Yoga Classes

Yoga Classes are taken on a voluntary basis for secondary students. There is a good take-up of classes by students in Years 11 and 12. Classes are taken by Debbie Lane at the Centre For Healthy Living adjacent to the School.

Visit from Aryurvedic Scholar

A number of parents and students took up an invitation from the T.H.E. Foundation to have contact with visiting Guest Scholar, Ayurvedic physician, G.N. Shirke or Babaji as he is better known. He spoke to the senior students, had meetings with the teachers, gave a public lecture as well as individual consultations. The School is very fortunate to have the opportunity for contact with a person of such unique knowledge and understanding not only of a broader view of health but of life problems and solutions.

Changes to the Time Out Program

Due to changes in State Government legislation, the School was informed it would no longer be able to conduct the Time Out Program as a separate year as it has done since 1988. Following unsuccessful appeals to the Minister of Education, Mr Rob Welford, and advice from the Crown Law Office it was decided to incorporate the program into the second semester of Year 7 and the first semester of Year 8. This was implemented from July 2007 and seems to be working well.

Investigation of CRICOS

Following the visit of a German exchange student in Year 11 this year, it was decided to investigate the requirements for the School to be registered for taking overseas students on a fee-paying basis into the School. Office Manager, Peter Bracher, parent, Elia Faa and Principal Richard Waters formed a committee to work through the requirements for CRICOS registration.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Senior Drama Production

This year's Senior production was *The Skin of Our Teeth* written by American playwright Thornton Wilder. It played to full houses on both nights.



The Cast of Skin of Our Teeth

What the Future means to me

In April, the Year 12 students addressed a Combined Parents Meeting on the topic of *What the Future Means to Me*. Parents were very impressed with their confidence and wit.

Warwick Peace Festival

Students, parents and teachers from the school played key roles in the Warwick Peace Festival held in May 2007.

Drama performances, multi-cultural activities, lectures and workshops on the environment and sporting activities were all taken up with enthusiasm.



James Heron (Year 11) in the International Soccer Match as part of Warwick Peace Festival 2007

Work Experience

Year 10 students enjoyed their Work Experience in May in a variety of settings in Warwick, Toowoomba and Brisbane. Reports from employers indicated a high level of satisfaction with the work ethic of the students.

Sermon on the Mountain

Students in Year 10 took up the challenge to create a film based on a script by an Indian visitor Anil Kavesh. Anil is a former Assistant Director in Bollywood and as well has made a number of documentaries. The students shared the tasks and arranged the shooting at the top of Mount Cordeaux above Cunningham's Gap



The Technical crew for 'Sermon'

Outdoor Education Program

In 2007, the program involving Years 5 to 12, included bushwalking at Lamington (Year 6), high ropes courses at Meebun-bia (Time Out Year) canoeing on the Cooloola River (Year 8) and marine biology at Hastings Point (Year 10). Year 11 students participated in a 10-day Outward Bound Camp in the Kyogee area of NSW.

Science Showcase

The Science Showcase gave a chance for parents to see what the students have been doing in their science classes. Secondary students also took time to show their science projects to parents and younger students.



Year 12 Students prepare for the Showcase

A highlight of the Science Showcase held in August was the *Quirks and Quarks* Science Quiz based on the popular *Spics and Specs* music quiz show on ABC.

School Musical

'The Hot Mikado', an adaption of Gilbert and Sullivan's classic operetta, was a great success. The leads included three Year 12 students Will Osborn, Hannah Clark, Ben Lu and Tegen Walker as well as Rohin Power and Rosie Funder (Year 11) and Ben Spinetti (Year 10).

Art Exhibitions

Both primary and secondary students were strongly represented at the Warwick Regional Art Gallery's School Exhibitions.

Extra-curricular activities depend on the support of a teaching staff who are willing to put in many extra hours to make these events a success.

Use of Computers to Assist Learning

Students at SOTE use computers to assist their learning in virtually every subject area.

Computer Access

There are primary and secondary computer labs for general use and a special lab for Film and Television and New Media. There is also a small lab for Time Out use and there are individual desktop computers in all primary classrooms.



A special film project, 'Sermon on the Mountain', was produced for the Peace Festival by Year 10 students.

Computers are available for specialist areas such as science, music and art.

Teachers Laptop Program

Every teacher has an iBook laptop computer. These are used for class preparation, research on the internet and reporting to parents. Teachers have access to data projectors and are also able to use digital video cameras to record oral presentations and edit these on their computers.

This access to computer technology has given a boost to teachers' confidence with Information and Communication Technology.

Student Proficiency

Students are quick to pick up on new technology and often it seems they are more comfortable with it than their teachers. However, the teachers bring the

important area of the discerning use of technology to the table.

Network Connectivity

All computers are connected to a network either physically or via a wireless system. The school also hosts its own email.

Teachers can access the school network from anywhere in the school through their laptops. This means for example, they can use a data projector to display an internet site live. Teachers are able to provide assignments and homework sheets through a handout box and students can hand in work through a drop box system.

The purpose is to train students so that they are not dependent on computers but are able to make use of information technology to assist and enhance their learning.

New Media students in Year 8 and 9 learn word processing, spreadsheet, presentation skills and web page design as well as to use vector based graphic design programs.

Students of **Humanities** subjects such as English, History and Study of Society use computers for word processing, internet research and oral presentations.

Art students access artwork and research artists on the internet. They use Word to write essays and visual diaries. Photoshop is used to manipulate pictures to create artwork.

Film & TV students create short films and documentaries using digital video equipment and video editing software with the final products being burnt to DVD.

Drama students use the internet to access information about playwrights and texts in their assignments as well as for poster design.

Mathematics: Spreadsheets are used extensively for statistical and financial analysis including graphical representation of the results.

Primary students work on projects with their teachers through supervised internet access on their classroom computers and the primary lab.



Science: Internet research is conducted on projects and Word or Power Point are used to present the results. Virtual dissections are conducted on-line for Biology.

Social Climate

Individual Student Care

The low Student-Teacher Ratio of 1 to 13 (maximum) throughout primary and secondary levels facilitates a personal relationship between students and teachers. Every child is valued and no one goes unnoticed.

Secondary Home Groups

The Home Group system at secondary level means that each year level has at least one teacher who maintains an overview of each student's progress and well-being. Primary and Secondary teachers assist each other with student welfare.

Teacher Care

Teacher concerns are catered for with a weekly meeting which encourages open-ended discussion on practical issues of teachers' experiences. This is

also an opportunity to raise concerns with the leadership of the school.

Family Counsellor

Clive Duffy, a family counsellor, has visited the school regularly to provide support for students, teachers and families. Clive will no longer be available for this service in 2008 and the School is currently looking for a replacement. Support is also available from psychologists at the Centre For Healthy Living

Leadership Older Students and Younger Students

Senior students are much admired by younger students and they provide leadership in a number of formal and informal ways. This a function partly of the school size and also of the school culture where all age groups interact in an open way.

Parent Involvement

Parents' Program

All parents attend weekly small group discussions on parenting issues. Groups are facilitated by parents with longer term experience. Training and support is provided through *Group Leaders' Meetings*.

Combined Meetings are held at least once each term. The most highly rated presentations this year were: *Rehabilitating the Child to Their Natural Rhythm* by Principal Richard Waters, the Year 12's talk on *What the Future Means to Me* and *Respect, Courtesy & Manners* by Pam Isaacs, Michael Funder and Trevor Burton.

Parents also rated a talk to primary parents on Internet Safety very highly.

Grade Meetings

Grade Meetings were held at the start of Term 3 for all levels. Parents meet with the Class or Home Teacher to discuss the group's progress and exchange views on how issues might be tackled jointly between home and school. Special meetings are also called for specific issues e.g. Year 11 parents met in February on managing the problem of alcohol consumption. Teachers are available for individual consultation on request.

Reporting to Parents

At the end of Term 2 and Term 4 parents receive a *Report of Student Progress* which covers academic, character and physical development as well as subject reports with an A to E grading at secondary level. All primary parents agreed not to be included in A to E reporting or Relative Achievement reporting. Primary reports include comments on each child's achievement in each Key Learning Area in relation to their grade level.

Parent Feedback

In November, parents write reports on their children's progress over the year which are given to Primary Class and Secondary Home Group teachers. Parents also provide feedback on their participation in the Parents' Program. This year many people emphasised their appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the Parent Group Leaders.

Most Enjoyed

Parents ranked the School Musical, Hot Mikado, the Senior Play, Skin of Our Teeth and Peace Festival Activities most highly with just under 90% approval rating. These were followed by Primary Plays, and the Science Showcase at over 80% approval rating.

Planning for a Sustainable Future

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS IS THE MAJOR FOCUS

School Governing Council Overview

The School Governing Council meets bi-monthly and considers important issues of policy and strategy. The Council also focusses on the welfare of the teachers as well as students and parents. Another key area is the preservation of the School's core principles and values, the things that make the School unique. These need to be carried in the hearts and minds of the school leadership and the teachers and parents of the school.

Completion of 2005-2007 Planning Cycle

This year marked the completion of the 2005-07 Planning Cycle and satisfaction was expressed at the progress the school was making towards its goals. A planning meeting was held jointly in September with the School Governing Council and THE Foundation Board to jointly focus on planning issues for the 2008-2010 period.

Teacher Development

There was seen to be a need for focus on the personal development of teachers and particularly on their understanding and practice of the School's core values. A Teachers' Retreat was planned for January 2008 and regular Teacher Development meetings are scheduled for 2008.

Teacher retirement funding is to be reviewed so that all teachers can have a sense of security about their future.

Development of Parents

Generating a sense of enthusiasm for participation in the Parents Program is a key aim as well as the need to motivate parents to be involved in their own personal growth. This is seen as a key to the character development of the children. Note was made of the need for sensitive support of particular parents going through difficult times.

Review of Kitchen Functioning

The Kitchen has been well run and cared for by Margaret Handley but the new facility still needs to be streamlined in its functioning and the overall ambience could be improved. A review is to be conducted to see how these things may be achieved and to investigate the possibility of more than two hot lunches each week.

Sustainability of the School

It was noted that the Rudd Government will continue SES funding from 2009-2012 but after that there will be a review of funding from a needs point of view and that may mean reduced Government Grants depending on the criteria.

Building 7 Project Fund

THE Foundation agreed to fund the gap between the Government Capital Grant and parent donations and the cost of the Building 7 project. This has made it possible to go ahead with construction of this library/classroom building in 2008.

The Institute of Total Education

It was decided to allocate time and funds to allow Richard Waters to spend one day each week on the development of the Institute. Part of this would be making connections with the teacher training universities in order to attract new teachers to the school. Richard would also write a *Handbook for Teachers* similar to the *Handbook for Parents*. It would contain 'everything a new teacher would need to know' coming into the school.



Succession Planning

With the need of the school leadership to spend more time on recruiting and training a younger generation of teachers, it is important to put some planning into grooming new leadership for the School so that it is sustainable into the future. This will be a planning focus for 2008.

Governing Council Membership

The visibility, involvement and connection of the Governing Council with the School community were identified as important goals at this time. As part of this, Pam Isaacs (teacher) and Pat Hannon (parent group leader) were appointed to the Council. It is also planned to appoint a current parent on a rotational basis from next year.

Teacher Development

Staff Stability

The School has a high level of staff stability with 96% of the teaching staff being retained from the previous year.

Curriculum Afternoons

Teachers spend two afternoons each term on curriculum issues. This year the focus was on: Child Protection Policies and Procedures, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Risk Management Planning. Several Curriculum Afternoons were spent on Drafting Y1-10 Programs for the Key Learning Areas.

Professional Development

Teachers (13) attended a variety of Professional Development Programs (20). These programs are often subsidised by either Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) or the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). The amount expended per teacher on professional development looks modest at \$127 p.a.. However, this excludes cost of teacher replacement which is necessary when a teacher is at professional development activities.

Activities attended by SOTE teachers this year included Syllabus workshops in Senior Biology, Film and Television, Physics, Visual Art and Drama. Other workshops attended were the Independent Schools Queensland Curriculum Forum, QCS writing task training, 'Youth Inspirations', Aspergers Seminar, QCAR seminar/workshops, Prep Monitoring and Assessment, English, Primary Music, a two day Maths Conference and a Genetics workshop.

SOTE teachers also mentored two pre-service teachers in 2007, one of whom is being considered for employment in 2008.

Teacher Development

Teacher Development Programs on the principles of Total Education were organised by the School in 2007. These included half-day seminars, held in the school holidays. These included:

- SOTE's Approach to Character Development,
- Understanding the Ideal of Service and
- Planning for 2008.

Teachers also attended seminars through THE Foundation conducted by Aryurveda physician, G.N. Shirke or Babaji (March) and Satish Kumar (May), founder of the Small School and Schumacher College in the UK.

Scenarios Project

Principal Richard Waters' participation in the Open Book Scenarios Project continued into this year. This project, conducted by Teaching Australia and Neville Freeman Associates looked at alternative futures using the key questions: 'What will the Australian teaching profession have to do to be successful in the environments in which it will have to operate in 2030?'

Richard Waters reported, "It was a fascinating process with 50 teachers and principals from all round Australia contributing their experience to build possible scenarios." The scenarios are to be published in early 2008.

Teachers' Qualifications

Leadership

Richard Waters
BA, Dip. Ed., M.Ed (Leadership)

Judy Currie
BSc., Dip. Ed.

Secondary Teachers

Matthew Bradshaw
BA, B Ed.

Ronda Mattarollo
BA, BEd (Secondary)

Roy Fox
BSc, Dip Ed

Neil Rasmussen
Dip Fine Arts, TSTC.

Nigel Sullivan
BEng, (Hons), Dip Ed

Primary Teachers

Emily Turkalj
BEd (Primary)

Stephen Clark
Grad. Dip Ed (Early Childhood)

Michael Kirby
BA BEd

Michael Funder
B Mus Ed

Lyndal Pitkin
BA Graphic Design, BEd

Cathy Petrasianas
BA, Dip Ed
Grad Dip Hum (French)

Grant Tilbrook
Dip of Tch Prim.

Part-Time Teachers & Aides

Colin Alley
Dip Teach., M.Ed Admin

Bernadine Bradshaw
BA (Hons), Dip Ed

Judy Funder
MA, Dip Ed

Alan Isaacs
BSc (Hons), D Ed, D Lib (Tchr Lib)

Pam Isaacs
BA (Hons), MA Dip Ed

Patrice Jubb
Dip Teaching Early Childhood

Bronnie Snow
BA, Dip Ed, B of S. Wk

Claire Waters
BA, T.S.T.C.

In Hee Jeong
B.A. Cert. AFTS

Debbie Lane
BSc (Hons)

Required Statistics

System Affiliation

Independent, non-systemic, non-denominational.

Member, Independent Schools of Queensland.

Address

2 Freestone Road, Warwick, Queensland 4370

Telephone: 61 7 4661 2666

Facsimile: 61 7 4661 4894

Email: admin@sote.qld.edu.au

Website: www.sote.qld.edu.au

Enrollments

148 students

75 primary and

73 secondary students

92% Average attendance

Year Levels Offered

Prep to Year 12.

Single stream at each level.

Gender

Co-Educational at all levels.

64 girls and 84 boys.

Retention Rates

91.7 % Apparent Retention Rate

83.0 % Actual Retention Rate

Staff Statistics

91% Staff Retention from 2006.

93% Staff Attendance Rate.

\$127 Staff Development costs (per teacher per annum)

13 Teachers attending staff development activities in 2006.

Teachers and Students

Ratio of 1 teacher to 13 students

School Comment

These statistics and the adjacent tables are part of Commonwealth and State Government requirements and need to be read with some caution given the small student numbers at SOTE. Percentages can be affected a great deal by one or two students, for example, falling below the benchmarks in classes of 10 to 13 children.

The School of Total Education Grade 3 Test 2007 (12 students)

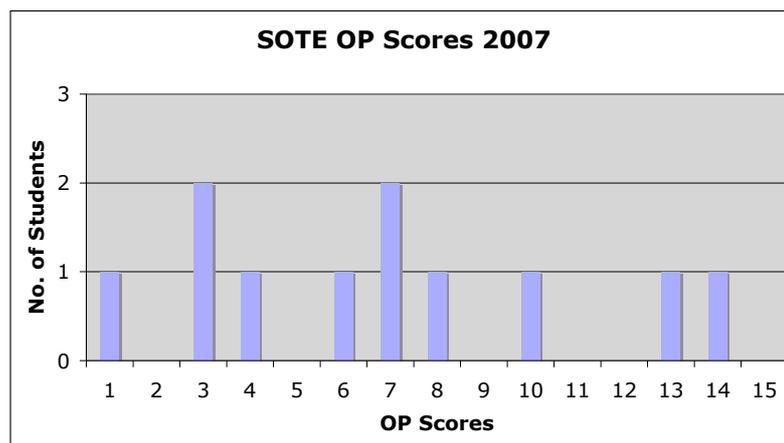
| Grade 3 Test | Aspects of Literacy | | | Aspects of Numeracy | | | Overall |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|---------|
| | Spelling | Writing | Reading Viewing | Number | Space | M'ment & Data | |
| Average Score for the School | 550 | 556 | 545 | 550 | 651 | 575 | 574 |
| Average Score for Queensland | 528 | 523 | 527 | 515 | 522 | 522 | 529 |
| % above National Benchmark (2007) | | 92% | 92% | | | | 100% |

The School of Total Education Grade 5 Test 2007 (9 students)

| Grade 5 Test | Aspects of Literacy | | | Aspects of Numeracy | | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|---------|
| | Spelling | Writing | Reading Viewing | Number | Space | M'ment & Data | |
| Average Score for the School | 606 | 539 | 614 | 555 | 557 | 569 | 564 |
| Average Score for Queensland | 603 | 600 | 606 | 579 | 598 | 592 | 588 |
| % above National Benchmark (2007) | | 71% | 86% | | | | 78% |
| % above the National Benchmark (G3 in 2005) | | 43% | 86% | | | | 71% |

The School of Total Education Grade 7 Test 2007 (14 students)

| Grade 5 Test | Aspects of Literacy | | | Aspects of Numeracy | | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|---------|
| | Spelling | Writing | Reading Viewing | Number | Space | M'ment & Data | |
| Average Score for the School | 654 | 670 | 686 | 642 | 613 | 630 | 630 |
| Average Score for Queensland | 676 | 681 | 672 | 648 | 648 | 651 | 648 |
| % above National Benchmark (2007) | | 86% | 100% | | | | 79% |
| % above the National Benchmark (G5 in 2005) | | 88% | 75% | | | | 88% |



| Year 12 Outcomes 2007 | |
|--|------|
| Total number of students completing Year 12 | 11 |
| Senior Certificates awarded | 11 |
| Percentage of OP-eligible students with OP 1 to 15 | 100% |
| Percentage of students awarded a Senior Certificate and awarded a VET qualification | 0% |
| Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificate with OP-eligibility or a VET qualification | 100% |
| Percentage of QTAC applicants receiving an offer | 100% |

