A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our Alumni

This is the first of many newsletters we would like to send your way. We are excited to announce that we are establishing a Cedar College Alumni Association, to stay in touch with our graduates and old scholars, and keep you informed of all that is happening here at Cedar.

We realise that your time at Cedar College was just the beginning, and we are very keen to know what you’ve been doing since leaving Cedar, and where you are right now. Our database is currently being updated to establish an alumni community, and we’d love to have your current information so that we can grow this community.

It’s our desire to provide a purposeful and helpful service to you. With many professional teachers and administration here on staff, we have a lot to offer with regard to study and employment, as well as advice on social, emotional and spiritual issues that we all face in life. Although your school days are now behind you, we hope that you continue to consider Cedar College an important part of your community.

In the future, we would value your input – your journey of transition from school into further studies or the workforce and, possibly, from time-to-time, the opportunity to use your experience to speak into the lives of our current student body.

We look forward to hearing from you. You can send any contact information to us via our website www.cedarcollege.sa.edu.au. Please be assured that your information will be kept private and only used for official alumni correspondence. Please also forward this information to any other students you may know who may have been at Cedar College over the years - we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Regards
Peter Thomson
Cedar College Principal

In the Picture

Senior School students took part in the recent production of “The Bald Prima Donna” as part of the Year 12 Drama and Senior School Arts Showcase. Attended by over 120 parents, friends and students, the evening began with performances by Senior School music students, a dramatic monologue and the Cedar College Vocal Ensemble.

See page 4 for the full story and more photos from the evening.

About the Alumni Association

“Branching Out” is published twice a year, keeping graduates and old scholars of Cedar College up to date with news and events.

This newsletter is available online from www.cedarcollege.sa.edu.au (under community/old scholars). Alumni members may submit news, email photos, change address details and choose to receive the newsletter via post or email by using our online form. Alumni can email photos and news to alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au.
EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

Earlier this year, the College Board approved the letting of a contract to Tonkin Schutz Design & Build Pty Ltd for the design and construction of a new Resource Centre/Administration building. This striking centrepiece of Cedar College’s master-plan is the most significant building project in its 16-year history.

The state-of-the-art facility will house a new Resource Centre more than 5 times bigger than the current High School Resource Centre and will include both Primary School and High School Libraries as well as computer suites, performance spaces, A/V facilities and open spaces for class activities and study areas.

A new Front Office, Reception foyer and Administration suite will become the new face of the school.

The $4.25M building is expected to be completed in the second half of 2013.

The full cost of the project has been budgeted for in our ten-year plan, and once again we are grateful to God for a sizable grant from the Federal Government.

The building features three roof elements inspired by the Vickers Vimy aircraft which was flown from London to Australia by Ross and Keith Smith in 1919. The Smith brothers used the nearby Northfield Aerodrome as their landing ground.

Plenty of natural light will make the new facility a great place in which to work and learn, as will the inspiring views across the school oval to the hills. A glass northern façade will make effective use of winter sun to minimise heating costs.

On the first floor, the Library and Resource Centre will service both Primary and High School, with comprehensive IT facilities, research resources and small group rooms that allow up to six separate groups to use the facility concurrently.

As well as a large staff room and offices, the ground floor will provide a medical room, a student foyer, administration and public reception areas. The project will also provide a new school canteen at the southern end of the new building.

We look forward to informing our Alumni of the grand opening of this fantastic new facility, as we begin a new phase in the history of Cedar College.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Cedar College was privileged to have Ysobel Mason (Class of 2011) sing the National Anthem at this year’s Remembrance Day Service, organised by Year 11 History students.

GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

Are you a Cedar College Old Scholar with some exciting news or photos to share? It might be a special event, award or achievement, wedding news or reunion news. We’d love to publish your news in “Branching Out”. Email your information and photos to alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au.
In its relatively short history, Cedar College has already started a number of important traditions that have continued from year to year. In this issue we take a look at the Year 12 drama production and the annual Fusion Dinner.

This year’s Senior School drama production was the (very) British comedy titled “The Bald Prima Donna”. Starring Year 12 students Rachel Burgess, Sally George and Kathryn Menelaou, as well as Year 10 and 11 students Hamish Elliot, Zara Bryan and Wade Crane, the zany production was an outstanding success, and a suitable follow-up from last year’s production of “Pride and Prejudice”. Peppered with clever, comical moments and nonsensical scenarios, this “Theatre of the Absurd” was woven together with themes of time, meaning and isolation.

Old Scholars and friends are always welcome to attend our drama productions - it’s a great way to support our students, and catch up with old friends. Keep an eye on our website to find out details of upcoming productions and events.

In what has become a popular tradition at Cedar College, the Year 12 Food and Hospitality students, assisted by the Year 11s and 10s, held the 10th Fusion@Cedar Event. Amidst blustery conditions, a marquee was erected adjacent to the recently-refurbished Home Economics Centre with seating for almost 100 guests. What followed was an amazing menu, often causing guests to forget that the almost 600 plates were cooked and served by teenagers. Many families, old scholars, teachers and friends enjoyed the evening, which also featured musical entertainment from our Senior School music students. The night focused on fundraising for the outreach and care projects that our students will take part in when they travel to Thailand in 2013.

It is always special to see a number of our graduates return for the Fusion Dinner, also taking the opportunity to visit the kitchen, and even lend a hand! We are proud that a number of our graduates have pursued training and careers in the Hospitality Industry - and look forward to hearing more about their career path in the future.

So Ingrid, can you give us a brief overview of what you’ve done since leaving Cedar College, and where are you now?

I went on to do a Bachelor of Psychology at the University of Adelaide and currently I am in my third and final year. I have also recently returned from a student exchange in England, where I spent 7 months studying psychology at the Birmingham University and travelling around the UK, Europe and the Middle East. A highlight was visiting Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It was so surreal to be in such historical places where Jesus lived and died.

What are you doing now, and what are your future plans?

I finish my undergraduate studies this year and I am about to apply for honours in psychology. The plan is to get accepted and then go on to do Masters, so that I can achieve my goal of becoming a clinical psychologist. I also plan to do more travelling, perhaps even completing my Masters in Europe.

What’s been the biggest challenge that you’ve faced since leaving Cedar?

The biggest challenge I have found is having the self-discipline to do things on my own at University. At Cedar, teachers are there to motivate and push you, whereas at Uni, no one is worried about whether you do your assignments or go to lectures. I have also found it quite difficult to remain strong in my faith. Most of my friends at Uni aren’t Christian and there isn’t the Christian environment and teaching there was at school, so sometimes it is very easy to slip away from God.

Finally, what’s your favourite memory from your Cedar College days?

I would have to say the Formal was my favourite memory. It was such an achievement for me to make it through Year 12 and graduate, so the Formal was a night for me to finally relax, get dressed up and celebrate. It was particularly special to be able to celebrate it with those who helped me get to that point.
Sports Days are always a highlight of the year at Cedar, with the competition between our four teams (Bradman, Jackson, Laver and Gould) as strong as ever.

The High School Sports Day, held earlier in the year, was a great success, with many students wearing colourful body paint to support their team. Held for the very first time on the Vickers Vimy Oval, the students competed as hard as ever for the house shield.

There was, however, a changing of the guard this year, with Gould surprising everyone and coming out on top, with a total score of 933 points, to win the Cedar College Sports Day shield. They were followed some distance behind by Laver on 800 points with Jackson coming in third on 797 points and the previously unstoppable Bradman in last position on 701 points.

The annual swimming carnival was held once again on the final day of Term 3 and was another great opportunity for students to show their prowess in the sporting arena. This year it was Laver who prevailed, amidst a very close field of competition ultimately decided by the final few events. The ever-popular Staff v Student relay was another close race. The staff team, anchored by Mr David Webb, won by mere seconds, keeping the teachers’ unbeaten record intact.

The biggest visible change that will be noticed by students who finished at Cedar College prior to 2011, is the stunning new Cedar College Sports Centre (pictured, before and after, below). Built on the school property, adjacent to the Vickers Vimy Oval, the Sports Centre, with its two-court sprung floor, spectator seating, fitness gym and offices, was officially opened in 2011 by the Hon Kate Ellis MP. The Cedar College Sports Centre was recently used by the South African and British International Netball teams in preparation for the current international quad-series.

So Justin, what have you done since leaving Cedar, and where are you now?

After graduating I worked full-time for three years at “Sportspower & Offshore Surf Salisbury”, and started to manage the store one year into my employment. In April 2012 I became the Youth Ministry Intern at Oakden Baptist Church, working two days a week at the church. I have since resigned at Sportspower to do tiling and bathroom renovations while not involved in Youth Ministry.

What are you doing in your current position?

As the Youth Ministry Intern, I work closely with Jeremy Wright, the Youth Pastor at Oakden Baptist, preparing the youth events on Friday nights. We run a programme for High School kids and this involves organising activities such as small groups and devotions, games and the youth band.

What’s been the biggest challenge that you’ve faced since leaving Cedar?

It would have to be leaving my secure job and stepping out in faith to do my internship at the church. But it has been the best decision I have made since leaving Cedar. God has really shown me His amazing Love and Grace throughout this year. As it says in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength”.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

My internship finishes in December, and then I am going to continue with tiling and doing God’s work with every opportunity I am given. When I feel the time is right, I will apply for the Police Force with a trade behind me, or re-enter youth ministry. I am praying for God’s guidance on my life, and I am excited to see where He is going to lead me.

Finally, what’s your favourite memory from your Cedar College days?

My favourite memory from Cedar College would have to be the student-teacher sports events and going on the Cedar Thailand trip - it’s a life-changing opportunity. I would encourage anyone to think about going on this trip and devoting a month to seeing how amazing our God really is.