



Annual Report

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The Heathdale Story

The Heathdale community welcomed its first students on the 10th of February in 1982 and has been providing authentic Christian education to families in the western suburbs of Melbourne ever since. Our educational approach is rooted in the Word of God and focuses on nurturing the whole child — academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. This fundamental belief shapes our College's identity and helps each child thrive from a Christ-centred perspective.

We value the partnership between parents and the school, fostering a love of learning and curiosity throughout each student's educational journey. As students grow into young adults, we aim to develop their deep understanding and wisdom. Our goal is to instil Christian values such as integrity, honesty, respect, love, honour and truth, all which inspire students to discover their God-given potential and serve both locally and globally.

At Heathdale, a student's learning journey can begin in 3-Year-Old Kindergarten and continue through to Year 12. We offer a wide range of subjects and robust learning programs that encourage excellence in all areas of life. The early years focus on building a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, science and humanities. In early Secondary school, students explore various subjects, learn up to three languages, participate in sports for personal growth and competition, study science, math, creative and visual arts, embrace leadership opportunities and engage in community service. This diverse curriculum leads to one of the most extensive selections of subjects for VCE, VCE VM and VET in the western suburbs. Our aim is to empower students to achieve outstanding results and feel confident as they move forward in their life's journey. With this solid educational platform, we provide each student with a unique pathway beyond school.

By August 2025, we had grown to 2,496 students (Kinder to Year 12) across our Melton and Werribee campuses. The College's Federal Government's Direct Measure of Income (DMI) model, calculated Heathdale's capacity to contribute (CTC) score as 100.



Annual Report 2025



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Nurturing Christian culture and identity

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Leading the education of tomorrow

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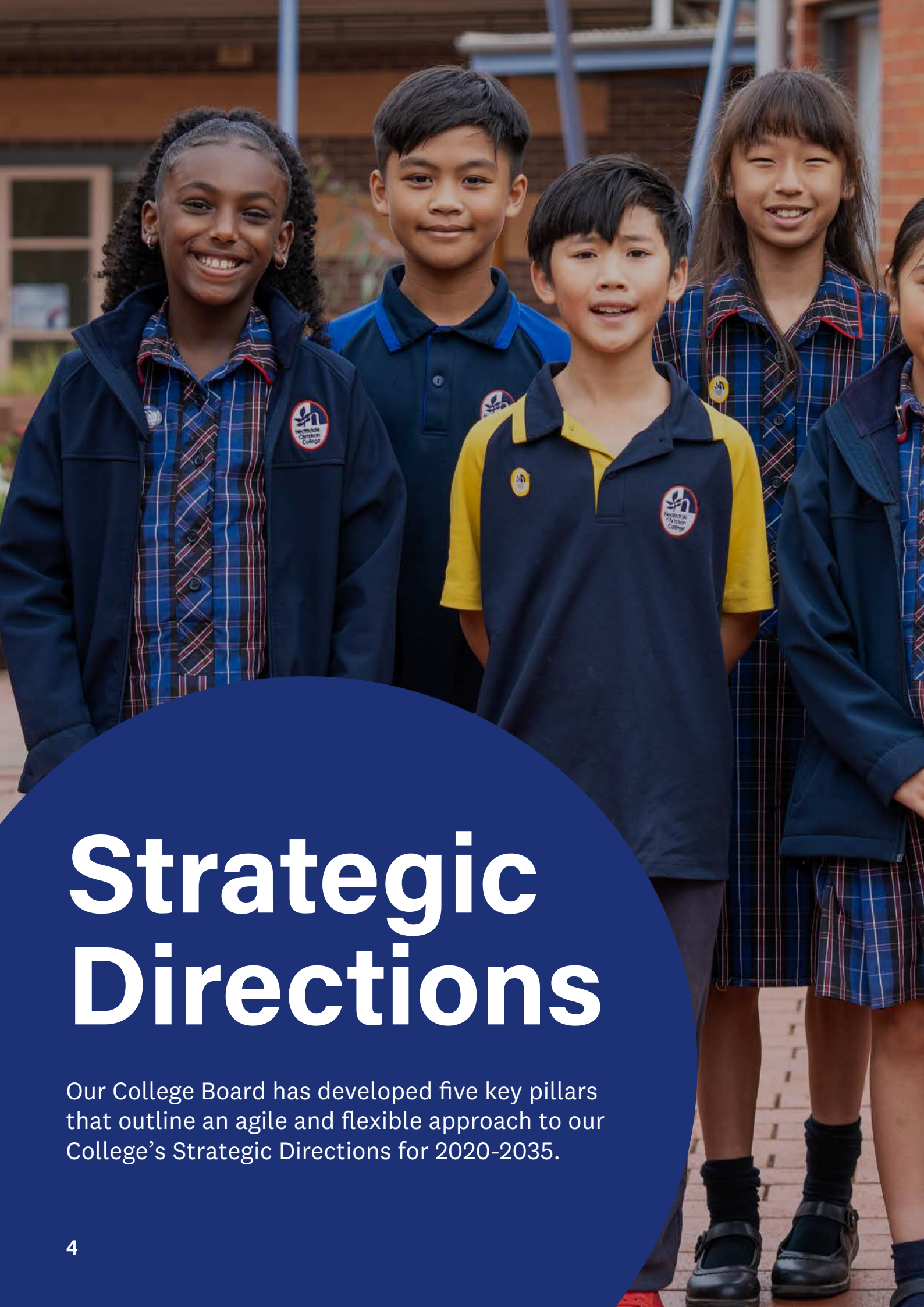
Developing vibrant and purposeful spaces

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Thriving communities

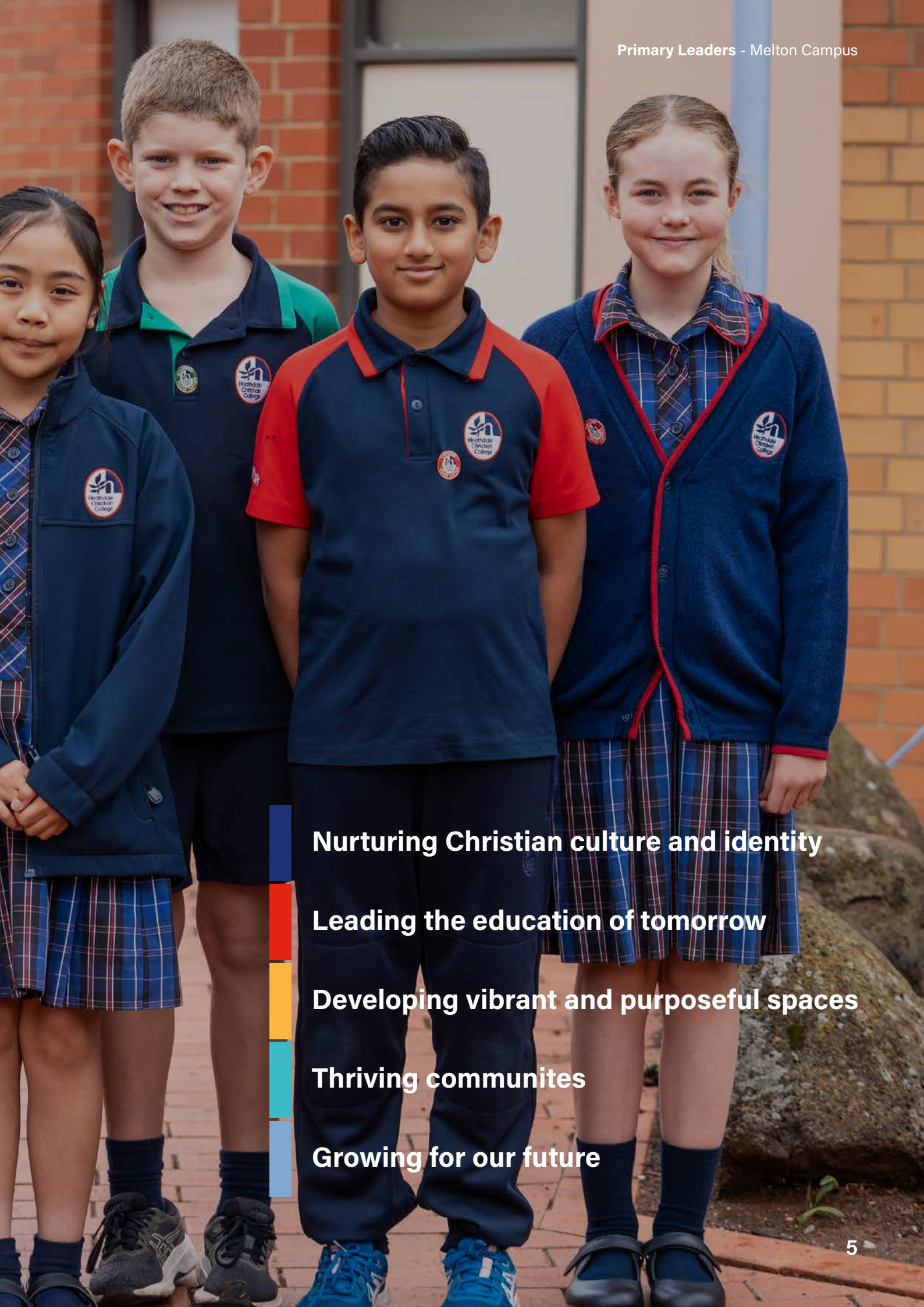
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Growing for our future



Strategic Directions

Our College Board has developed five key pillars that outline an agile and flexible approach to our College's Strategic Directions for 2020-2035.



Nurturing Christian culture and identity

Leading the education of tomorrow

Developing vibrant and purposeful spaces

Thriving communities

Growing for our future

Board Chair Report

Matt Wilson, Board Chair



...every
decision
has been
made with
the future in
mind – always
anchored in
our Christian
mission.

As we look back on the past decade at Heathdale, we celebrate a season of remarkable growth not just in numbers, but in purpose, vision and community impact.

Over these years, we have seen our Melton campus grow into a full Prep to Year 12 school, enrolments rise across both campuses and our Werribee Year 12 cohort reach a size that brings real strength to the senior years. These milestones represent more than statistics; they reflect the many families who have chosen Heathdale as a place for their children to learn and grow, and the dedicated staff who guide them with care and conviction.

With growth comes change, and we have worked hard to ensure our systems, structures and planning have kept pace. From long-term strategic planning to campus masterplans and capital investments, every decision has been made with the future in mind – always anchored in our Christian mission.

We who are presently involved with the College enjoy the benefits that have come from the commitments of families before us. Likewise, we aim to create lasting benefit for families that will enrol in the College after us.

In 2024, Heathdale was recognised by The Age as one of its five Independent Schools that Excel, and in 2025 listed by the Herald Sun among Victoria's Top 100 schools. These acknowledgements are a testament to the commitment of our staff, students and families who have shaped our community with excellence and purpose.

But at its heart, Heathdale has always been about something deeper than buildings or accolades. Our mission remains unchanged: to glorify God through Christ-centred education that helps children realise their God-given potential. That purpose continues to guide every step we take.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank our Executive Principal, Ross Grace, and his team for their faithful leadership through a time of significant growth. We have seen what is possible when staff, families, students and leaders come together with a shared purpose.

As we look to the future, we do so with confidence – not because the work is finished, but because we believe God is still at work in and through this community. We also recognise the vital role of our alumni in this ongoing story, including our most recently graduated Class of 2025, and we look forward to staying connected. Thank you to all our Heathdale families for the part you play in this journey. The best is yet to come!

Executive Principal's Perspective

Ross Grace, Executive Principal



Each year, as we gather to reflect on our collective journey, we are reminded that our community is much more than a group of individuals; it can be likened to a vibrant tapestry, woven together by countless hands and hearts. The beauty and strength of our journey together lie not merely in statistics or milestones, but in the intricate connections that bind us, enriching and uplifting each member.

Imagine the back of a tapestry: the threads may seem tangled, the pattern uncertain and it may lack harmony and order. When we turn the tapestry over, however, we are greeted with breathtaking artistry – a testament to the patient, purposeful work that transformed individual strands into a unified masterpiece. While the passage of any year brings its share of untidiness and challenges, what emerges is a striking panorama of dedication, creativity and shared purpose. A thing of beauty.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are “God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

The word for “handiwork” comes from the same Greek word for “poem,” highlighting that all people are God’s masterpiece. We are created for a divine purpose of doing good deeds as a testament to His grace. As a vibrant community, each day we see God working in us and through us for His glory.

This deeper truth is not abstract; it is clearly seen in the life of our College in 2025. We were delighted to celebrate the first graduating class of Year 12 students at our Melton campus. This milestone had been much anticipated since the campus first opened in 2014, as it now offers a complete Prep to Year 12 pathway.

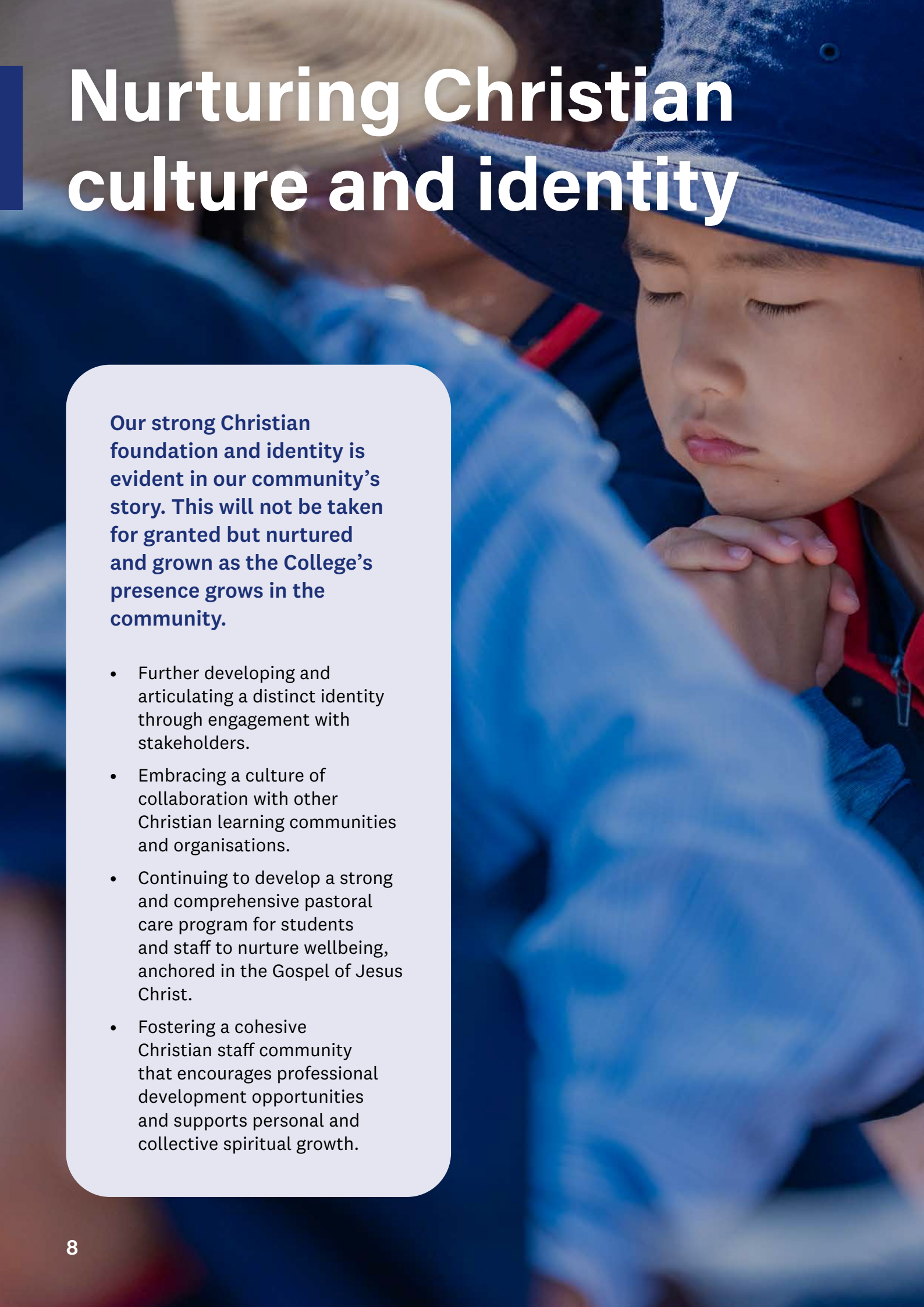
We also introduced our 3-Year-Old Kindergarten program at the Werribee campus, welcoming an additional 44 young learners into our community. We are delighted to partner with parents from such a formative stage, offering a safe, emotionally secure and Christian environment that nurtures play, friendship and curiosity about the world God has created.

As we reflect on 2025, may you glimpse not only the beauty of collaboration between students, staff and families, but also the gentle, guiding hand of our Creator, who continues to shape our community as part of His unfolding story.



The beauty and strength of our journey together lie not merely in statistics or milestones, but in the intricate connections that bind us, enriching and uplifting each member.

Nurturing Christian culture and identity

A close-up photograph of a young child wearing a blue bucket hat, with their hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The child's eyes are closed, and they have a serene expression. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in similar blue clothing, suggesting a group setting like a church service or a community gathering.

Our strong Christian foundation and identity is evident in our community's story. This will not be taken for granted but nurtured and grown as the College's presence grows in the community.

- Further developing and articulating a distinct identity through engagement with stakeholders.
- Embracing a culture of collaboration with other Christian learning communities and organisations.
- Continuing to develop a strong and comprehensive pastoral care program for students and staff to nurture wellbeing, anchored in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Fostering a cohesive Christian staff community that encourages professional development opportunities and supports personal and collective spiritual growth.



One lesson from the Gospels is that Christian education should not elevate certain disciplines, skills or careers above others. If God Himself inhabits our humble and imperfect material world in His person and His teaching, then we have no grounds to believe that some gifts or aspirations – or the students who hold them – are more valuable than others. Instead, the role of a Christian educator is to recognise, nurture and develop the unique, God-given potential within every young person entrusted to their care.

Graeme Hallett,
Director of Learning & Teaching

College Captains' Q&A

Juan Mathew & Natasha Lakra, College Captain – Melton
Jye Schofield & Laura Cook, College Vice Captain – Melton

At Heathdale, it is a blessing to see our students flourish in their God-given potential. In 2025, we celebrated the first year of College Captains serving at both our Werribee and Melton campuses. In the following Q&A, the Captains reflect on their leadership experiences and highlights from the year.

What is the most notable memory you have of being a leader?

“One of the most notable memories was being present at the Prep 100 Days of School Celebration. I remember helping the Preps play games, celebrating their learning and listening to them share their favourite things. It was such a special moment because I got to encourage and guide the younger students, make them feel seen and supported and get them excited to be growing up as part of the Heathdale community.” **Natasha**

How has your faith influenced your leadership?

“I believe that every person in creation has a purpose, designated by God. One purpose I believe we all have is serving others. I felt that this could be realised through this leadership role.” **Juan**

When you leave Heathdale, what do you want your legacy to be?

“When I leave Heathdale, I want my legacy to be that I encouraged others to step forward with confidence, even when it felt daunting. I hope people remember me for being approachable and willing to listen. Most of all, I want to have inspired others to serve with humility and joy.” **Jye**

If you could give the Year 6 leaders one piece of advice, what would it be?

“I remember being in Year 6 and people would always say “make sure you have fun” or “do your homework.” While these are true, my advice is that everyone should just be themselves. We are all created in God’s image and created to be unique, so do not ever take that for granted.” **Laura**



Jye, Juan, Iain Belot (Principal of Melton), Natasha, Laura

College Captains' Q&A

Johnathan Dewiso & Adeline Simon, College Captain – Werribee
Joshua Galea & Hannah Dent, College Vice Captain – Werribee

If you could go back to the beginning of the year, what would you change and why?

"I think I would change my mindset. While Year 12 is indeed a very important and busy year, I would have approached it more as simply being, as one of my teacher's put it, "just a game." There's a quote that I resonate with which says that worrying will not stop the bad stuff from happening, but instead stops you from enjoying the good, and I wish I had taken on this mentality earlier. Thus, if I could go back to the beginning of the year, I would remind myself that God has a plan, so I just have to try my hardest, enjoy the year and look towards Him." **Adeline**

What advice would you give the leaders of 2026 on how to have an impact in the school?

"The advice I would give to the 2026 leaders is to create the same kind of impact that once inspired you. Think back to something a past captain did or hosted that stayed with you during your schooling years. Now that you have the chance to do the same for the younger students, take that opportunity. Work with your teachers, make sure everything is running smoothly and use the year you've been given to create real, lasting change in your school community." **Johnathan**

Leadership
is about being a
good person first.

Who is a role model that you look up to that influences your leadership?

"My mum. She is such a strong and resilient woman, and she has taught me how to treat others with compassion and kindness, which I see in how she lives her life. She has taught me to lead and treat others in that same nature and advises me to always rely on the Bible to help me understand how I should lead others." **Hannah**

What does leadership mean to you and what do you find is the hardest part of leading?

"Leadership is about being a good person first. Treating people with kindness, respect and showing up for people. Especially doing the right thing when nobody's watching. The part I found hardest, but what can also be the best part, is knowing my choices affect people." **Joshua**



Johnathan, Hannah, Mary Tass (Head of Learning 10-12), Deborah Letcher (Principal of Secondary – Werribee), Adeline, Joshua

Celebrating the Gospel

Throughout 2025, our Heathdale community had several opportunities to reflect on and celebrate the Good News of the Gospel. Across both campuses, students and staff engaged in daily morning devotions, regular assemblies and specially crafted devotions and activities for key events in the Christian calendar including Easter and Christmas.



1 Secondary Easter Prayer Breakfast - Werribee

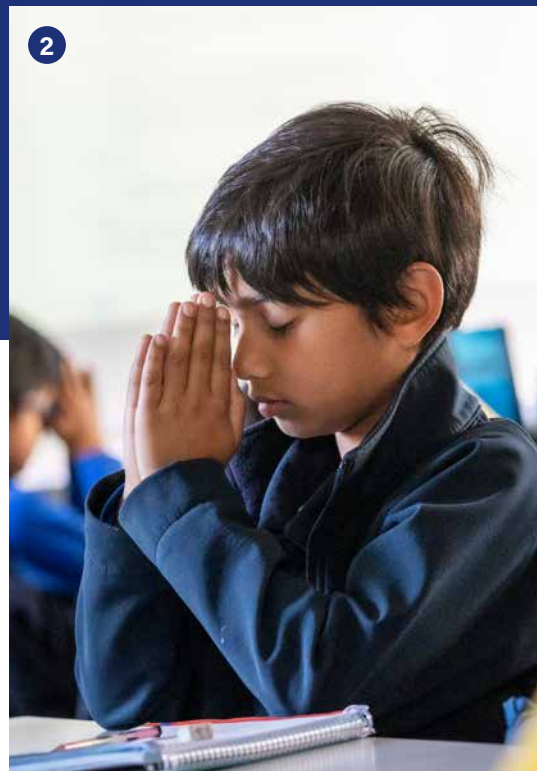
2 Year 3-6 Easter Assembly - Melton

3 Easter Prayer Breakfast - Melton

4 Secondary Easter Prayer Breakfast - Werribee

5 Secondary Easter Prayer Breakfast - Werribee

6 Easter Window Installation - Werribee



1 Christmas Carols at Glendale Aged Care - Werribee

2 Student Devotions - Melton

3 Christmas Carols at Woodgrove - Melton

4 Reconciliation Week Devotion - Melton

5 Student Devotions - Melton

6 Christmas Carols at Kmart - Werribee



Belonging Day

When we celebrate our differences, we reflect God's creativity and His heart for all people.

Yvonne Harvey,
Principal of Werribee – Primary

Across both campuses, students came together to honour the rich diversity within our community and reflect on the God-given value of every individual. Belonging Day is more than a colourful celebration; it's a meaningful reminder that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and that true belonging means being seen, valued and united in Christ.

At Melton, the following was recited as part of our student led Belonging Day assembly, which was followed by a school-wide parade, crafts in every classroom and the creation of a collaborative art mural:

"Belonging Day was created to celebrate the rich diversity of heritage within our community, and to recognise how God's works are a constant in our lives. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image and the day like this is significant in demonstrating to our wider community how we unite. Through Belonging Day, we want everyone to feel seen and valued, as this day is a reflection of one of our core values, 'Belong.'

'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.' (Psalm 133:1) Let us continue to strive towards connecting with one another and embracing each other, fostering the wondrous works of God at play in our lives. Despite the challenges that our wider community has faced in recent times, we can still unite together as one."

At Werribee, Primary students joyfully celebrated Belonging Day by wearing cultural clothing and sharing stories of their heritage. Classrooms buzzed with conversations about traditions and the rich diversity within our Heathdale community, reminding us that while we come from different backgrounds, we are all created uniquely in God's image (Genesis 1:27).



Hearts & Hands for Reconciliation

During National Reconciliation Week, we are reminded of the importance of listening, understanding and building respectful relationships. As a Christ-centred community, we believe this begins with recognising the God-given dignity of every person. We seek to be a place where students are not only safe but cherished as God's image bearers.

In His providence, God planted us on Kulin Country, and we honour the First Peoples of this land, recognising their enduring stewardship. As ministers of reconciliation, we listen with humility, speak the truth in love, and labour together for healing, justice and restoration in the light of the Gospel.

From this foundation, we approached National Reconciliation Week, which is a time to reflect on our shared histories, cultures and contributions toward reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. Our school community came together in meaningful and creative ways to mark this important occasion – an opportunity to listen, learn and take steps toward a more just and united future. Throughout the week, students and staff engaged in activities designed to deepen understanding, honour First Nations voices and nurture a spirit of reconciliation.

Reconciliation Week originally began as a week of prayer, and in that same spirit, we started each day with devotions focused on inspiring Aboriginal Christian leaders including Jean Phillips, Ray Minniecon, William Cooper, Sir Doug Nicholls and Angelina Noble. These moments reminded us of the powerful legacy of faith, resilience and advocacy within First Nations communities and invited us to reflect on how our own faith calls us to be people of reconciliation.

Lunchtime library activities sparked creativity and thoughtful reflection, while special readings between senior and younger students nurtured a sense of shared learning and respect.

On Wednesday at our Werribee campus, the Reconciliation Leaders hosted a bake sale, made even more special by performances from our school choirs. The Concert Choir performed 'Pokarekare Ana,' the Year 3&4 Choir sang 'Our Song,' and the Year 5&6 Choir shared a rendition of 'Wadawurrung Welcome to Country.' These performances added a layer of cultural appreciation and celebration to the event.

Meanwhile, Years 3–6 students came to school wearing the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags for a 'Show Your Support Day' gold coin fundraiser, adding a visible expression of support to the day's events. Our Melton campus joined in the dress up day on Thursday.

Our Hospitality team also brought staff together after school for a baking session, where participants learned how to make wattle seed brownies. Across both campuses, staff were invited to sample a variety of bush teas – including lemon myrtle, cinnamon myrtle and strawberry gum – with donations going toward a meaningful cause.

Together, through the bake sale, 'Show Your Support Day' dress up fundraiser and bush tea tastings, we raised over \$2,000 for the Opening the Doors Foundation, a Christian organisation supporting First Nations families with access to essential educational resources. Thanks to our community's generosity, we raised enough to provide two students with laptops for school.

As we reflect on the week's events, we are reminded that our commitment to reconciliation flows from the heart of the Gospel. Just as God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, we are called to be peacemakers who seek healing and restoration in all our relationships.



Reconciliation Leaders read to Kinder



'Show Your Support Day' Bake Sale

Leading the education of tomorrow

We seek to provide learning environments where every student feels valued, connected and engaged in their own learning journey, enabling them to experience learning success.

- Developing broad-based educational programs that enable students to become life-long learners.
- Providing comprehensive avenues of learning support for students to pursue their unique learning journey.
- Empowering students to develop their God-given potential through enquiry-based learning programs.
- Integrating a high-performing digital ecosystem in the students' everyday learning.
- Nurturing deep and rich learning through informed and researched educational practices.

“

Heathdale is the place where I began dreaming of my future. It was the place where I celebrated success and was humbled when I felt defeated. This was the place where I found my courage to be challenged, and the place where I knew that attempting things I feared was greater than doing things that were comfortable or easy. I learnt to be creative here and push boundaries. I came to school to learn about the world, but along the way, I learned the most about myself and who I aspire to be.

Isaac Faure,
Year 12 Pioneer - Melton

Kinder Now Starts at Three

Kemi Aibinu, Kindergarten Coordinator



Kemi Aibinu concluded her time as Kindergarten Coordinator at Heathdale at the end of 2025. Throughout her tenure, she showed incredible dedication and graceful determination in ensuring our Kindergarten was the best it could be. She was also instrumental in pioneering the introduction of our 3-Year-Old Kindergarten program.

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ

Colossians 2:2

Being part of the Kindergarten team was a privilege. I got to work alongside some of the most amazing people on the planet!

For us as staff, Colossians 2:2 sums up our heart: we work together in love, encouraging one another while nurturing each child in their journey of learning and faith.

With the support of the school leadership, we launched our new 3-Year-Old program this year, welcoming 44 little ones into the Kindergarten family. It was both a challenge and a blessing, but the children's joy and excitement and the parents' positive feedback remind us of the value of building a strong, Godly foundation from the very beginning.

Personally, I loved spending time with the children each day. Some of my favourite moments happened in the role-play corner, where I got to watch little chefs, doctors, vets and parents at work. It always made me giggle. On the other hand, supporting them through tricky situations, like navigating friendships, gav me a deep sense of fulfilment. It was in these everyday moments that I was reminded of the privilege God has given us to shape young lives – teaching them kindness, love and how to build relationships the way Christ loves us.

As a team, it was a joy to watch the children settle into the Kindergarten space, celebrate their milestones and flourish in a nurturing environment. We thank God for His faithfulness and look forward with anticipation to all He has in store as our children continue to grow, woven together in love and rooted in Christ.

Why Isaac Chose to Stay

Isaac, a student from our pioneering Year 12 class at Melton, faced a crossroads at the start of Year 11. With aspirations in the world of sport, he was offered the opportunity to attend a specialist sports school for his final years of high school. Instead, he chose to stay and complete Years 11-12 at Heathdale. We asked Isaac about his decision:



“The reason I chose to stay at Heathdale instead of taking an opportunity at another school in Year 11 was because Heathdale was my team and where I felt that I belonged.

It was where I started this journey. My friends here were my pillars of strength, and my teachers were my mentors and my biggest supporters. Leaving the school would have meant leaving the place that had shaped my life over the past five years. Heathdale is the place where I began dreaming of my

future. It was the place where I celebrated success and was humbled when I felt defeated. This was the place where I found my courage to be challenged, and the place where I knew that attempting things I feared was greater than doing things that were comfortable or easy.

I learnt to be creative here and push boundaries. I came to school to learn about the world, but along the way, I learned the most about myself and who I aspire to be.

God teaches us to reflect on our past and plan for our future. I knew that Heathdale had given me the tools to navigate through to my next journey. I stayed because I wanted to complete this milestone with my peers, those I started with and have shared this journey with. To me, they're irreplaceable. The school community has supported all my endeavours: academically, in athletics and in football.

I felt privileged to have had the opportunity to be part of the CSEN Football combined team, and to have played in the Herald Sun Shield, which was an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life. A personal highlight for me was being part of the first CSEN victory. We were a strong side, and I believe that with more time, we would have had the ability to go all the way. I owe that opportunity and experience to Heathdale.

I stayed because this is where I belonged. I view the Heathdale community as a family, and I believe these were the plans God had for me and my future. I trusted in Heathdale's investment in me.”



“This year marks a significant milestone: our first ever graduating Year 12 class at our Melton campus. To this pioneering group, I want to say that you will always hold a special place in our hearts and minds. We especially honour your dedication and hard work, not only throughout this year, but across your entire journey at Heathdale.” **Ross Grace, Executive Principal**

Year 12 Student Outcomes

30.4

Average Study Score

One of our students achieved a perfect study score of 50 in VET Music. In an outstanding achievement, students attained study scores of 40 or more across 18 different VCE subjects, ranging from Literature to Systems Engineering, Drama, Physics, Business Management and more. This reflects our commitment to nurturing each child's God-given potential and supporting them to flourish in their unique ambitions.

Perfect

50

Earned in
Music Performance
(VCE VET)

30%

of VCE students earned
a study score over 40.

70.8

Average ATAR

Our 2025 average ATAR exceeded the state average of 69.5. Being our first year with Year 12 classes across both our Werribee and Melton campuses, we supported 11% more graduates in 2025 than we did in 2024, 112 of whom completed VCE.

36

Study Scores Over 40

Music Performance (VCE

VET) **2**

Drama **3**

English **5**

General Mathematics **10**

Systems Engineering **1**

Business Management **1**

Legal Studies **2**

Literature **2**

Biology **2**

Laboratory Skills (VCE

VET) **1**

Art Making and

Exhibiting **1**

Chemistry **1**

Physics **1**

Economics **1**

History Revolutions **1**

Applied Computing -

Software Development **1**

15.25%

ATARs above

90

15.25% of our VCE students gained an ATAR of over 90. Of these students, 8 of them achieved an ATAR of 95 or above. This is a testament to their hard work and our teaching staff's dedication to helping our students reflect their potential.

Offers and Placements

In 2025, our Year 12 students received early entry offers to a range of Bachelor degree courses at universities including RMIT, Latrobe, Swinburne, ACU, Federation and Victoria University. The courses offered spanned areas such as Nursing, Criminology, Paramedicine, Business, Law, Engineering, Animation, Osteopathy, Biomedicine and more. While students are not required to accept these offers, they provide a guaranteed pathway based on their previous academic achievements.

Students offered Early Entry:

36

(32% of 2025 VCE students)

Students who accepted their Early Entry Offer:

6

students accepted the offer and have commenced that course in 2025

30

students accepted an offer higher than the Early Entry course they were initially offered

Students who achieved their first or second round University/TAFE offer:

83 out of 118

70% received their first preference

23% received their second preference

Summary of All Year 12 Destinations

We are delighted to share that all nine VCE VM students chose a pathway into either jobs or courses they are interested in. Additionally, of our 118 VCE students, 105 took an offer at a university. One student is taking the year off to go on a missions trip, another is away for an ADF Gap Year.

TOTAL TERTIARY PLACEMENTS 105

Australian Catholic University **7**

Deakin University **14**

LaTrobe University/LaTrobe College **11**

Monash University/Monash College **13**

RMIT University/RMIT TAFE **30**

Swinburne University **6**

University of Melbourne **13**

Victoria University **9**

Federation University **1**

Collarts **1**

TOTAL ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS 13

The Gordon TAFE **3**

Employed/Apprenticeships **1**

Planetshakers University **1**

ADF Gap Year **1**

Missions Trip **1**

Unknown **6**

Dux of 2025

Adeline Simon

98.85

ATAR

In a remarkable achievement, the 2025 Dux of the College was Adeline Simon, who also served as one of our College Captains at the Werribee campus. Adeline attained an outstanding ATAR of 98.85, reflecting both her academic excellence and sustained commitment throughout the year.

How did you feel when you found out you were the Dux of 2025? I felt quite excited! I was a bit nervous before it, so finally getting my results was quite a relief. It felt like the true end of a chapter.

What does it mean to you personally to achieve the title of Dux, especially while balancing your responsibilities as College Captain? I feel very blessed to have had such supportive people around me to have helped me balance these responsibilities. Being able to work with such an amazing captaincy team while also being determined to do well in my studies really shaped my Year 12 experience.

What are you studying now, and what has excited you most about it? I am currently studying a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne, planning to major in Accounting and Finance. Building connections and networking is very much a part of the course, which was very daunting at first. However, I have grown to enjoy it and have met so many interesting people.

How did your time at Heathdale prepare you for tertiary study? Heathdale prepared me well for tertiary study personally because it really helped me build a great network of friends who still support me even now. I still keep in contact with them and even some teachers who still check in on how I'm doing, and I will be forever grateful for them. The experiences I had in high school are some of my best memories and helped build my character.

Has your definition of success changed since leaving school? Success to me has always meant to try my hardest in all that I do and honour God through it. This has not changed since leaving school, and I will always work to make use of the gifts that God has given me to one day bless others.

How has your faith continued to shape your outlook during this stage of life? Knowing that ultimately God has a plan for my life is extremely reassuring, especially at the start of university when I was still trying to meet new people and felt alone or stressed over assignments and exams. I definitely struggled at the start of my university experience, but I think it ultimately strengthened my faith. I thank God that His plans for me are good, and I will continue to do my best and let Him do the rest.

What encouragement would you offer current students as they prepare for what comes after school?

It will be self-driven. There won't be teachers chasing students up on work, and you'll need to be prepared to take initiative and put yourself out there. It provides the perfect opportunity to try new things, and remember that everyone wants to make friends, so don't be scared to approach other people! I think that the saying of "you get out what you put in" is very applicable in this context, and being involved really makes the experience more enjoyable.



Coding & Circuits Come Alive

Pearl Tipping,
Coordinator for Learning & Teaching (Primary)

At the end of Term 1 in 2025, we had the team from G.A.T.E.WAYS come in and run some tailored Robotics Extension workshops with some of our select DigiTech students from Werribee and Melton, and what an amazing day it was!

Students were introduced to a little blue robot called Dash. Not only did they learn how to code this perky little fellow to explore around the room, but they also came up with alternative uses (or 'hacks') for his various functions. For example, they used his voice record function to design a Turing Test – essentially making him into a little chatbot. In designing their conversation options, the students learned about sentiment analysis and the power of ordered binomial splits.

In their second extension workshop, the students used a modular robotic platform called Cubelets to investigate the relationship between electronic circuits and robotic functions. By connecting the various inputs and outputs via the processor, students created all sorts of unique robots... from a 'bucking' robot (oppositional push-pull forces) to a robotic torch that used an Inverse Cubelet and a Light Sensor to automatically turn on when the lights went off.

With every wire connected and line of code written, these DigiTech students took one step closer to becoming tomorrow's innovators!

Blast Off



Christine Anosa,
Primary Teacher – Werribee

At Werribee, Year 2 students celebrated their Space unit with a special evening event – Space Night! From crafting moon rocks and decorating planet cookies to designing space comics and exploring a sensory room filled with slime and lights, the fun was truly out of this world. A sweet highlight was the chocolate fondue station, which quickly became a crowd favourite. Outside, students danced under the stars at the space disco, complete with bubbles and music. The night wrapped up with a space themed movie and snacks, leaving students with big smiles and unforgettable memories.

"Making the space cookie was my favourite because the icing and sprinkles were delicious." **Amelia**

"I loved dancing outside with music and bubbles, it was so exciting to be in the playground in the dark!" **Saran**

"My favourite thing about Space Night was everything! I wish we could do Space Night all the time." **Jordan**



Kylie Clark,
Prep-Year 2 Coordinator – Melton

As part of their learning about Space, Year 2 students at both Melton and Werribee campuses launched into unforgettable experiences that brought the wonders of the Solar System to life, each in their own unique way.

When Year 2 students at Melton studied 'The Solar System' in Science, one of the highlights of the unit was an incursion in a Cosmodome. Students went inside a large dome and were treated to visual representations of the night sky, showing how the Sun, Earth and Moon interact during day and night. Students were taken on an adventure 'flight' around the Solar System, visiting each planet to find out how each is unique, and even dangerous! As a result, students learnt many facts about our universe and how amazing God's creation truly is.

"I learnt that Saturn is very light and if it was small enough, it would float in a mug like a marshmallow." **Nash**

"The closest planet to the Sun is not the hottest planet." **Elizabeth**

"It takes Mercury 83 days to orbit around the Sun." **David**

World Class Efforts in Languages

OZCLO

Ignasia Tsolis,
International & EAL Student Coordinator

This year, 28 Werribee campus students from Years 7-12 took part in the Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO), forming seven teams of four – the highest number of participants and teams we've ever had!

The atmosphere in the room during the online competition was filled with anticipation, excitement and nervous energy as students eagerly awaited the online language problems to activate. Throughout the competition, students demonstrated impressive teamwork, logical thinking and persistence, using strategies to solve the challenges quickly and accurately.

Although our teams did not progress to the National round this year, six out of the seven teams received honourable mentions for achieving full marks on at least one of the four language problems they tackled together. An outstanding effort from all students who participated!



EP LANGUAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Alannah West,
Primary French Teacher – Werribee

Our students put in amazing effort at this year's Education Perfect International Language Championship! Heathdale Christian College came:

- 4th out of 1804 schools in the world (last year we came 6th!)
- 3rd in Australia out of 1,205 schools and 2nd in Victoria out of 323 schools
- 3rd overall in French out of 1,036 schools
- 2nd overall in Latin out of 358 schools
- 13th overall in Chinese out of 851 schools

Our students from both Melton and Werribee earned an impressive number of individual awards: 37 received Credit, 26 Bronze, 13 Silver, 11 Gold, 5 Emerald and 5 Elite awards for outstanding efforts.

Our top scoring students were:

- 1st: Aneesh K (W8T) – 27,474 points
- 2nd: Noah W (W8A) – 15,717 points
- 3rd: Johan E (W7F) – 12,299 points

Our students keep surprising us, going further than they've gone before!





Naplan Results

We are grateful to see our students continuing to flourish academically. The 2025 NAPLAN results show Heathdale performing well above national averages across the year levels and domains, providing encouraging evidence of students developing the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to thrive in their learning journey.



Year 3 Democracy incursion

YEAR LEVEL	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR	NUMERACY
YEAR 3	455	462	459	481	457
National Average	402	414	405	408	405
YEAR 5	543	544	544	568	555
National Average	492	480	487	497	492
YEAR 7	577	585	577	586	597
National Average	538	538	542	539	555
YEAR 9	610	635	604	629	628
National Average	568	575	569	559	573

NAPLAN participation for Heathdale Christian College is 100%

NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%



Year 7 Art



Year 9-10 Outdoor Education

Developing vibrant and purposeful spaces

The development of vibrant and purposeful spaces that aim to inspire, facilitate, complement and nurture deep and rich learning. As we continue to grow, we are committed the provision of well-equipped, agile and flexible learning spaces which will meet our growing student and staff population.

- Designing campus facilities that incorporate a variety of teaching practices which nurture deep and rich learning.
- A masterplan for both campuses that embraces a wholistic approach to education and wellbeing in the design of our buildings, gardens, playgrounds and natural play spaces.
- Incorporation of dedicated project-based learning facilities to promote innovation, problem solving and enquiry-based learning for our students.

66

We give thanks to God for His continued provision as our College grows to meet the learning needs of our community. 2025 was a season of exciting development across both Melton and Werribee campuses, reflecting our commitment to creating vibrant and purposeful spaces for every student.

Andrew Ballesty,
Director of Business Services



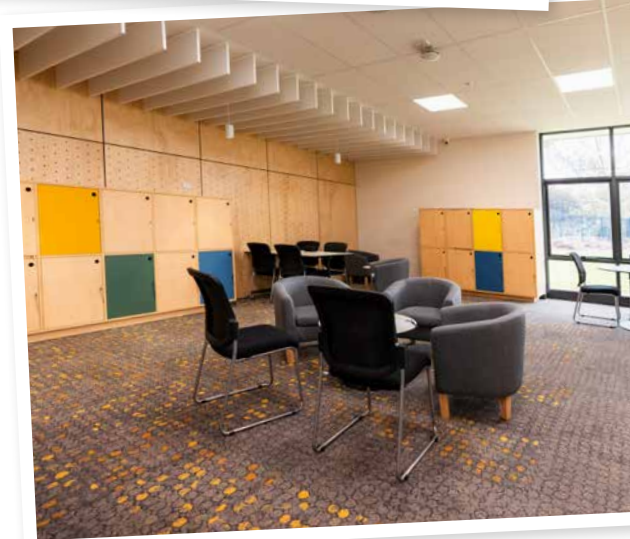
Shaping Tomorrow

Andrew Ballesty,
Director of Business Services

On Friday 16th September 2025, our Melton campus marked a significant milestone with a formal dedication of three newly refurbished buildings: the VCE Learning Hub, Study Centre and Science Centre. This celebration commemorated our journey to offering a full Prep to Year 12 learning experience and affirmed our ongoing commitment to Christian education in Melbourne's West. We were honoured to welcome local dignitaries and special guests, including Steve McGhie, Member for Melton in the Victorian Legislative Assembly, as we recognised the revitalisation of these key learning spaces.

At Werribee, we were delighted complete Stage 1 of the Car Park Redevelopment, adding 190 new spaces, enhancing campus security and improving traffic flow and safety. Additionally, we completed the redevelopment of asphalt areas to better support the Primary school.

These developments are more than bricks and mortar; they are essential steps to enhance the experience of our students. They represent our vision for learning environments that inspire, nurture and equip students for the future. We celebrate what has been achieved and look forward with gratitude and anticipation for what is to come.





Dedication of new Learning Spaces - Melton Campus

Thriving Communities

As we celebrate our 40th year of providing Christian Education to families of the West in 2022, it is integral that we continue to engage families in our community. Building the fabric of our community through caring, strong, respectful and honouring relationships.

- Finding opportunities to serve our local, national and global communities.
- Facilitating opportunities for families to develop relationships, engage and volunteer.
- Developing a strong alumni network to help students in their future endeavours.

“

Community is fundamental to the way God made us. When you find good community, you want to get involved. As a school, we create a culture and community that draws students in, providing a platform for what God wants to do next. This community doesn't end when you graduate; it's strong enough to last for years to come and meaningful enough to keep bringing people back.

Daniel Deroon,
Deputy Principal of Secondary – Werribee



Activity Day

By embedding structured activities into the school routine, it has created space for friendships to flourish, for students to feel safe...

In 2025, our Melton campus launched a new weekly Activity Day for Years 3 to 12, designed to support student wellbeing and strengthen the sense of belonging across the school. The program has become a valued part of the school week, offering students a refreshing break from academic routines and a chance to connect with peers in meaningful ways.

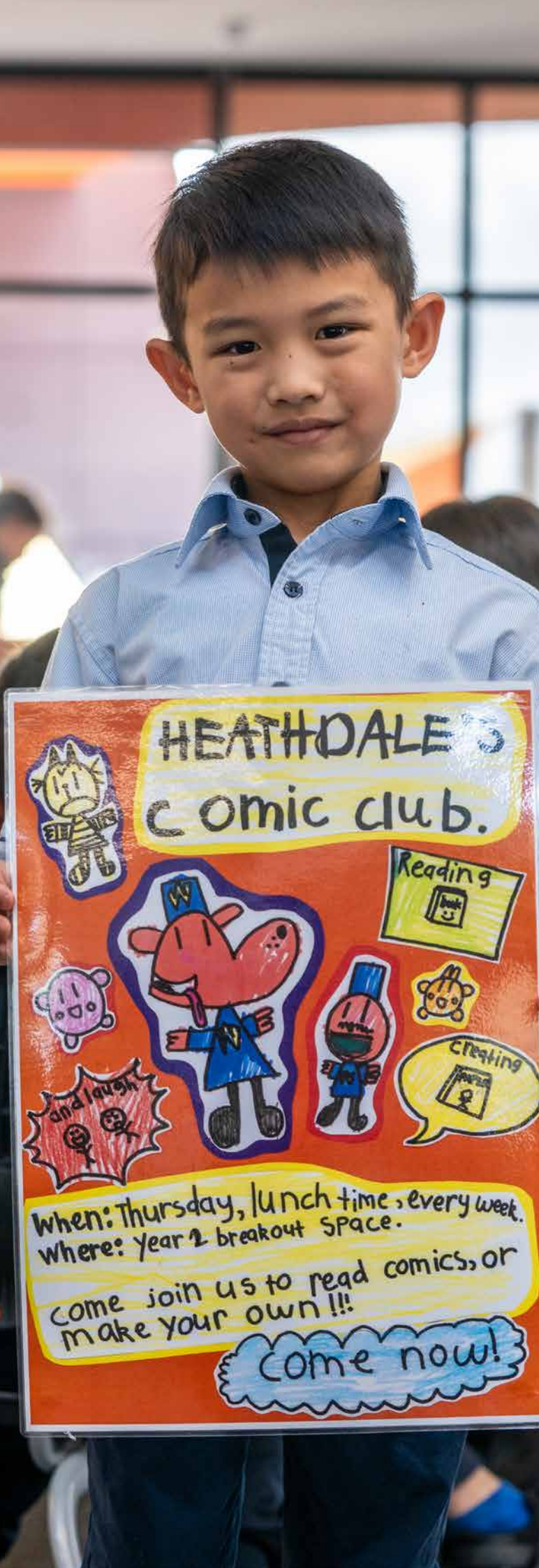
The program was developed in response to growing concerns around student mental health, stress and social isolation. By embedding structured activities into the school routine, it has created space for friendships to flourish, for students to feel safe seeking help and for staff to become more approachable to those who may need support.

Held every Tuesday from 2:00–3:10pm, Activity Day was carefully scheduled to minimise disruption to learning while addressing barriers to after-school participation, such as transport and other commitments. Unlike lunchtime clubs, which can be limited in reach, this dedicated time ensures all students have access to activities that promote connection, teamwork and personal growth.

Each teacher leads an activity, with options ranging from board games, crafts and chess to sports training, gardening, debating, Disney karaoke and more. These sessions have become a highlight of the week for many students, offering fun and interactive experiences that build confidence and deepen our sense of community.

Activity Day continues to reflect our commitment to student wellbeing and academic balance, contributing to our school culture where every student feels seen, supported and part of something bigger.





Comic Club Writes its Own Adventure

Cathy Ryan, Head of Learning Module K-2 – Werribee

What began as a quiet idea became one of the most vibrant and creative lunchtime activities in our K-2 Module at the Werribee campus: **Comic Club.**

In early 2025, Warren from Year 2 and a few friends started reading comic books together on the deck. From that simple beginning, something special grew. When Mrs Esterhuizen noticed their enthusiasm, she invited Warren to lead a club open to all students. Warren embraced the challenge, creating a colourful poster over a long weekend. Soon, posters appeared around the Year 1/2 building and Comic Club was born.

From its very first day, the club captured imaginations. Week after week, the Year 2 shared space transformed into a hub of creativity, where 40–60 eager students gathered to read, draw, and share their own comic creations. Cushions on the floor, tables covered in sketches and quiet corners for reading; every detail reflected a space where imagination could flourish.

Mrs Esterhuizen summed it up beautifully: “I just put everything out and the students take it from there.” And they truly did. Some even carried their stories into the Sensory Space on other days, eager to keep creating. Wherever you looked, there was a child lost in a comic world – reading, drawing or dreaming.

Comic Club became more than a lunchtime activity. It became a community, a place where leadership, creativity and friendship thrived. Many students personally thanked Mrs Esterhuizen for making it happen. Reflecting on the experience, she shared: “Sometimes we wish things would happen or be different – but often, we have to take the first step.” It’s a powerful reminder of Zechariah 4:10: “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.”

A heartfelt thank you to Warren for taking that first step, and to Mrs Esterhuizen for nurturing an idea that has blessed so many. Who knows, perhaps some of these young creators will become the next great writers or illustrators!



House Competitions

House activities have been a valued part of Heathdale's culture since 1989. They enable students to establish a broad range of friendships across year levels, while providing them opportunities to develop their God-given potential in a supportive environment and fostering a healthy competitive spirit through a wide range of activities.

Our College Houses were named after great Christian missionaries, including:

1. **Carey** House (Gold)
named after William Carey (1761-1834)
2. **Taylor** House (Red),
named after Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)
3. **Stanway** House (Green),
named after Alfred Stanway (1908-1989)
4. **Judson** House (Blue),
named after Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)

There were many ways for students to shine throughout 2025, with most competitions held across both campuses, as well as some that reflect the unique character of either Melton or Werribee.

Competitions included:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Athletics Carnival | • General Knowledge |
| • Swimming Carnival | • Esports |
| • Cross Country | • Road Relay Run |
| • Debating | • Talent Show |
| • Public Speaking | • Battle of the Bands |
| • Spelling Bees | • Choral Competition |





Parent Satisfaction

Parent Reflections

We value the input of the families in our Heathdale community, which is why we seek their feedback every year. Our community's reflections help affirm our direction, highlight what matters most to parents and their children, and shape how we continue to grow as a College.

We are thrilled to share that parent satisfaction with our College remains high, with 87% of parents expressing contentment in choosing Heathdale for their child's education and eagerly endorsing our institution to others.

We are deeply grateful for the trust that our Heathdale families in us, as reflected in the invaluable findings of our 2025 Parent Satisfaction survey. As we continue to prioritise growth and progress, guided by our core values, we remain dedicated to providing an environment where every student can flourish in their God-given potential.

"It is a positive environment and it's a safe environment to speak about faith."

"Heathdale at its best is individual teachers showing so much care and going above and beyond to support the needs of individual children."

"Inherently, the teachers seem to be more caring and nurturing and loving."

"Heathdale, as a school, as a community, is really strong... it feels more like a family setting."

"One moment that really touched me was when our son came home and shared what they learned about 'The Return of the Prodigal Son'. It sparked a beautiful conversation at home, and I could see how deeply he was moved. Thank you for helping shape our son's understanding of God's love and grace."



Staff Satisfaction

Staff Reflections

Our devoted Teaching and General Staff work collaboratively, driven by a shared passion to positively impact the lives of our students. The culture they foster is one of initiative, constant learning and growth—a testament to their dedication in fulfilling God's call through their careers.

Our staff's commitment and dedication have shone brightly, leading to a greater satisfaction and positive response. A testament to their dedication, 89% of our staff expressed that they would be happy to recommend the college to others.

At Heathdale, we embrace a culture of continuous learning, and the lessons we learned in 2025 have ignited our passion for growth. Our staff continue to strive for excellence in their roles, paving the way for a brighter future.

Together, as a united community of parents, staff, and students, we envision a future filled with boundless opportunities for learning to help all people grow in their God-given potential.

“Being able to work in a Christian environment and pray with students and colleagues is a real blessing.”

“Heathdale is always trying to be the best version it can be in order to change children's lives forever. The teachers and staff are transparent and authentic.”

“It's incredibly rewarding to collaborate with such a supportive team while also serving our students, staff and the broader school community. Knowing the work we do have a positive impact on others is what makes it so enjoyable and meaningful.”

“A vital outcome of this college is to send children out into the world that is increasingly focussing on individualism, yet our students go out knowing that they can rely on relationships with other people and God to give them foundation in life when journeys get inevitably tough. I wish my children had gone to this school.”



Growing for our future

Our measured growth strategy at both campuses has led to a welcome increase in numbers of students, family partnerships, and subsequent staff and resources required. We will continue to practise effective and sound business management, both operationally and financially, to ensure the provision of excellent Christian Education for generations of students to come.

- Development of a multi-faceted business plan for the next 10 years, which will position the College as a leading provider of Christian Education in the Western suburbs.
- Staff retention and recruitment plans, which will enable our College to retain, develop and attract high-quality staff as an Employer of Choice.
- A comprehensive marketing plan to effectively tell our story and promote our College's excellent Christian Education learning opportunities.

Student Numbers

2490

All Students

Total students enrolled from K-12

Werribee

1940

Melton

550

51%

Female

49%

Male

93.98%

Average
attendance rate
(Year 1-10)

49%

Female

51%

Male

“With growth comes change, and we have worked hard to ensure our systems, structures and planning have kept pace.” **Matthew Wilson - Board**



Governance & Corporate Structure

Our College is governed by a group of dedicated volunteers who use their skills, knowledge and wisdom to establish our strategic direction. We are continually blessed through their deep commitment to Christian education, their forward strategic thinking and their love of our College. The following persons were directors of the College during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report 31 December 2025, unless otherwise stated:

College Board

Chairperson



Matthew Wilson – B.A., Postgrad B.Ed. (P-12), M.B.A.
Director Community Wellbeing, City of Ballarat

Deputy Chairperson



Darren Gardiner – M.B.A., B.Sc.(App.Sc.), Dip.Dairy Tech
Principal Research Consultant, Agriculture & Food, CSIRO

Treasurer



Kalli Green – B.Bus. (Accounting), B.Mus.
Accountant, Werribee Baptist Church

Executive Member



Penny Telfer – B.Law, B.Legal St., Grad Dip Legal Prac.
Special Counsel, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers (commenced May 2025)

Executive Member



Amanda Newton – M.Acc., Cert IV Property Services
Global Sales & Marketing Leader, Intuit QuickBooks (departed April 2025)

Board Members



Victoria Gatt – B.A. Law (Honours) and B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice
Lawyer, Victoria Legal Aid



Luke Nelson – M.Ministry, B.A. (Hons in History), Cert IV Graphic Design
Pastor, City on a Hill (Melbourne West) (commenced June April 2025)



Stan Richey – M.Ministry, Grad Dip. (Global Leadership), B.A (Pastoral Studies)
Pastor, Werribee Baptist Church

Our Senior Leadership Team provides our Academic and Professional staff with leadership and expertise in both Christian education and business services. This team provides staff with vision, direction and purpose and allows the opportunity for ongoing career growth and development.

Senior Leadership



Ross Grace – *Dip.T. (Prim.), Grad.Dip. (Learning Disabilities), M.Ed. (Educational Leadership)*
Executive Principal



Deborah Letcher – *B.A., B. Teach. (Hons.), M. Instructional Leadership*
Principal of Secondary - Werribee



Yvonne Harvey – *B.Sc. (Hons) QTS(Ex), PGDip. SW, M. Ed., Dip. Gov. (FICDA), M. Ed. (Educational Leadership)*
Principal of Primary - Werribee



Iain Belot – *B.A. Arts (Hons.), Dip.Ed., M. School Leadership.*
Principal of Melton



Graeme Hallett – *B.A. (Humanities), Dip.Ed.*
Director of Learning & Teaching



Anthony Coghlan – *B.Arts, Dip. Ed., Dip. HRM.*
Director of Student Wellbeing (commenced October 2025)



Andrew Ballesty – *B.Ec. FCPA MBA*
Director of Business Services

New Starter Reflections

We asked two of our new staff members who joined us in 2025 about their experiences of starting their journey with the College. Bec Bromilow joined our team as a Career Development Practitioner and Secondary Teacher, and Lindsay Rossendell as Risk and Compliance Lead.



Bec Bromilow

Teaching Staff (Werribee)



What motivated you to pursue a career in teaching?

I've always been drawn to people and their stories. Teaching and working in Careers felt like a natural way to walk alongside young people as they discover who they are and who they might become. My passion for careers education grew from a desire to help students see possibility, recognise their strengths, and step more confidently into their future, while understanding that uncertainty is a natural and valuable part of the journey.

What attracted you to Heathdale in 2025?

Heathdale stood out as a place where faith, learning and purpose are woven together. I was particularly drawn to a community that values not just academic achievement but helping students discern their calling and develop into the people God created them to be.

What have been some highlights of your first year at Heathdale?

The greatest highlight has been building relationships with the 2026 Year 10 students, watching them gain clarity and confidence about their future pathways. Whether through conversations, careers programs or milestone moments, it's a privilege to witness those sparks of understanding when a student begins to see new possibilities for themselves. Another highlight has been the gift of meeting regularly with my prayer partner, creating a space for encouragement, reflection and faith amid the busyness of school life.

How have leaders and colleagues supported your growth in the role?

My role has invited me to be resourceful, resilient and open to learning. I'm particularly grateful for the colleagues who have generously shared their wisdom and encouragement along the way. Their support, together with the opportunities and challenges of a new role, have shaped me in meaningful ways.

In what ways has Heathdale's culture and Christian environment influenced your experience?

Heathdale's Christian foundation creates a culture of care, purpose and hope. It encourages us to look beyond immediate outcomes and invest in the growth, character and future of every young person.

...it's a privilege to witness
those sparks of understanding
when a student begins to
see new possibilities
for themselves.

Working at Heathdale has been a constant reminder that our work is part of a greater purpose.



Lindsay Rossendell

General Staff (Cross-Campus)

What motivated you to pursue a career in risk and compliance?

As a lawyer, I have always been drawn to areas such as governance, policy development, privacy, records management and administrative law. What I value most about this work is the opportunity to contribute to environments where people can thrive through strong systems, clear processes and good stewardship. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to use my skills in a way that supports the College's mission and community.

What attracted you to Heathdale in 2025?

The Christian environment was what initially attracted me to Heathdale. From my first interactions with the College, it was clear that faith is not simply part of its identity, but something that genuinely shapes its culture, values and relationships. Having previously worked across various government sectors, joining a Christian school community was a new experience for me. It has been a privilege to become part of a college that is committed to partnering with families, supporting students and sharing the hope of the Gospel through both word and action.

What have been some highlights of your first year at Heathdale?

One of the greatest highlights has been working alongside colleagues across both campuses who share a genuine commitment to serving students and families well. I have enjoyed contributing to projects that strengthen the College's governance, policy and compliance frameworks,

helping ensure that Heathdale remains a safe, supportive and well-managed environment for the entire community. Equally rewarding has been building relationships across the College and seeing firsthand the care, dedication and servant-hearted attitude of staff in every area of the organisation.

How have leaders and colleagues supported your growth in the role?

From the beginning, I experienced a culture of encouragement, collaboration and support. Colleagues have generously shared their knowledge and expertise, while leaders have provided guidance and trust that has enabled me to continue learning and growing in the role. What stands out most is the genuine sense of community. There is a willingness to help one another, celebrate successes and work together toward shared goals. This spirit of partnership has made my transition into the education sector both enjoyable and rewarding.

In what ways has Heathdale's culture and Christian environment influenced your experience?

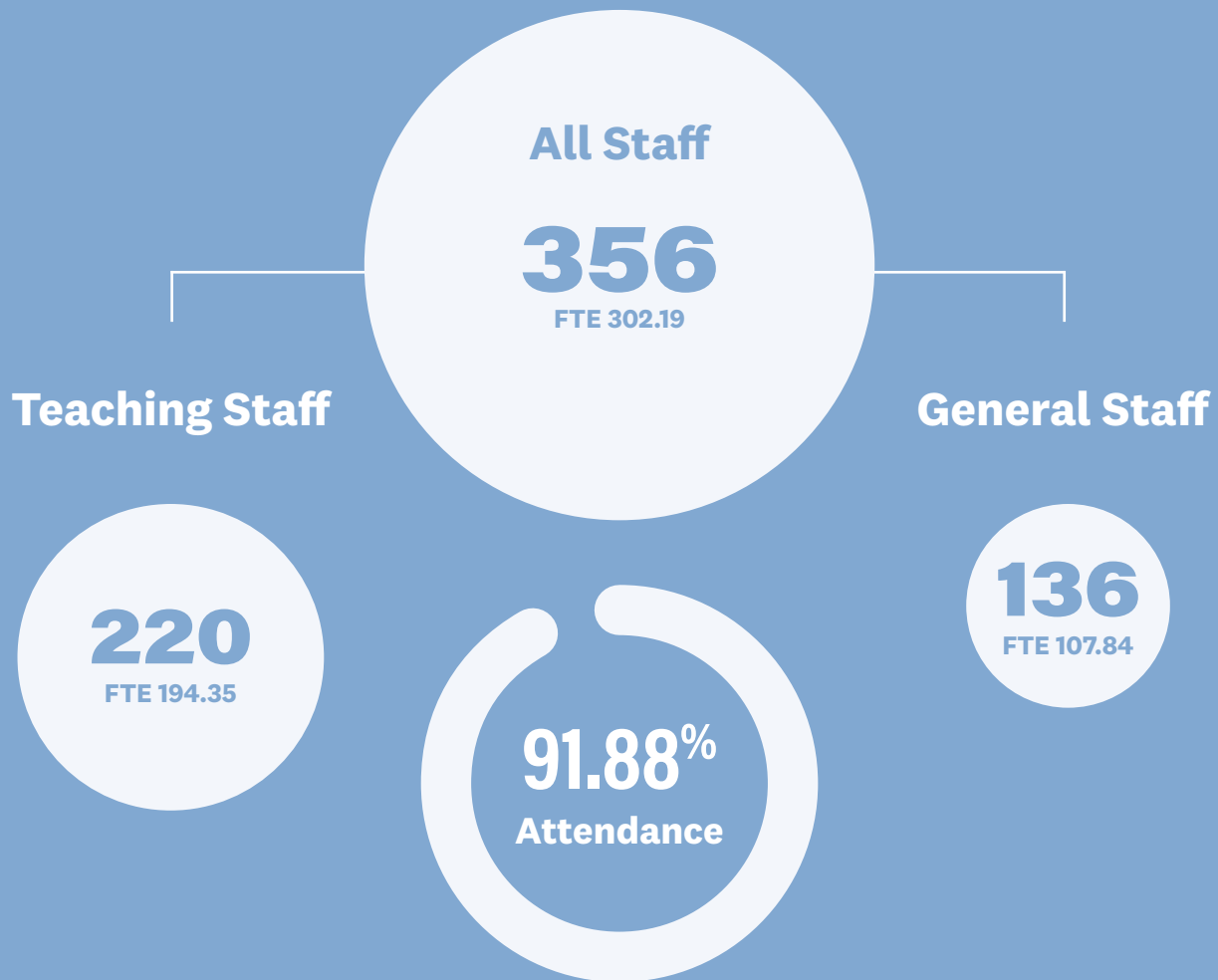
Working at Heathdale has been a constant reminder that our work is part of a greater purpose. One of the most meaningful aspects of college life has been the opportunity to pray with colleagues and participate in daily devotions before commencing our duties. These moments remind us that our work is ultimately about serving God and others. The Christian faith that underpins Heathdale is reflected in the way people care for one another, support one another and work together as a community.

About Our Staff



To stay true to our College's purpose and vision, all staff members are active in their Christian faith and receive support to ensure they devotedly express this faith in every aspect of their work, thereby fulfilling our College's mission. We highly value the efforts of our staff and appreciate each individual employee.

Our academic staff comprises qualified teachers who are passionate about helping each child discover their God-given gifts and talents by fostering curiosity and promoting deep learning. As students progress from Kindergarten through Year 12, our staff encourage them to grow in wisdom and discernment across all aspects of their education. This nurturing approach cultivates an attitude of excellence, motivating our students to strive for their best. Our professional staff are dedicated to creating an atmosphere of excellence at our College, enabling our teachers to focus on our unique Christian education and nurture our students' academic, spiritual, physical and emotional growth.



For all staff, based on actual as a percentage of possible total.

Teaching Staff Qualifications

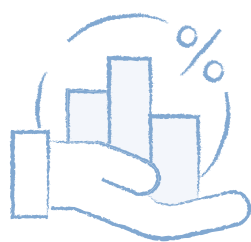


Professional Development

\$230,343.29

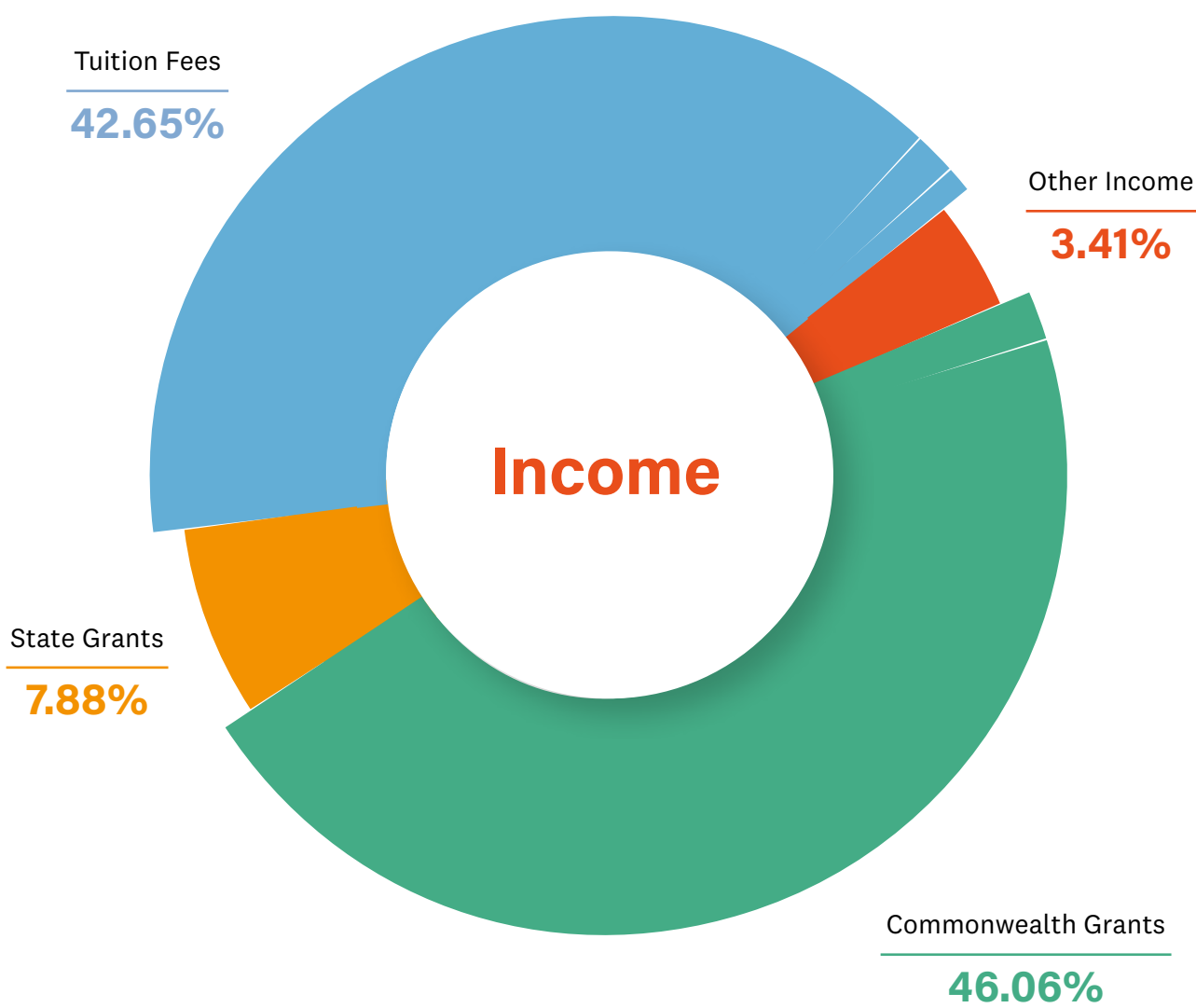
worth of internal and external PD completed in 2025

Financial Activities



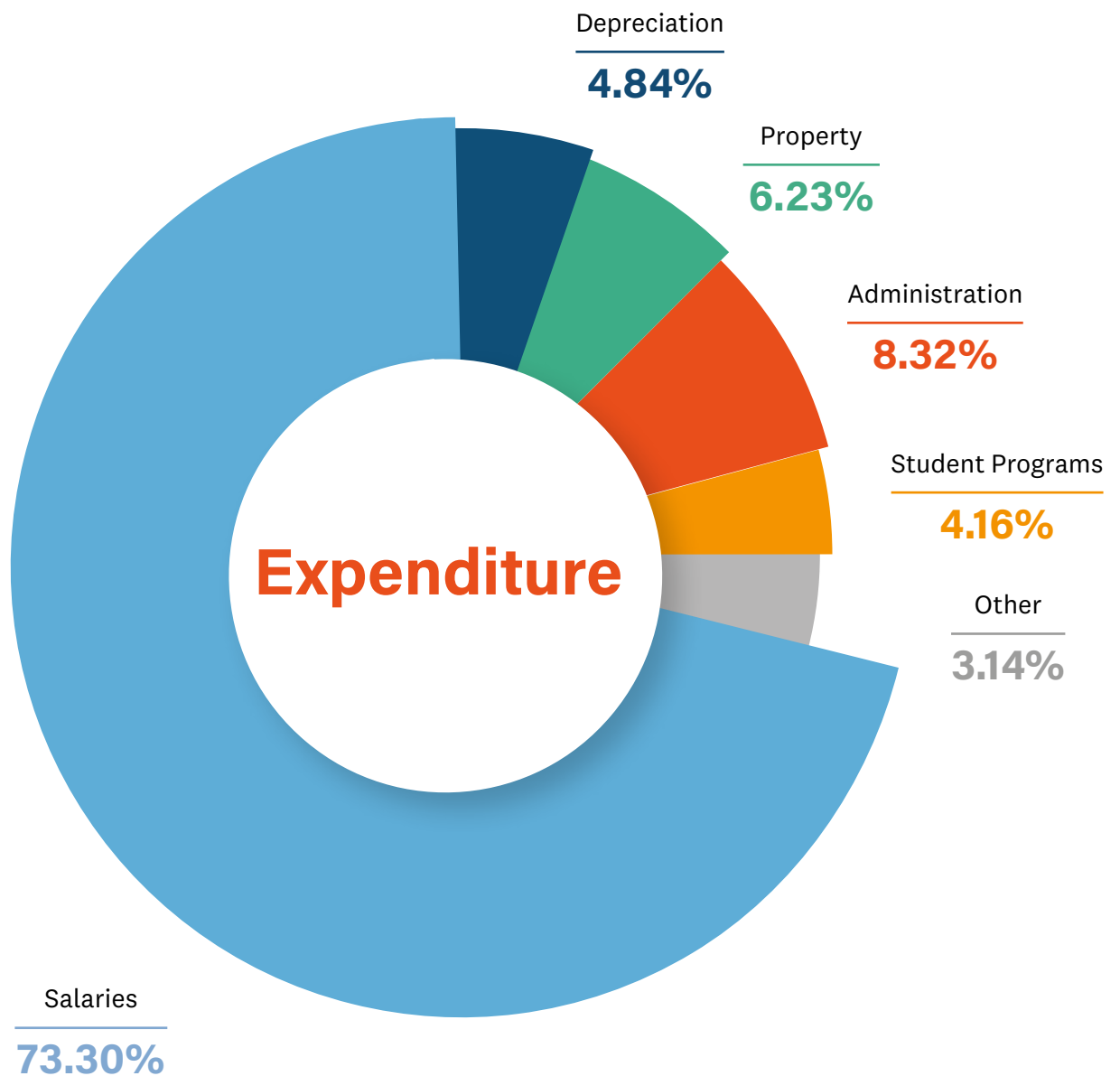
In line with our Foundational Quality Statements, we pursue best practice management systems and excellence in all areas. Our College Board takes a fiscally responsible approach to all financial activities. The following charts demonstrate the financial activities of the College with regard to revenue and capital expenditure in 2025.

Heathdale Christian College Income





Heathdale Christian College Expenditure





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Werribee Plaza, 3030
enquiries@heathdale.vic.edu.au

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Werribee 175 Derrimut Road - (03) 9749 1522

HeathdaleChristianCollege



ABN: 40 005 962 792
School No.: 1846
CRICOS No.: 00578B