FROM THE HEADMASTER

A very warm welcome and welcome back to 2016 for the Somerset Community. Over this week we had 182 new students begin their journey at the College and we certainly hope theirs will be as rewarding as ours. We started the year with a record enrolment of 1,485 from Pre-Prep to Year 12.

There has been dramatic growth over the past few years and now we return in 2016 to near completion of the new Sports Facilities that I’m sure you are as excited about as we are! The new facilities are a direct result of this considered growth and your support. Thank you.

We welcomed the following new staff:

- **Mr Ash Abdou (Class of 1990)** – Head of Department – Mathematics
- **Ms Melissa Black** – Teacher – Junior School
- **Mr Brad Cates** – Teacher – Junior School
- **Miss Emma Lowden** – GAP Staff
- **Mr Ryan Martin** – Kitchen Hand
- **Mr Dean Perkiss** – Head Chef
- **Mrs Samantha Powell** – Teacher Assistant – Junior School
- **Miss Kiani Raklander** – AFL Internship
- **Mrs Elke Schneider** – Teacher – Senior School
- **Ms Rachel Skyring** – Teacher – Junior School
- **Ms Vicky Speight** – Teacher – Junior School
- **Mr Ben Turner (Class of 1996)** – Teacher - Senior School; and

welcome back to **Mrs Sandy Berghofer**, **Mr Richard Gazal**, **Mrs Jane Gazal**, **Mr Stewart Moore**, **Mr Isao Kamei** and **Mr Tim Fisher**.
There have been a number of changes to responsibilities this year:

- **Mr Paul Evans** – Acting Head of Department - Business and Humanities
- **Mrs Margaret Kiddle** – Pre-Prep Director
- **Miss Bronwyn Lee** – Head of House – Andrews
- **Mr Stewart Moore** – Assistant Head of Department – Business and Humanities
- **Ms Selena Muscat** – Assistant Head of Department – Design
- **Mr Dallas O’Brien** – Head of Department – Design
- **Mrs Sarah White** – Assistant Head of Department – Foreign Languages

On a bittersweet note, I am delighted to tell you that **Dr Andrew Cousins** has been appointed as Director of Teaching and Learning at Presbyterian Ladies College, Perth from the start of next term.

Dr Cousins has been a wonderful colleague and teacher on so many levels since joining the College in 1999, starting as a Science teacher before assuming the Head of Department role in 2006. He was then appointed as Dean of Middle Years in 2008 before assuming his current role as Dean of Teaching and Learning in 2014.

We will miss him greatly but this a wonderful career opportunity for him to embrace another organisation and take it forward as he has done here. It is an exciting time for the Cousins family as they venture west and we wish Andrew, Jo, James and Georgie all the richest blessings in this move.

With Dr Cousins resigning his position, I have taken the opportunity to look at responsibilities around the Deputy Headmaster and Deans of Teaching and Learning and Middle Years. With the changes coming in a few years as part of the QCAA review of Senior Studies the responsibilities of the Academic Counsellor will also change as the QCS and OP systems disappear.

After discussions with the College Leadership Team, I have decided that the current roles of Dean of Teaching and Learning and Academic Counsellor will be redundant at the end of first term. Two new positions will be created.

The Dean of Studies will assume the responsibilities of the Academic Counsellor and also take on data analysis of student and staff performance, leadership of its use, and all diagnostic testing. This will be a CLT position.

I am delighted to announce that **Mrs Karen Crowley** has accepted my offer of this new position and membership of the CLT. Mrs Crowley’s experience, success and work ethic over the past few years in her second stint at Somerset makes this appointment both well-deserved and logical. The Strategic Plan has data driven decisions at its heart so we must have someone to continue the excellent start Dr Cousins has given us and Mrs Crowley deservedly enjoys the confidence of so many students, parents and staff at the College.

The Head of Curriculum Services will co-ordinate Senior School reporting, construct mark books, construct the timetable including alternative versions, co-ordinate replacement staff in the Senior School, construct duty rosters and co-ordinate the weekly Senior School calendar. This position will work closely with the Deputy Headmaster, Dean of Middle Years and Dean of Studies.

The Deputy Headmaster and Dean of Middle Years will take on some changes to their roles in lieu of those that have moved to the other two positions.
FROM THE HEADMASTER CONTINUED

Class of 2015 Academic Results
A complete summary of their outstanding results are available on the College website but the highlights are as follows:

OP
- 9 OP 1s, 7.63% of the cohort of 118
- OP 1 to 2, 20.3%
- OP 1 to 3, 27.1%
- OP 1 to 5, 38.1%
- OP 1 to 10, 69.1%
- OP 1 to 15, 94.1%
- A median OP of 7

IB Diploma, Cohort of 5
- 41, 38, 36, 34, 31
An average of OP4 equivalent

This changes the key statistics to:
- OP 1, 7.31%
- OP 1 to 3, 27.6%
- OP 1 to 5, 39.1%
- OP 1 to 10, 70.7%
- OP 1 to 15, 94.3%

Combined Results
As part of the changes we made two years ago to find alternative pathways, we had 19 students complete an external Business Diploma.

This enabled them to be given a rank score equivalent to an OP 9 for tertiary entrance purposes. There are 27 similarly enrolled this year. Therefore, over 80% of our students were treated as OP 1 to 10 for tertiary entrance. Likewise, with bonus points for other subjects, 17.1% of the cohort were treated as OP 1s for tertiary entrance purposes. The most common OP score over the past 20 years continues to be an OP 1, there's only one other school that could claim this.

I look forward to meeting all parents at the Parents’ and Friends’ Celebration of the New School Year – Welcome to 2016 on Friday 5 February 2016 from 6.30pm to 9.00pm in Towers Quad. This function is a wonderful opportunity for parents new to the College and those returning to meet each other and the staff.

Please make this highlight function a priority on your calendar!

Craig Bassingthwaighte
Headmaster
**Don’t Miss Out!**

“Celebration of the New School Year – Welcome to 2016” event.

A fabulous opportunity for parents and friends to celebrate with the Headmaster, College Leadership Team, teachers and staff. Year Level Parent Liaisons will be available to greet new families upon arrival. We look forward to catching up with you all to enjoy this much talked about social gathering.

**When:** Friday 5 February, 6.30pm to 9.00pm  
**Where:** Towers Quad (will move undercover if the weather is inclement)  
**Dress:** Smart casual  
**Cost:** 35.00 per person (includes food, non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks)  
**RSVP:** Wednesday 3 February - Book online at [this link here](#)

Josie Kay, President  
P&F Association

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**School Transport at Somerset College**

Welcome back and we hope everyone is getting their transport solutions in place for the coming year. We hope that with the soon-to-be-open sports facility providing more supervised hours on site, parents will have increased flexibility regarding drop-off and pick-up arrangements for their children.

While we currently do not provide a Somerset College Bus service, Surfside Buses have advised us the revised bus routes for 2016 are available to assist you with your travel arrangements.

The links provided below will assist you in finding the appropriate route to and from Somerset College:

- Journey Planner  
- TransLink Website

In addition, the College has two new email addresses to assist:

- [carpool@somerset.qld.edu.au](mailto:carpool@somerset.qld.edu.au) – Families who wish to provide and reciprocate carpooling will be added to a database where families living in the same area will be contacted to assist in negotiating an efficient outcome. Of course, the most efficient method is for students to ask their friends who live nearby; this is almost always the most reliable option.  
- [transport@somerset.qld.edu.au](mailto:transport@somerset.qld.edu.au) - This is available for requests for advice on the best route home for a student and, where no alternative is available, Somerset may be able to provide transport to the nearest bus terminus (for example, Robina Town Centre).

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you require further assistance with your transport options.

Craig Sayer  
Dean of Activities
**WELCOME BACK TO 2016!**

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome back staff and families to this new year! It has been wonderful to hear stories from our students about the exciting things they have experienced over the holidays and I am pleased to see that they are so excited to return.

I would like to thank parents for their assistance in ensuring the car park continues to run smoothly, particularly of an afternoon. Please remember, the ELP car park spaces are reserved for Pre-Prep families only.

**New Staff and Families**

I would like to welcome new families to the Junior School and hope they are settling well and making friends. If your child is experiencing any difficulty, please speak with their classroom teacher as quickly as possible so we can assist in making a smooth transition. I would also like to welcome five new staff to the Junior School – Miss Rachel Skyring (Year 1), Miss Vicky Speight (Year 2), Mr Brad Cates (Year 4), Miss Melissa Black (Pre-Prep to Year 5 Music) and Mrs Sam Powell (Pre-Prep Assistant). I am sure you will join with me in welcoming these five staff, along with our new families.

**Schoolbox**

Please remember to check you Classroom Communication Pages regularly, and the College Calendar, on Schoolbox. If you are having difficulties accessing the correct pages, please let us know.

**Communication**

Communication is important and I ask that if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child’s progress, you speak directly with your child’s classroom teacher. If you need time with your child’s teacher, please email them or phone to make an appointment and they will be more than happy to meet with you at a convenient time.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the year ahead. I know that 2016 will be great!

Paul Taylor
Head of Junior School

**Cum Laude Winners for Semester Two 2015**

Congratulations to students in Years 7 to 12 who achieved a Cum Laude award for their academic work in Semester Two 2015. There will be a special Academic Assembly on Tuesday 2 February at 12.50pm in The Great Hall where Cum Laude winners will be presented. Parents are cordially invited to this assembly.

If you do plan on attending, please RSVP to Mrs Wendy Bacon via email (wbacon@somerset.qld.edu.au) so that seating numbers can be set aside. Finally, as a community, we are very proud of our Cum Laude winners. Congratulations on your academic success.

**Year 6 (Year 7 2016)**

**Year 7 (Year 8 2016)**
Benjamin Agnew, Anna Boone, Makayla Carkazis, Tanisha Chadha, Mohnish Chand, Desmond Chuah, Jenna Goldie, Alexandra Grgic, James Guy, Marcus Ibsen, Nikita Khatri, Min Jae Kyeong, Emma Lekich, Jack Luke-Paredi, Ava Luxford, Jacinta Mai, Lilly McCoomb, Piper Nairn, Katie O’Loughlin, Brooke Otto, Georgina Powell, Joanne Ryu, Lara Shirley, Emily Slater, Matthew White
Cum laude Winners for Semester Two 2015 Continued

Year 8 (Year 9 2015)

Year 9 (Year 10 2016)

Year 10 (Year 11 2016)
Nalin Batra, Rosie Bensley, Brieanna Bischof, Rosie Cui, Ashraf Docrat, Megan Gerber, Brodie Gray, Jean Han, Madison Harding-Tape, David Harris, Jesse Heydennyhch, Jina Hong, Yukimaro Ii, Maximilien Jeanneret, Rachel Kim, Natalie Madden, Brendan Major, Kristina Mei, Crystal Paris, Gwang (Kelly) Park, Courtney Randall, Olivier Rosendahl, Danny Ryu, Sahara Siyal, Alexander Smyth, Nathaniel Soh, Lauren Sprague, Sam Stevenson, Ashlyn Taylor, Risa Utama, Celeste Walsh, Emma Welch, Da Yeon (Daiana) Yoon, Jana Zielinski

Year 11 (Year 12 2016)
Kenta Arichi, Tian Behenna, Sam Bensley, Olivia Bourne, Amelia Braithwaite, Xanthe Cerutti, Vanessa Chuah, Elyse Cornford, Catherine Gerrard, Julia Gibson, Abby Hall, Marina Hou, Zac Irwin, Elizabeth Kay, Harrisen-John Leckenby, Li Wen (Iris) Lin, Lokman Lo, Xanthia Mason, Anneliese McConnell, Samuel O’Loughlin, Xsarea Power, Casey Reynoldson, Marnie Robbins, Nachiket Shah, Jenny Song, Annabelle Trimble, Jaskirat Virdi, Eliza Wright-Smith, Julia Wright-Smith, Young Joo (Aileen) Ye, Bianca Zhang

Michael Brohier
Deputy Headmaster

To read this week’s Add Infinitum, click here.
Welcome from Academic Captains

Welcome back to the New Year! I hope you all had an amazing holiday, whether you travelled somewhere exciting or just relaxed at home. Kenta Arichi and I (Catherine Gerrard) are your Academic Captains for 2016 and we will be writing an article each week about various things like studying, school life, and generally interesting topics about the world.

Even though you may be scared to go back to school or to start a new year, you need to know there is nothing to worry about. For Year 7s, it might be daunting to come into Senior School and for the first time in a while you are the youngest. But don’t panic! Everyone around you is in the same position, and everyone above you has experienced this same feeling. All the new classes and teachers may be overwhelming, but you will soon get used to it and there are plenty of people to ease into it. If you have any questions, concerns or queries, talk to Mrs Rowe or your Year 7 Captains, Reuben Mansell and Vanessa Chuah.

For everyone else, coming back to school might be hard after spending the whole holidays staying up until 3.00am and then sleeping in until midday. However, it is important to get motivated and ready for the new school year. Here are a few tips to encourage yourself to start the new year with a positive attitude:

• Colour code – assign a different colour for things of different importance in your work. For example, use a pink highlighter for formulas you need to remember, or a blue highlighter for definitions. This way when it comes time to start studying, it will be easier to find the information you need.
• Make sure you have leisure time – you will burn out if you spend all of your time studying and no time relaxing. Ensure you leave at least half an hour each day to do things for yourself, like listening to music, browsing the internet or doing exercise.
• Get involved – try something new, join a committee, start a new activity. Most of the time, what you remember about school isn’t the classes you had, but the stuff you did voluntarily outside of school time. You will meet lots of people and teachers with similar interests to you and you will definitely have fun learning a new skill or trying something interesting.

Last of all, don’t be afraid to ask for help! If you are feeling overwhelmed at any state or just need some advice, talk to a teacher, your Head of House, PC Tutor or any of the Year 12 students and they will be happy to help you. I hope you have an awesome year!

Catherine Gerrard
Academic Captain

German Exchange Programme

The partnership between our own College and Dusseldorf’s Comenius Gymnasium, has long allowed Somerset students to enrich their language learning experience through our reciprocal exchange programme.

Somerset students are invited to take part in the College’s Cultural Immersion Trip to Germany in 2017, where they will enjoy a homestay and school experience hosted by our partner school and its families before embarking on travels to take in Germany and Austria’s highlights. First, in 2016, it is Somerset’s turn to welcome our guests, as these students from Germany make their way to the shores of the Gold Coast.

We thank those students and families who have already signed up to be a part of the programme. As the excitement grows and the arrival of our German friends nears, we are still looking for many families willing to act as a homestay for our visitors from 6 to 18 March. If you can help, please email your interest to swhite@somerset.qld.edu.au for more information.

Sarah White
Assistant Head of Department - Languages
**Year 7 Camp**

I hope all Year 7 students are excited and looking forward to our camp on 8 to 12 February. We have a number of meetings with the Year 7 group in the next two weeks where hopefully all questions can be answered.

Of course, Mrs Rowe will be providing all the comforting advice for the students who perhaps are not used to a few nights away from home.

Our Outdoor programme aims to assist in the slow and gentle journey from young child to young adult and the journey will involve a transition from dependence to independence. From being totally directed to needing initiative. From comfort to some discomfort. From working as an individual to needing to be part of a team.

In an age when every piece of the curriculum puzzle is scrutinised and many schools are avoiding the challenge of an Outdoor programme, the value is consistently reaffirmed through the obvious growth from the students in their brief time away.

Four nights from home can be a little disconcerting for some of our young students. I have a suspicion that students’ homesickness is sometimes outweighed by parents missing their children. It is always comforting when a student feels the pangs of anxiety, that a quick phone call home followed by a little loving support from Mrs Rowe has the students smiling again and ready to embrace another night away from their comfy beds.

It isn’t just the abseil or the high ropes that provide avenues for growth. Adventure activities challenge students to overcome fear and ultimately gain a real sense of accomplishment without the stress of competition. It’s often the small things that provide some of the most valuable life lessons. Students setting the table for others, cleaning off their plates, pouring drinks for their table, cleaning the bathrooms, assisting others with their tents, planning their own clothes for the week, organising their toiletries, et cetera. While these skills are simple, they are often taken for granted, yet they do need to be learnt at some point. Often the consequences of being lackadaisical at home are not critical but on camp the consequences can cause real discomfort and a lesson not easily forgotten.

This cohort of Year 7, I am sure, will be outstanding in their willingness to work together, undertake new challenges and embrace the camp experience.

Craig Sayer  
Dean of Activities

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**Performing Arts News**

Welcome everyone to 2016 and once again to the very busy Performing Arts Department at Somerset College. This year, as usual, promises to be full of various exciting events for all our students and we hope all are looking forward to the excitement and challenges the year presents.

**Welcome To Staff**

We would like to welcome Ms Melissa Black to the Music Department this year. Ms Black is replacing Mrs Annabel Westhoff who is now working in the area of private music teaching. Ms Black will be involved in teaching Pre-Prep, Prep and Years 1 to 5, as well as working with the Junior School Choirs and the Junior Musical. We are sure all will give her a wonderful Somerset welcome. Mrs Helen Moffatt will be returning to some classroom teaching this year, teaching both Year 8 MADD and Year 8 French. Mr Mario Keczan will be involved in some more music teaching this year, teaching Years 6 and 7 music. Both are looking forward to the changes in their teaching areas.

Continued over page...
Performing Arts News Continued

In the Co-curricular Department this year, we would like to welcome to the College Ms Martha Baartz, Mrs Christine Flint and Ms Tegan Haley. Ms Baartz is joining us to teach woodwind and is replacing Mr Rafael Karlen. Mr Karlen is busy studying this year and is taking up his Fulbright Scholarship. He will also be continuing his composing and conducting commitments. We hope to see him at the College this year involved in workshops with our students. Ms Haley is joining our Dance team whilst Ms Melissa is on leave with her new baby. Mrs Flint is joining us to commence our Cheer classes. We have had a wonderful response to this offering so she will be kept very busy throughout the year. We are sure all will give Ms Baartz, Mrs Flint and Ms Haley the warm Somerset welcome they are used to.

Rehearsals
Monday saw the Performing Arts Department sign-on occur, with large numbers of students registering their interest in the many varied opportunities. Rehearsals in all the areas, both Junior and Senior, are now under way, with all ensembles, bands, choirs and casts rehearsing busily for their first engagements. If students have not yet found their way to rehearsals, a full list of rehearsal times for the Junior and Senior groups appears in the Somerset Diary.

If uncertainty exists regarding the larger groups and their rehearsal times, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant staff member for direction. The larger groups’ directors this year are:

- Senior Concert Band, Girls’ Choir, Men’s Chorus, Show Choir – Mrs Sue Roberts
- Jazz Band, Junior Concert Band – Mrs Anne Rowe
- Chamber Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, JSO 1 – Mr Mario Keczan
- Melodic Mynas, Cool Cats Choir, Junior Chorale – Ms Melissa Black
- JSO 2 – Mrs Helen Moffatt
- Vocal Group – Dr Andrew Cousins
- Somerset Actors’ Studio, House Plays, Technical Services Crew – Mrs Katrina Fisher

An avenue also available for communication is through our Performing Arts Captains, Ryan Hamilton and Jenny Song. Queries from students and parents are welcome through this avenue as well. Please feel free to contact them through pacaptains@somerset.qld.edu.au.

Questions regarding the various ensembles (brass, recorder, flute, saxophone, clarinet, percussion) or any other general Music questions can be directed to Mrs Sue Roberts. Questions regarding House Plays, Somerset Actors’ Studio, Technical Services Crew or other Drama related matters can be directed to Mrs Katrina Fisher.

House Plays

For those new to the College, the annual House Plays Festival is an Inter-House competition which showcases theatrical talent from each of the Houses. The competition takes the form of a play festival and runs over two nights during Week 6 in Term One. Each of the Houses performs a play production, directed by two Year 12 house students.

In 2016, the student directors are:
- Andrews – Xsarea Power and Declan Roberts
- Franklin – Shona Jackson and Jessica Stewart
- Laver – Soraya Le Marshall and Ryan Hamilton
- Starkey – Jessica Hossy and Eloise Bourke
- Veivers – Rose Gamble and Michael Redfern

Many students expressed their interest to be a part of the House Plays productions at the Monday lunchtime sign-up, and auditions have already begun to take place. However, if you have missed out so far, please make it a priority to speak with Mrs Fisher or your House Year 12 directors to look to find an alternative time as soon as possible. This is a fantastic event which is enjoyed by many, and all students from Years 7 to 12 are encouraged to participate.
Junior School Ensembles – A special welcome

Melodic Mynas – Years 3 to 4
Ms Black would like to invite all students to attend Melodic Mynas Choir on Wednesday at 2.50 pm in the Junior Music Room. There are a lot of students already enrolled but the more the merrier! Rehearsals are already underway so come join in the fun!

Junior Concert Band
Mrs Rowe is looking forward to welcoming back players from last year and welcoming new players to the Junior Concert Band at its first rehearsal on Monday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Mrs Rowe will be there waiting for everyone with cookies in hand.

JSO 1 String Orchestra
Mr Keczan would like to invite all older string students in the Junior School to join the JSO 1 String Orchestra. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday at 7.45am in The Lepp Building.

Cool Cats – Years 1 and 2
Any students in Years 1 and 2 who love singing are invited to join the Cool Cats this term. They meet on Friday at 2.50pm in the Junior Music Room. Ms Black will be waiting to welcome everyone. Come along next week and be prepared to have some fun!

Junior Chorale – Years 5 and 6
Ms Black would like to invite all students to attend Junior Chorale on Friday lunctime at 12.30pm in the Junior Music Room. There are a lot of students already enrolled but the more the merrier!

JSO 2 String Orchestra
Mrs Moffatt would like to inform all string students in Years 3 and 4 that they are most welcome to join the JSO 2 String Orchestra. Rehearsals are on a Monday lunchtime at 12.30pm in The Lepp Building. So come and join last year's members to make music.

Co-curricular Lessons
The majority of students will have commenced their lessons for this year. Obviously those scheduled on a Monday will be having their first lesson next week. All enquiries regarding the programme are to be emailed to co-curricular@somerset.qld.edu.au. Students new to the programme may only be commencing their lessons this coming week, as timetabling and scheduling lessons is a very time consuming and demanding task. If students have not had a lesson by the end of the coming week (Week 2), or do not know when their lesson is, please do not hesitate to contact the College via the above email address. All students, new or continuing, need to have filled out an enrolment form, the link to which is on the College’s home page.

Dance Lessons
Dance lessons have also commenced for the year. The times and venues for the lessons can be found on the College website, at this link here. All queries regarding dance lessons are to be emailed to dance@somerset.qld.edu.au.

Musical
The Senior Musical had its initial sign-on and information meeting on Thursday, with the usual large group of students showing interest in this area of performance. The philosophy of the Senior Musical is to allow all students to have the opportunity to be involved in a musical stage production. To this end, auditions are only for principal roles; all students are welcome to join the chorus without any audition process.

The Junior School Musical has already commenced their rehearsals for their musical, with the Performing Arts Theatre ready to be transformed into a fantasy adventure land. The young cast are working hard on their show. At this time we need to thank in advance the musical team for their hard work as they start their journey with this show. Make sure you keep the dates available!

Continued over page...
**Performing Arts News Continued**

**Student News**
During the year, many of our students, both in the Senior and Junior School, achieve excellent results in examinations run by the various examination boards and also participate in a variety of enterprises. We would like to acknowledge these students formally through the *Somerset Times*, but it is impossible for us to know absolutely everything that happens. Please drop me a line when a student has produced a noteworthy performance and it will duly published. Please forward relevant documentation regarding the achievement to my email: sroberts@somerset.qld.edu.au.

Sue Roberts and Katrina Fisher  
Director of Music and Director of Theatre Arts

**Senior Sport News**

Welcome back to our Spartan sporting community for 2016. This year will be an exciting one with the completion of our world-class sporting facilities.

**Yukimaro Ii, Tennis**
Yukimaro led Gold Coast Under 17 Team as a captain and the team won the whole division among 7 regions and 14 teams including others from Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and New Caledonia in the Queensland Junior Teams Carnival. Yukimaro didn’t lose any singles matches for the carnival.

**James Guy, Cricket**
James played for Queensland in the Under13 National Cricket Championships in Brisbane earlier this month. Playing in a 50 over format, results were as follows:

- **Round 1**: South Australia 50 all out (31.1 overs) def. by Queensland 1/51 (11.5 overs). James: 3/9 off 7 overs.
- **Semi Final**: Victoria 80 all out (47.2 overs) def. by Queensland 4/81 (37 overs). James: 2/6 off 5.2 overs.
- **Grand Final**: New South Wales 8/176 (50 overs) def. by Queensland 7/177 (49 overs). James: 0/25 off 4 overs.

Queensland won the carnival and James took the equal most wickets in the carnival, with 10 at an average of 6.4.

**Regional Swimming Nominations**
All students who wish to qualify for the South Coast Swim Trials must see Mr Lunniss for paperwork. (Hinterland Trials no longer exist. Qualification is through the APS Carnival and paper nominations for other events).

**Winter Sports Sign-ups**
Rugby, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Tennis and Volleyball are available. All students have been sent an email with a link to select their sport. If you make an error or change your mind, you must go to the Sports Department.

**Swimming Practices**
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30am. Meet Mr Butcher at the pool.

**Spartan Elite and Cross Country Practices**
These will start soon and will be advertised shortly.
**Senior Sport News Continued**

**Student Injuries**
If your son or daughter is injured at school sport, it must be recorded at the time by the College Nurse/medical person present if parents wish to apply through the College insurance policy. If delayed signs or symptoms arise over the weekend, students must notify the College Nurse on Monday morning.

**Sports Information**
Don’t forget to check the Schoolbox Senior School Sport Page as well as the noticeboard at the end of The Smith Building for all sports notes.

**This Week**
Swim Team Training: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7.30am to 8.15am. Meet Mr Butcher on the pool deck – all welcome. Swimming Carnival is in Week 4.

Friday 29 January
12.50pm: Sports Assembly
1.15pm: House Swimming Trials

**Next Week**
House Swimming Trials are next Monday for Starkey, next Tuesday for Veivers. All students must attend and swim at their House Trials. House Swimming 100m races are on Friday – 1.30pm.
Hinterland Sports Trials: Under 19 Boys and Girls Tennis and Under 19 Softball - trials are on Tuesday 2 February. See Mr Lunniss as soon as possible for forms if you wish to attend. This is your only pathway to Regional teams and State teams.

Tuesday 2 February
- Hinterland Trials: Softball (19 Years), Tennis (Boys and Girls 19 Years)

Friday 5 February
- 12.50pm: Sports Assembly
- 1.15pm: House Swimming 100m Races

**Swimming Season Dates**
- **Friday 5 February**: Somerset House Swimming 100m Events (1.30pm to 3.00pm)
- **Monday 15 February**: Somerset House Swimming Carnival (1.00pm to 6.00pm)
- **Wednesday 17 February**: APS Swimming Carnival (9.30am to 2.30pm) at Somerset
- **Monday 29 February and Wednesday 2 March**: South Coast Swimming Trials (4.30pm to 9.00pm) at Southport

All sporting details are posted on Schoolbox on the Sports page.

Shane Lunniss
Director of Sport
**Brisbane International Tennis Schools Challenge**

Over the holidays, Somerset College had 20 students compete in the State Finals of the Brisbane International Tennis Schools Challenge event, held under the Hotshots Red, Orange and Green ball format.

Throughout the five days of the tournament Somerset saw some great results, including the Year 3 and Under Red Ball team coming in third place.

Students had the opportunity to compete alongside professional players competing in the Brisbane International and was a great experience for all students and parents who attended. We would like to thank all players for participating and being great representatives of the College and we look forward to many more successful events throughout the year.

Jay Deacon  
Head Coach – Tennis

**New Rowers Start with a Splash**

More than 20 new rowers have taken to the water for the first time through the Somerset College Learn to Row Day, with many more registered for the next session on Saturday 30 January. Students from Years 8 to 12 spent the day learning how to prepare themselves and the equipment for a rowing session.

The day started with a safety swim at the pool before heading to the Rowing Shed at Bond University, where the students learnt about the terminology and technique of the sport as well as the equipment used. These students will now be able to enjoy the rowing with their team mates on the peaceful waters of the Gold Coast canals as they refine their skills in preparation for racing in Term Two.

The students were welcomed into the great team culture of Rowing, with many of our experienced rowers coming along to help their younger fellow students as they dip an oar in the water for the first time.

It is not too late to join in, if there are any students who have missed out on the Learn to Row days in the school holidays you are welcome to contact me to register for another session.

Andrew Butler  
Head Coach – Rowing

**Taree Rowing Regatta**

The 2016 Rowing season started off with bang as a group of 25 Somerset Rowing students headed off to Taree, for the annual Rowing Camp and Taree summer regatta. The camp started off with the group jumping straight into rigorous training sessions. The three days all seemed to blur into one another and it seemed all we were doing was eating, sleeping and rowing.

The training consisted of a few dry land sessions, lots of on-water sessions, as well as the beach runs at Forster. On the last day of training a storm hit, and consequently the group were unable to train that morning, although that problem was fixed quickly with the group doing an under-cover dry land session. That afternoon the rain persisted and the students did exceptionally well to train though the challenging conditions. A big congratulations to the Boys’ Open Mixed Eight, Declan Roberts, Reuben Mansell, Finlay Walton, Oliver Thew, Sam Platt-Muniz, Lorenz Muhlbauer, Ryan McClure, Maximilian Jenneret and Joshua Redfern, who rowed the 16km to the regatta course in the pouring rain.

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**TAREE ROWING REGATTA CONTINUED**

On Saturday the regatta kicked off and the students didn’t miss a beat, with Madizen Wilkins placing first in her under 16 single and then backing it up with a win in the Under 16 Double with Jade Mansell. At the same time Katherine Plume and Hannah Neuman came flying home to win their Under 17 Double. Throughout the weekend the girls continued their streak by winning the Under 17 Quad. The girls also managed to pull well above their weight and win the Under 19/21 Four, with Madizen Wilkins, Olivia Sina, Hannah Neuman and Jade Mansell, meanwhile Katherine Plume brought home the last of the girls medals winning her Under 17 Single by a significant margin.

The Boys Open Four consisting of Declan Roberts, Reuben Mansell, Finlay Walton and Oliver Thew did especially well, winning both the Mens C Grade and D Grade races, and Declan Roberts, Sam Platt-Muniz, Oliver Thew, Reuben Mansell went on the take out the win for the Mens Under 19/21 Four. Lachlan Munro and Joe McElhone battled it out in the Under 16 Double just missing out and coming home second.

A massive congratulations goes out to the Mixed Eight, Jade Mansell, Madizen Wilkins, Katherine Plume, Olivia Sina, Sam Platt-Muniz, Oliver Thew, Declan Roberts, Reuben Mansell, and Finlay Walton for coming fourth in the Open Mixed Eight and winning a $200 voucher to Croker.

All-in-all the camp and regatta were a great success and gave the squad race experience that will be essential for the upcoming Nationals campaign. The camp would not have been possible without our coaches Andrew Butler, Alison Barry and Andrew Hodges who helped and supported us throughout the week. Also a big thank you to Mrs Sina and Mr and Mrs Eksteen for helping with transportation and catering.

Olivia Sina
Rowing Captain

**INAUGURAL HEAD OF THE CLARENCE REGATTA**

The first weekend of the holidays saw a group of about 25 Somerset rowers brave the heat in Grafton for the inaugural ‘Head of the Clarence’ Regatta. Being the first regatta of the summer training programme, the competition was largely a learning experience - we had the opportunity to race new clubs and schools and develop goals and aspirations for the upcoming season.

Saturday morning began with Jade Mansell setting the tone of the regatta with a silver medal in the Schoolgirl’s Under 15 Single Scull. Shortly after this, she teamed up with Madizen Wilkins in the Under 15 Double Scull to win the gold medal. We then saw Katie Plume and Hannah Neumann pull above their weight to receive a silver medal in the Schoolgirls’ Under 17 Double.

Lorenz Muhlbauer courageously competed in the Under 17 Single Scull, placing fourth, and soon backed it up with a silver medal alongside Sam Platt-Muniz in the Under 17 Double, coming second to the Churchie crew.

Declan Roberts and myself teamed up for the Schoolboys’ Pair and had a great first kilometre of racing, however, we couldn’t hold on to The Kings School in the late stages of the race and settled for a comfortable second place.

Perhaps the most exciting event of the weekend, the Under 15 Boys Double, saw some of our young rowers triumph over the innumerable crews of Brisbane Boys College. Declan Thew and Harrison Cripps raced exceptionally well to achieve a tight 3rd place against crews from South Grafton and five Brisbane Boys crews. This performance exemplifies the young talent we have coming through the squad and shows signs of another exciting year of rowing at Somerset.

Somerset’s participation in the regatta could not have been possible without the efforts of our coaches and supporting parents. We would like to extend our thanks to Mr and Mrs Eksteen for their assistance in transport and catering. Also, thanks, as always, to our coaches Miss Ali Barry and Mr Andrew Butler.

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**Inaugural Head of the Clarence Regatta Continued**

Following the Head of the Clarence, rowers in Years 10 to 12 have since set their sights on the Australian National titles in March, with a heavy training programme over the summer break.

A reminder for any student interested in rowing; the final ‘Learn to Row Day’ is being held on Saturday 30 January. For more information, please visit the Rowing page on the College website [here](#).

Reuben Mansell  
Rowing Captain

**Pan Pacific Games**

Somerset Swim Club had 13 swimmers represent Queensland at the recent Pan Pacific School Games in Adelaide. This is an outstanding representation for Somerset at such an elite level.

Team members who swam and achieved personal best times were: Max Indriawan, Leon Shirayama, Sebastian Du Preez, Brooke Otto and Olivia Collins. All of these swimmers finished in the top 10 in their main events, with Leon, Sebastian, Brooke and Olivia very close to winning medals.

**Somerset’s medal winners were:**

1. **Anarnya Berlowitz** – 16 Years Girls Silver in 200m Breaststroke, Bronze in both the 4 x 50m Medley Relay and 4 x 100m Medley Relay
2. **Ashaya Morgan** – 12 Years Girls Silver in 100m Freestyle, Silver in 200m Freestyle and Silver in 400m Freestyle, Silver in 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay and Bronze in 4 x 100m Medley Relay, Bronze in 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay.
3. **Harrison Smith** – 14 Years Boys Bronze in 200m Breaststroke
4. **Thomas Nowakowski** – 14 Years Boys Silver in 50m Freestyle, Gold in 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, Bronze in 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay and Bronze in 4 x 50m Medley Relay
5. **Cameron Donovan** – 11 Years Boys Silver in 50m Breaststroke
6. **Adele Phillips** – 11 Years Girls Silver in 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay and Bronze in 4 x 100 Freestyle Relay
7. **Lleyton Morgan** – 14 Years Boys Silver in 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay, Silver 4 x 100m Medley Relay, Silver 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay

Our outstanding performer was **Jorja Otto** in the 10 Years Girls events, winning 5 events – 50m and 100m Butterfly, 50m and 100m Backstroke, 4 x 50m Medley Relay. Jorja also placed second in the 4 x 100 Medley Relay and won bronze in the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay. Along the way, Jorja broke 4 National School records (50m Butterfly twice, 100m Butterfly and the 4 x 50m Medley Relay) and was then awarded female Junior Swimmer of the Meet. An outstanding performance by just one swimmer. Well done swimmers and the Club’s elite coaches Graeme McDonald and Ashely Callus in preparing the swimmers for the meet and these outstanding results.

Forrest Butcher  
Head Coach - Swimming

**Chess Holiday News**

On the weekend after Scholars’ Day in December, Somerset College sent a record three teams to the Australian Inter-school Teams Chess Finals at Melbourne High School to represent Queensland. No other school in Australia has ever achieved this.

Our Junior Girls’ team placed third overall, after starting out very well on day one followed by a very challenging day two. The Open Junior team placed fifth and the Girls’ Senior team finished 4th. Year 2 student **Melody Yang** had an outstanding performance, scoring 4/5 in her first appearance at the Nationals.

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On this same weekend, Senior School student James Kay competed in a Chess tournament held at the Melbourne Chess Club. In round one James played against one of Australia's leading adult players and held his opponent to a draw. James played every game against higher opponents throughout the tournament, eventually winning his rating group prize on a very impressive 4/6.

Over the last week the Australian Junior Championships have been held in Adelaide. Somerset students Oliver and Melody Yang participated in this event. Oliver won the Australian Lightning Chess Championships for his age, while Melody came second in her division for this competition. She also won the Australian Chess Problem Solving Championships for her age.

The Oka family (Tsukasa, Hikaru and Itsuki) travelled to Auckland to compete in the New Zealand Championships. This was a very tough competition, with all three playing almost exclusively higher-rated (mainly adult) players in every round.

This year, for the first time, there is a Chess-dedicated classroom, which is located above the Knowledge and Information Precinct. This will be used for the free lunch time Chess Club every day. All students from Years 1 to 12, beginners to advanced, are most welcome. Apart from casual chess games, we will have chess coaches available every lunch time to run tournament games and offer advice, with prizes to be awarded at the end of each term.

Important dates for this year:
- Senior Inter-schools Teams – 24 February, 18 May, 3 August
- Junior Inter-schools Teams – 9 February, 8 June, 31 August
- Senior and Junior House Chess – scheduled for Friday 29 July
- APS Secondary Chess Competition – 7 Friday nights, from 22 April to 3 June

Enrolments for Co-curricular Chess for Junior School students can be completed via the Somerset website.

Co-curricular Chess will not be offered to Senior students this year. Instead, a Senior Chess Club will be held in the new Chess room on Tuesdays from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. This will be again run by Mr Dusan Stojic, who is one of Australia’s top Chess players as well as an excellent coach. It will include ongoing graded tournaments and casual (not formal) tuition.

The first important event for the year, the Gold Coast Tin Cup, will be held at the Helensvale Cultural Centre on the weekend of 7 and 8 February. All students rated 600+ are encouraged to attend.

Captains of Chess for 2016 are James Kay and Anneliese McConnell.

Graeme Gardiner
Gardiner Chess