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## President's Report

July 2009

I was lucky enough to attend a breakfast meeting recently, hosted by the City of Wanneroo. However, it was no ordinary breakfast meeting – it was the **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**. Apparently a number of local governments' host this annual event but this was the Mayor Jon Kelley's first.

Why is the Mayor having a Prayer Breakfast? Why is a local government getting involved in religion? *Should* it be involved? Well the answers soon became clear.

The Mayor Prayer Breakfast is based on one that the West Australian Governor hosts, which has been going for 17 years. The vision for this event is:

*To bring together community leaders in fellowship and unity to acknowledge God's values and call on his name, that God may hear and heal our land.*

The WA Governor Prayer Breakfast was born in 1991 from the combined efforts of a number of people including the State Parliament Prayer Group and the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. A couple of years later, the then Governor of Western Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery agreed to the role of patron of this annual event with subsequent Governors, Governor Lieut. General John Sanderson and Dr Ken Michaels agreeing to continue as patron.

There was a common desire to see a forum provided to pray for our state and nation, to have our own leaders from all walks of life offer their prayers and to

be seen to do so. The first event was a humble beginning with only 27 people attending. Subsequent years saw the numbers approximately doubling annually until in 1995 when Charles Duke, the American astronaut appeared as the speaker, number swelled to 650.

Today this event has over 1300 people attending (refer: <http://gpbwa.org/history.html>).

The City of Wanneroo has been supporting Youth Care for a number of years. Youth Care is one of WA's largest not-for-profit- community services' charities with 270 employed staff and over 800 volunteers. It was established in 1971 and delivers Chaplaincy and Christian Religious Education to 285 government schools. Youth Care was the focus for this Prayer Breakfast. Besides the fabulous breakfast and great host, the morning was very interesting to find out about Youth Care – and why these programs (which are so successful and so vital) the best kept secrets.

In particular I very much enjoyed Graham Maybury's speech. He certainly gave me many thoughts to consider about my own life, and that of my family's.

Thank you St Stephens School for inviting me to represent the parent body at this function.

Lee Morton  
P&F President

Next meeting

**Tuesday 11 August**

**7:30pm**

**Technology Hub**



## June Guest Speaker

Did you know that every day 16 Australian families will lose everything in a house fire? It's a staggering statistic isn't it?

Mr Tony Westall from *Gone in 5* provided P&F attendees with some timely advice regarding fire safety and emergency management. Now that winter is well and truly upon us, the possibility of house fire is increased through the use of electric blankets and heaters. The use of scented candles and oil burners has also caused an increase in the incidence of house fires as candles are left unattended. Another area of concern is the misuse of electrical equipment, especially the overloading of power packs.

While *Gone in 5* specialises in providing emergency management and training to the business section, much of the information provided can easily be adapted to the home environment. Do you have a plan should you need to evacuate your home in an emergency? Does your family know the plan? Is there a fire blanket and working fire extinguisher in your home and do you know how to use it? Do you have smoke alarms and are they working?

If you would like some further information about the services provided by *Gone in 5* you can visit their website <http://www.gonein5.com.au/> or contact Mr Westall via email [gonein5@inet.net.au](mailto:gonein5@inet.net.au)



Tony Westall chats with Cameron at the June P&F meeting. Cameron is a former St Stephens student from Duncraig Campus and now has a son starting pre-primary at Carramar Campus.

## August Guest Speaker

Les Bishop is a family man – father of two, married to Kylie, a chef, and in his spare time a Personal Fitness Trainer. Les is passionate about improving people's fitness, but hasn't lost sight of the realities of everyday life and its pressures. Les will explain the importance of a healthy diet and healthy body (which I am sure we all know), and how each of us can incorporate this into our very busy lives. Come and meet Les from PHATT Fitness (Play Hard All The Time) and have all your fitness questions answered from our local expert.

## September Guest Speaker

Madame Isabelle Pilote is passionate about French! She migrated to Australia with her husband and daughter 12 years ago from Montreal Canada and started to learn English as a second language at the age of 13. This has enabled her to understand better the process our children go through when learning French as second language here at St Stephen's School. Throughout her teaching career, Isabelle has taught from kindergarten to Year 12, in French of course, and is now completing her 8th year at our school. She will be sharing her experience in implementing a new language program with our Year 7 students called the AIM program.

## October Guest Speaker

Keith Lehmann has had a long association with St Stephen's School. Keith is the driving force behind what our students refer to as the Banksia Grove "Soup Kitchen" but which is affectionately known as the "Dinner Club".

Keith is the ministry leader of *Celebrate Recovery* and will be talking about how the programme has helped those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process.



## Upcoming Events

### 2009

P&F Meetings	11 August 8 September 13 October 10 November
End of Term 2	3 July
School Holidays	6 July to 21 July
St Stephens' Reporting Day	21 July
Term 3 Day 1	22 July
National Science Week	10 August
P&F Guest Speaker Les Bishop, Phatt Fitness	11 August
Adult Learners' Week	1 to 8 September
P&F Guest Speaker Isabelle Pilote	8 September
St Stephen's Carramar Thanksgiving Service	11 September
End of Term 3	25 September
Term 4 Day 1	13 October
P&F Guest Speaker Keith Lehmann	13 October
End Term 4	4 December

### 2010 (dates to be confirmed)

Term 1 starts	29 January
P&F Meetings	9 February 9 March (AGM) 11 May 8 June 10 August 14 September 12 October 9 November
Carramar Campus 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Friday 12 March

### JULY 2009





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### AUGUST 2009

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### SEPTEMBER 2009

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	Public Holiday
	School Holidays
	P&F Meeting
	Special School Event



## Letter to the Editor

As a parent I drop my daughter off at the school most mornings, particularly with the weather being inclement. I use the 'Kiss 'n' Drive' area on Clarkson Avenue, next to the gymnasium. I think all of us who use this area need to be quite careful of what we are doing, and mindful of others around us. Things to consider:

- Park your car correctly in the allocated bays. Make sure you are in one bay only – not straddled across two bays.
- Don't pull-up in the driveway to let out your student. This inconveniences those vehicles behind you, and most importantly, can be putting your student in danger.
- Be extra watchful at the crosswalk, especially when the morning sun is glaring through your windscreen. Students tend to be concentrating on other things –talking with their friend, texting - and may not realise your vehicle is there.
- Take all caution when reversing out, and show patience. There is plenty of space to reverse but we still need to be patient as other vehicles park/reverse, and students disembark.
- There are parking bays actually on the roadside that don't seem to be used as often as the car park area. These would be good to drop off students rather than negotiate through the school area.

I don't know if there have been any serious accidents, but I have seen plenty of near-misses. Please let us maintain an accident-free status by leading by example – be patient, be considerate of others, and follow the 'rules' of effective vehicle parking. That way we can all arrive at our destination in time, uninjured, and stress-free.

'Taxi Mum'

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Did your child bring home a copy of the City of Wanneroo School Parking pamphlet? If not, please contact the school administration or the City of Wanneroo's Traffic and Ranger Services.

## Final Word...

### Good Manners Matter!

"Good manners matter."

Perhaps it's only when we are faced with rudeness that we really appreciate manners – after all, manners are what helps oil the wheels of our society. When my children instinctively say 'thank you' or 'excuse me' it instils a warm fuzzy feeling inside of me, like I have done something right at least. But all too often, manners fly out the window and I am issued with demand – *I want, get this, do that*. It's hard to remember, sometimes, that not only are we teaching by example, but we are guiding and shaping a little person's character. No one ever complained about good manners, but there are plenty of people who will baulk at bad manners, so I think it's worth the effort!

...from Being Mummy by Anne-Marie Taplin published April 2007



ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL  
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

DUNCRAIG & CARRAMAR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Next meeting

**Tuesday 11 August 7:30pm**

Technology Hub

Contact Parents and Friends' Executive any time!

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