Reflecting & looking forward

Founded in 1986, Good Shepherd Lutheran College is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this month in reflecting on the past 25 years and looking towards the future, Anthony Dyer, Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran College, says,

“Good Shepherd Lutheran College is proud to have served the local community by providing a learning environment for two generations of children from Noosa and the surrounding districts. We are drawing on the strength of history as we educate for tomorrow. What will Good Shepherd be like in 25 years? On one level it’s hard to imagine, but it’s a future that we believe the Noosa community can be confident in, and excited about, while the College’s mission remains to ‘provide quality Christian education in a caring environment’.”

A school where children thrive!

This has included developing the College campus to incorporate resources that today include a large gym and sports complex (including a 25-metre heated pool), tennis and netball courts, a new library, a design and technology area, hospitality facilities, separate primary and secondary ovals, a laptop program for middle and senior school students, a fleet of College buses and beautiful grounds in which students are able to learn, develop and play.

The College’s success is based on the families who have continued to trust Good Shepherd to provide an excellent education, the staff who have served with dedication and passion, and the support of the local and wider Lutheran Church and Local, State and Federal Governments. All of these people have contributed to the vision, commitment and faith that have transformed the former Noosa drive-in theatre site into a vibrant, well-resourced educational community.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College is located on 4.8 hectares (11 acres) in a prime spot in Noosaville. A P-12 College, with the adjacent Little Lambs Early Learning Centre, Good Shepherd has established a reputation of providing an education of the highest quality, within a caring and nurturing environment.

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School opened on 28 January 1986 with an enrolment of 65 students and five staff. In 1992, the Cooroy-Noosa Parish handed over the Primary School to the Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District. This was followed by the opening of Good Shepherd Lutheran College, offering classes from Year 1 to Year 8.

In 1996, Good Shepherd proudly became the first independent school in this area to offer classes from Prep to Year 12, with 40 students graduating in 1997. Over the years, Good Shepherd expanded further as the result of high student demand and, with the acquisition of additional land, the Health and Physical Education Centre, extra classrooms and a swimming pool were constructed. In 2006, the College purchased two further properties on which the Little Lemnis Early Learning Centre was opened in 2010.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College has developed an excellent academic record, consistently performing very well in NAPLAN testing, with results for all year levels at or above the national averages. Year 12 students continue to achieve high results. An impressive 20 per cent of eligible 2010 Year 12s earned a result of OP 1-5. This included two OP1 students and four OP2 students. Good Shepherd students are consistently successful in gaining places in high-demand courses at a range of tertiary institutions.

It’s not just students who love Good Shepherd, with 19 of the current teachers on staff at Good Shepherd having been there for over 10 years. Stephen Paech and Elane Mayer are the longest standing teaching staff members serving since the College was founded. Elane Mayer, current Curriculum Leader, has seen Good Shepherd grow to what it is today.

"Many things have changed at Good Shepherd over the last 25 years, however the enthusiasm, the fellowship and the care that are at the core of the College’s culture have never waned. I like the fact that we also remain very flexible, as the College embraces the many changes necessary to empower our students with the skills to live a rewarding life in this ever changing world."

The College has also competed in the Tournament of the Minds Competition since the late 80’s with students regularly winning in a number of categories, including being Australian Pacific Finalist winners in 2009 and 2010, which is further evidence of the high academic standing of the College.

Good Shepherd is the only independent school on the Sunshine Coast that offers the International Baccalaureate program for the Primary and Middle Years and is currently at the candidacy stage of implementation. The International Baccalaureate program provides students with an innovative educational program designed to develop an international understanding of the world.

The College has developed a thriving music, performing and visual arts program over its 25-year history with Good Shepherd becoming well known for its performances and art displays.

With access to a wide choice of sporting facilities and resources and the support of dedicated teaching and coaching staff there have been many sporting talents from Good Shepherd who have gone on to compete in the national and international arena in their chosen sport, including:

- Katherine Hull - International Golfer and past College Captain (Graduate 1999)
- Steven Bowditch - International Golfer (Graduate 1999)
- Leanne Bowditch - International Golfer (Graduate 2004)
- Keira Trompf - Old Firebirds Netballer (Graduate 2002)
- Chris Noffke - Commonwealth Games Long Jump (Graduate 2003)
- Brittany Ermis - Aust Swimming Champion (Graduate 2016)

Good Shepherd’s IPE Centre includes a 25-metre heated pool that services the College and local community.