TOM QLD Champions

All three Secondary teams from Good Shepherd Lutheran College who competed in the regional Tournament of Minds competition in mid-August were recently involved at the State Finals, held at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Using their analytical, creative and team-working skills to meet the TOM challenges in the categories of Maths Engineering and Language Literature, these students achieved outstanding results.

The Maths Engineering team as a result of achieving first place in their division have been invited to represent Queensland at the Australasian Pacific Finals to be held in Melbourne in October.

Other Good Shepherd teams earned 2nd place with Honours in the Language Literature division and 4th place also in the Language Literature division for the youngest team entered by the College.

Good Shepherd Lutheran College has supported and participated in the Tournament of Minds competition for many years because of the additional learning opportunities and skill development that it offers to students. It provides students with opportunities to develop and extend their learning confidence and communication skills beyond the classroom environment. The teams’ success reflects the students’ abilities to think in flexible and innovative ways, as well as to work with others in a collaborative and cooperative fashion.

Mr Martin Polkinghorne, facilitator of the winning team, with many years of experience in facilitating and supporting teams, was understandably delighted by the College’s success in the competition. “I believe that Tournament of Minds complements our school-based learning programs and offers students excellent learning opportunities. TOM isn’t about competing, it is about the learning processes that the students engage with,” he said.

The students are now busy fundraising, preparing and looking forward to representing Good Shepherd Lutheran College and Queensland at the Australasian Pacific Finals at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Offers of sponsorship to assist the team in meeting these costs would be warmly welcomed and can be directed to Mrs Jenny Reeve at Good Shepherd Lutheran College on 5455 8600.

The Maths Engineering team that will represent Qld and Good Shepherd Lutheran College: Year 11 student, Brook Kelly and Hannah O’Brien; Year 9 students, Hannah Shaw, Crimson Dunstan and Grace Gowland; and Year 8 students, Jake Strong and Monique Schroeder.