Koonung promotes excellence through endeavour. Each student has the opportunity to engage in the life of
the school in some way and is encouraged to achieve their personal best by teachers, student leaders, house
activities, formal and informal programs, camps, excursions, concerts and a multitude of classroom activities.

2013 has seen the continued implementation of a two subschool system, these being year 7, 8, 9 (Middle Years)
and year 10, 11, 12 (Senior Years). The year 10 curriculum allows year 10 students to access a wide range of VCE
subjects. All students have personal notebooks, thus delivering 1:1 computing across the school.

The leading teacher structure has been reviewed, and appointments were made into significant new positions,
including Leading Teacher ‘Community and Culture’ and Leading Teacher ‘Differentiation of Student Learn-
ing and Engagement’. The new leading teacher structure will support the college in its mission to develop high
levels of student engagement and achievement, so highly valued by our community.

Koonung is a great school and continues to be a leader in curriculum innovation and program development
within the Whitehorse Network and State Education in general.

This is demonstrated by:

- The continued provision of the University of Melbourne Masters of Teaching program, now in its sixth year
- Being the lead school of the Schools as Centres for Teaching Excellence (SCTE) project 2011 - 2013. Our
  partner schools were Box Hill High, Mt Waverley Secondary College, Mont Albert Primary, Greythorn
  Primary, Box Hill North Primary and Ringwood Heights Primary. This culminated in the launch of a high
tech teaching and learning space in the Middle Years Centre.
- Throughout 2013, strong bonds with local primary schools continued with visits to our science laboratories
  and student leadership seminars, led by Koonung student leaders. We look to enhance these links in 2014.
- Mont Albert and Surrey Hills (MASH) Rotary Club who have assisted Koonung in the establishing an
  Interact Club, the junior arm of Rotary.
- Partnerships with local community groups are a feature of the school culture and we are proud to have
  strong links with Camberwell Grammar School (hockey/tennis facility), XJS Chinese school (using our
  facilities on Saturdays), Camberwell Hockey Club (lease agreements to use the hockey pitch), and the
  Koonung Comets Basketball Club, which has 84 junior teams playing at the basketball stadium. In addi-
tion, many other groups make use of our facilities on a more casual basis, and we are proud to share our
  facilities with them.

Extra curricular programs provided by a highly motivated and dedicated staff continue to be a highlight of the
Koonung culture. There is something for everyone at Koonung. These include debating, drama, music, sport,
student leadership, student exchange programs, camps, sister school relationships, school productions, work
experience and much more.

Of particular significance was the inaugural visit to Koonung by our Chinese “Sister School” from Dalian.
Twelve students enjoyed homestay placements with Koonung families and were shown the sights of Melbourne.
These are significant programs requiring a great deal of planning and preparation. Thank you to the staff for
their generous support of these programs.

In 2013 the school play “Twelfth Night” was an outstanding success and met with critical acclaim.

The school is recognised as a high performing and innovative institution. This reputation has grown as a result
of successful programs developed and delivered by the college over many years. These include:

- 1:1 Notebook program
- Year 7 and 8 sport education
- Year 9 Live Life program
- Instrumental music (160 students)
- Year 7 & 8 vocabulary initiative
- Year 10 Pathways

These programs set Koonung apart from the majority of schools. Some of these programs have been in place
for many years and have now been adopted in neighbouring schools. Some programs have been developed
only recently, providing further testament to the fact that Koonung seeks continuous improvement, always in
the best interests of its students.

It is important to look to the future and we have a commitment to continuous improvement. In 2014, the school, frustrated by a lack of funding from the State Government, has committed to planning and developing a high tech science laboratory facility in the room 20/21 precinct.

We look forward to Koonung celebrating 50 years of education in 2014. Celebrations will be held over the weekend 29 – 31 August.

Retirement of Assistant Principal, Ms Trish Cotter

Trish has had a long and extremely productive teaching career having taught in six schools across the state over a period of 37 years. Trish has spent the past 16 years at Koonung, six of these as Assistant Principal. In that time, her achievements in leading the school to become a highly regarded and sought after educational institution has been remarkable.

Trish created a library which led the way in the introduction of ICT at Koonung. The model she developed in the late 90’s was replicated in many schools across the network. As a Leading Teacher and Assistant Principal, Trish drove curriculum initiatives, which led to greater access, and opportunities for students and expectations were raised markedly.

Professional development of teaching staff and the importance of educational support staff was always high on her agenda and Trish led by example in this regard. More recently Trish had been the architect and driving force behind the implementation of the schools 1:1 notebook program. The educational philosophy underpinning this program has been to create 21st century learners and learning opportunities at Koonung.

On a personal note, I will miss her wise counsel, professionalism, ability to think strategically and “outside the box” and devotion to what is best for the students.

Curriculum

This has been another busy year in the development of Koonung’s curriculum. During semester 1 we completed our review of the Middle School. As a result of the review students will have additional time for their English and Mathematics studies at years 8 and 9. A new Year 8 subject, Project Based Learning, will allow students to investigate areas of special interest. We hope that these programs will enhance student learning outcomes.

By offering viable programs and learning pathways that enable each student to reach their potential.

We supported the whole school use of notebooks by moving to ebooks at years 7 – 10. These text and digital resources are not only cost effective for parents but provide richer learning opportunities. During the year we faced a number a number of technical issues which were frustrating for staff, students and parents. However changes to the organization of this resource should lead to a much smoother and richer experience in 2014.

Our new Domain structure allowed us to work more efficiently by creating many more opportunities for staff to work together to develop curriculum programs and resources. An important area that staff worked collaboratively on was the use of the Compass system to share resources and assessment tasks with students and parents. In addition staff worked to audit and then modify curriculum in Year 7 to 10 so that it reflected the new AusVELS framework.

English

The English program began this year with all Year 7 and 8 students undergoing testing using the TORCH Reading Comprehension test, which informed the teaching and program delivery for all of these classes. ‘On Demand’ tests were also implemented at Year 7 as part of our data-based Literacy programme. A range of programs was provided to students who required additional literacy support.

Year 12 students were presented with an examination preparation lecture by VCE English Chief Examiner Bob Hillman (Head of Year12 at Trinity Grammar). Preparation for the three hour, end of year examination also included a September practice examination paper and study skills sessions.

This year, a total of 83 students across years 7, 8 and 9 participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Writing Competition. This test evaluated students’ abilities to write persuasively, their grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Once again, Koonung students achieved outstanding results, outperforming the average for the state in Years 8 and 9. The students have been rewarded with 19 certificates of credit, 9 Distinctions and 2 High Distinctions.
In November, Years 7, 8 and 9 students participated in Koonung WordFest. As well as allowing the Public Speaking finalists to perform at their finest, this event also gave students the opportunity to showcase a selection of their best work such as poetry, storytelling and lyrical musical pieces.

Debating experienced great success again this year and was led capably by Chelsea Thomas and student, Andrew Della Gatta. Koonung entered a senior team and junior team in the Debating Association of Victoria Competition. Both these teams debated strongly and enjoyed the experience. Koonung also entered three teams in the Junior British Parliamentary Debating Competition. The students participating in this competition had a terrific experience learning a new style of debating.

The goodwill and expertise of our Library staff was again utilised in our expanding reading enhancement program. The Library also initiated a very successful Principal’s Reading Challenge. Students were encouraged to read from a wide range of texts – with one House Point being granted for every 50 pages read. Nyakim Nyuon (9F) who read 10,750 pages was presented with an award at the PRC lunch hosted by the Library staff.

Mathematics

This year, all students in year 7, 8 and 9 and selected VCE students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. 55% of our students received an award, including 50 Distinctions (results within the top 2% of participants nation-wide), 134 Credits (top 50%), and 81 Proficiencies. Selected students from year 7 to 9 participated in the Australian Mathematics Challenge. The students who participated in this state wide challenge, were given six problems to solve over three weeks. Koonung students received impressive results, with one High Distinction, 8 Distinctions, and 15 Credits.

Science

The number of students participating in Science at VCE level continues to grow with a total of 21 classes. At this level students are required to participate in a range of practical activities which form the basis of their School Assessed Coursework (SACs). Some of these activities take place outside the school, with students visiting higher-end laboratories to gain practical experience in advanced techniques, along with visits to local wetlands and the Melbourne Zoo to conduct biology fieldwork.

The year 7-9 curriculum was enriched with a total of nearly 400 practical activities arranged by our laboratory staff throughout the year, and activities such as the year 7 Robotics incursion, where students knowledge of forces and their imaginations were used to design and construct many marvellous, sport playing robots. During term 4 year 9 students completed a unit of Forensic Science and participated in an incursion which requires them to solve a crime using the forensic evidence collected by forensic investigators.

The annual ICAS (International Competition and Assessment for Schools) competition was completed by students in years 7 to 9. A total of 431 students participated and received 2 high distinctions, 21 distinctions and 75 credit awards. Fifteen VCE Chemistry students chose to enter the Australian National Chemistry Quiz. Four high distinctions, 4 distinctions and 2 credit certificates were received. The inaugural Koonung Science week competition was held within the College, with plans to make Science week bigger and better over the years to come.

Three year 12 Environmental Science students represented the school at a series of environment and sustainability workshops at the Melbourne High School Earth Summit. In January of 2014 one of our students, Yue Shi, will spend twelve days in Canberra attending this important conference. She is sponsored by Mont Albert Surrey Hills Rotary Club.

Health and Physical Education

2013 was once again a fantastic year for the HPE department. All the staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the teaching and programs offered were of the highest quality. Our Year 10 PE electives have once again been a huge success, and our Year 9 PE program offered fantastic opportunities for our students to participate in a wide range of recreation activities. These included: Dance, fencing, kickboxing, body attack fitness, personal training, and Zumba.

Our Year 7 and 8 Sport Education program gave our students the opportunity to further participate in sport and recreation activities. It also provided the opportunity for interschool sport teams to train, which paid off throughout the year in the success Koonung had at interschool sporting competitions.

Sporting Achievements

At a school that prides itself in developing the ‘whole’ child, house sport is considered a vital part of the school
year regardless of whether you are competing or supporting. The skills of teamwork, leadership, perseverance and excellence were on display each of the house carnival events for 2013.

Many students and staff made extensive and outstanding contributions to house sporting events throughout the year none more so than the student leaders. Without their contributions to the effective and smooth running of meetings and carnivals, the mood and atmosphere present at these events would’ve been lacking.

The school House competition went right down to the wire and it is interesting to note that the contributions of points via Connections and the Principals Reading Challenge in the library were vital in determining the overall winner. Streeton were too strong in the Swimming Carnival whilst Roberts recorded a commanding victory at the Athletics Carnival and McCubbin won the Cross Country to split the three main competitions three ways. The second ever house singing competition was won by Streeton. The final house results were as follows:

- **First** Streeton (7739 points)
- **Second** Roberts (7680 points)
- **Third** McCubbin (7423 points)
- **Fourth** Conder (7148 points)

**Humanities**

Students in Humanities has been actively involved in a range of activities to enhance their learning. Fieldwork excursions included visits to Healesville Sanctuary (Year 7), Toolangi Forest (Year 8), Melbourne’s Central Business District (year 9), Phillip Island Nature Park (year 10), Portsea and the Docklands (year 11) and Westerfolds Park (year 12). History students visited the Shrine of Remembrance and the Jewish Holocaust Museum, and in commerce there were excursions to the Melbourne Magistrates Court, County Court, Supreme Court, Loddon Prison, Parliament and the Electoral Commission.

A highlight for Business Management students was the opportunity to organise a small business of their own. Year 10 Global Connections students had the valuable experience of a visit from a UNHCR representative.

As with previous years, a number of students competed in the Australian Geography Competition. This year’s results were impressive with 20 High Distinctions, 7 Distinctions and 45 Credits. Vickie Jiao in Year 11 won a scholarship to attend a conference on ‘Careers in Commerce’ at Sydney University’ earlier this year.

**Languages Other Than English**

French Language students enjoyed the much appreciated help from our native language assistant, in addition to voluntary support from Ms. Odile Amparis, who further assisted the Year 12’s every Wednesday in their oral conversation practice. In August, Year 11 and 12 French students attended the French Association’s Conference to prepare them for their finals exams.

During the Term 3 break, an examiner was invited over to run the trial oral exam with Year 12 Chinese Second Language Advanced group (The first VCE Chinese class at Koonung) to help students prepare the Oral Exam in October. The Year 12 Japanese language students participated in the examination preparation seminar at Monash University to gain experience in the running of the examinations and to hone their language skills.

This year we continued to grow our relationships with sister schools in Dalian, China, and Matsudo, Japan. In February, students from our sister school in Dalian, China paid a visit to Koonung and enjoyed the hospitality of our school and host families. In March, we welcomed our Matsudo Sister City exchange Youth Delegation, then in July we hosted Matsudo students from our Sister School, Ichimatsu.

These visits not only give the visiting students a chance to learn about Australian culture, hone their English skills, and visit a range of tourist spots, but are of huge benefit to our own students. The Year 12 students in particular, had opportunities to interview visiting students, to assist them with their oral performance examination later in the year.

Next year Koonung students will visit Dalian on the second China Trip, and a group of ten students and two staff members will visit Japan in January. They will tour many regions, and experience Japanese school life and cultural excursions during a one week homestay. A French trip is planned to run in September 2014.

This year students participated in a number of language competitions, including the Level 3 National Language Certificate, for which a number of students achieved results within the top two percent of the country, and the Language Perfect World Championship, which follows on from a trial last year. Koonung students across all three languages were very successful in these competitions.
Language students had a number of opportunities to experience Chinese, French, and Japanese culture, with excursions to Chinatown, restaurants, an authentic French crêperie, and a Japanese excursion to “Manifest” to experience the exceptionally popular art and culture of Manga and Animé. Cooking classes were also held within each of the language courses, to give further insight into French, Chinese, and Japanese cuisine.

Live Life
It was a challenging but rewarding year in 2013 for the Live Life program. With the fantastic support of the nine Live Life staff and the enthusiastic participation of students, many essential life skills were acquired and invaluable opportunities experienced, ensuring the year was an undoubted success. A number of important topics such as body image, eating disorders, helping the disadvantaged, making responsible choices and performing to your best were addressed to expose students to real life issues and better educate them about making wiser choices. Students were entertained by musicians, motivational speakers, and theatrical performers and celebrated their achievements at Funfields at the end of the year.

Community
The main focus of this module related to ‘Seeing the person, not the disability’. Students were involved in a workshop at school conducted by SCOPE where they gained skills to better deal with people who have a disability. A visit to a factory which employed people with disabilities was initially quite confronting for our students but ultimately an empowering experience. For the remainder of the module, students were assigned to various local organisations to volunteer their time and give back to their community. Feedback from supervisors at these organisations was overwhelmingly positive and our students should be commended on the exemplary manner in which they represented our school.

Self
The Self module is offered in two versions. **Self and the Elements** was a very popular choice, with five camps for the year. Students selected, planned and coordinated excursions with an outdoor and team-building focus. Dark Zone, the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Mini Golf and Rock Climbing were popular destinations. The highlight of the module was a 3 day/2 night Camp, which included a surf lesson at Anglesea.

**Self and Adventure** closely followed the format of Self and the Elements but did not incorporate the Surf Camp. Instead, students gained a better understanding of the issue relating to ‘Homelessness’, with an excursion to the City visiting Urban Seed proving an ideal setting to explore this issue.

Group
The main focus for students in this module is to work within a group. There was a vast array of projects selected – film making, knitting, jewellery making, social activism, animations, furniture making and t-shirt designs. There were some fantastic projects, some students going one extra step by donating their projects to appropriate organisations/raising funds to support the underprivileged.

Life
Excursions to the City (Magistrates Court) and local places of Worship proved popular with the students as it gave them the opportunity to experience aspects of life that they would not normally access at this age. Presentations from a police officer, a paramedic and a motivational speaker provided invaluable advice about the law, making the right choices and being your best. Over $1500 was raised as a result of fundraising activities each term which was a great achievement – worthy charity organisations like RSPCA, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, the Smith Family and Zimbabwe AIDS orphans were some of the recipients of money that was donated.

Visual Arts
Koonung Secondary College hosted its annual VCE Art Exhibition in August. Artworks from Year 11 and Year 12 students studying Media, Food Technology, Art, Studio Art, and Visual Communication Design were represented. Opening night saw a fantastic turn out, and a number of guest speakers gave insight into their artistic practices and shared invaluable experiences with our students. The College’s inaugural Acquisitive Art Award was presented to Year 12 Art student and 2013 Art Captain, Lexi Branda-Pawlaczyk. A Year 9 Art Exhibition is scheduled to be held in December, which will showcase work by Year 9 students in Textiles, Photography, Media, Art, 3D Art, Drawing, Visual Communication & Design, Wood Technology, and Wearable Art, alongside work by students of local primary schools.

Arts and Media students attended a number of excursions this year, including the Jeff Wall and Monet exhi-
bitions at the National Gallery of Victoria, the VCE Top Arts, Top Designs, and Top Screens exhibitions, and excursions to the city, St Kilda, and Royal Botanic Gardens, where students in years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to observe and capture innovative photographs of the interesting and vibrant surrounds. Design competitions were held to produce the cover designs for the 2013 Koonung Fossicker Magazine and 2014 Koonung Student Diary, won by Year 10 Visual Communication & Design students, Will Bennie and Kara Livermore (respectively).

Performing Arts

Music
Music students had a wide variety of performing opportunities in 2013, including subschool assemblies, the Annual Talent Quests, the House Singing Competition, as well as year level concerts and classroom concerts. The Music Captains, Mark MacKenzie and Lawrence Macdonald, were very active in encouraging students to participate and initiate performance ideas throughout the year.

There were 140 Instrumental students this year who were instructed by 10 Instrumental Teachers. Instrument lessons available were: Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion, Guitar, Voice and Pianoforte. These Instrumental students were required to be members of an ensemble. The ensembles available were: Concert Band, Swing Band, Choir, VCE Vocal Group, String Group, Guitar Group and Drum Group. The Instrumental Students prepared and presented concerts at the end of each term. They were also involved in promoting the school with visits to the Local Primary schools, Information Evening and Orientation day.

This year there were 28 VCE Music Performance students who prepared assessment pieces for the Solo and Group contexts. There were two Unit 3/4 rock bands and one Unit 1/2 rock band. These were guided by Marina Novelli, the guitar teacher. These bands performed frequently at school assemblies and at lunchtime. The two final year groups were able to produce high quality recordings of their assessment program. The Solo VCE students prepared their individual programs with weekly ‘Masterclass’ performances, conducted by Susanna Dernelley and the vocal teaching team. Voice (Classical and Contemporary), Drumkit, Pianoforte and Guitar were also chosen as Solo Performance studies.

Classroom Music was again popular with two semesters of elective music running in both Year 9 and Year 10. All Year 7 students completed a full year of Music, exploring a wide range of music styles and traditions. This included making home-made instruments, planning music for film and investigating music from around the world. This was combined with practising and performing related music.

School Play
Directed by the talented Jessica Graham, the play was performed to full houses from May 15th to 18th.

Lead actors included students from years 7 to 12, with our Drama Captains, Lexie Branda-Pawlaczyk and Gabrielle Raz-Liebman heavily involved in both the cast and in the rehearsals. Year 12 students enjoyed being on stage and juggled schoolwork to make it all happen. John Collopy, Rohan Dimsey, Ana Tinc, Christian Tsoutsouvas, Liam Miles are to be complimented for their ongoing commitment to the plays over their years at Koonung and we thank them for this.

Wellbeing
The wellbeing area encompasses our school nurse, school counsellor, sub-schools, careers and pathways, Connections and Link, Live Life, international students office and disabilities office.

A number of information sessions and engaging presentations were delivered in 2013 for students, staff, and parents alike, around issues such as cybersafety and digital footprints, being supportive and respectful, and dealing with mental health issues.

The CASSE program (Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment) continues to develop with a particular focus on how to implement it into the curriculum for 2014. An emphasis on being involved and visible this year, students in the program participated/organised: A pizza lunch in term 2 to focus on anti bullying, organised a chill out session on Koonung day, assisted on the football jersey free dress day.

Programs targeting students in the Middle Years subschool included the MAT program (Martial Arts Therapy) ran sessions with students in the Middle Years centre to work on positive relationships, anger management and mindfulness, and the Year 7 lunchtime games program run by our school counsellor Debbie.
ICT and eLearning

Information and Communications Technology is increasingly becoming an essential part of learning at Koonung. This year our 1:1 notebook program reached to all students in all year levels, a significant achievement for eLearning at the College. Where many similar schools have had significant troubles in implementing 1:1 programs, our college has seen a fantastic level of enthusiasm from families and staff alike, with a 100% take-up and full commitment to the program. ICT has been embraced right across the curriculum, enriching teaching and learning, and exceeding our expectations.

Key to the extent of ICT adoption that we’ve been able to achieve within the curriculum has been our program of developing teacher ICT skills. This program includes the nomination of ICT Coaches, who worked extensively with fellow staff to expand ICT knowledge and develop new teaching and learning techniques around the use of ICT. Such widespread adoption of ICT has not been without its challenges, and this year has required significant development to ensure that we keep up with such unprecedented demand, and appropriately deal with the new kinds of disciplinary and wellbeing issues that ICT presents. The program now moves into a phase of refinement and upkeep, to ensure that students have access to the latest technology, with keeping true capability and affordability in mind.

The continued implementation of Compass goes hand-in-hand with our 1:1 program, and this year we released a number of new features and capabilities, such as the Learning Tasks module, which has been met with much enthusiasm. Koonung was a lead school for this module, and we continue to work closely with the developers of Compass to ensure that it provides the greatest benefits for staff, students, and parents.

High Achievers Program

2013 was an exciting year for the High Achievers. Students participated in a variety of activities and projects and were well represented in the different programs that Koonung has to offer. For example, several High Achievers were involved in the school play, interschool sporting events and various academic competitions. For the second year in a row, a student from the program had won the Victorian ICAS Writing Competition. Congratulations to Alexander Owens (8D) for this excellent achievement.

In 2013, for the first time, Koonung Secondary College entered a team into the Tournament of the Minds, a problem solving programme for teams. The team was comprised of Alex Smith, Daniel Shen (year 7), Lars Biemond (year 8), Lucy Newton, Erin Casey, Luke Martin (year 9) and Rosie Mountjoy (year 10). The team entered into the ‘Literature’ section and were tasked with creating and then performing an idea for a picture book. The Tournament required the students to be creative, solve problems, and work creatively. Most of all, they had to do everything themselves. The team worked intensively over the six weeks they had to prepare the long-term challenge, and attended Tournament day at Deakin University. The team had ten minutes to perform their solution for the judges. The team’s performance was outstanding, and we look forward to more successful challenges in the future. Many thanks to Mr. Brendan Tuckerman for supervising these students.

The efforts of our High Achievers reflect Koonung’s holistic approach to education that caters for students’ individual learning needs. I congratulate them for their outstanding efforts.

Staffing

Koonung is admirably served by its dedicated staff (teaching and non-teaching). Throughout 2013 our full time equivalent (FTE) staffing profile has been:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0 Principal class</td>
<td>1.6 Library support staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 Teaching Staff</td>
<td>1.0 Home Economics Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 Administration Staff</td>
<td>0.2 Arts Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 Teaching Aides (Integration, Careers, Language support and International Student program)</td>
<td>0.7 Canteen Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Laboratory Technician</td>
<td>0.8 Maintenance Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 ICT Technician (plus an additional support technician from the DEECD TSSP program)</td>
<td>0.7 School Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.0 School Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.7 Facilities Manager and maintenance support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elynwood Services acted as our cleaning contractor throughout 2013.
Professional Development

Staff at Koonung commenced the year with a Professional Development (PD) Day which focused on the new College Strategic Plan (SP). The SP has three key areas: Student Learning, Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Student Pathways and Transitions. Staff spent the morning in groups led by the Leading Teachers at the College working to establish a common understanding of the goals and Key Improvement Strategies (KIS) identified in this plan. The afternoon session built on this common understanding to further develop staff expertise in the use of data, effective strategies for differentiation and the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the classroom. Our second PD day was on the 15th of August. Sharon Foster, AusVELS Manager for the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, led staff through the structure and key aspects of the new AusVELS curriculum. Other sessions on the day covered Reflective Practices in a Learning Community, and a VCE data analysis workshop.

The commitment of the College community to the ongoing development of all staff is further demonstrated by our PD calendar. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons, throughout the year, staff have participated in a range of College based development activities. These included eLearning PD (lead by our College eLearning coaches), our Praxis teaching practice development sessions (led by a team of teachers who completed units through the University of Melbourne Masters program), and domain-based PD, in which teachers worked together to share techniques, ideas and strategies aimed at improving the learning experiences for all students at the College.

Regular PD attended by all staff included asthma, anaphylaxis, and mandatory reporting training. Staff also had access to a range of external PD, including subject-based conferences, advanced first aid training, leadership coaching, and behaviour management courses, to name just a few.

Masters of Teaching

The University of Melbourne Master of Teaching program continues to be delivered at the College enabling staff to team teach, innovate and build the capacity of teacher candidates along with their own capacity. This has been an immensely enriching partnership for a great number of reasons. Koonung is the lead school and in 2013 our cluster supervised candidates at Mt Waverley Secondary College, Avila College and Box Hill High. Since the start of this program in 2008 the College has employed 30 graduates from the course.

Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) has been ranked number three in the world in the discipline of education in the QS World Rankings by Subject 2013, climbing seven places from last year’s position. This ranking places MGSE among the world’s best, with Harvard Graduate School of Education coming in at number one, and the University of Cambridge at number two. MGSE has also achieved the highest rank of all disciplines, at all Australian universities.

In tandem with this Program, we also accept many student teachers from other Universities such as; Charles Darwin University, Wesley Institute, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Victoria University, Australian Catholic University, Deakin University and Monash University.

School Centres for Teaching Excellence

Koonung was the lead school in the SCTE Program which delivered $250,000 to a cluster of seven schools, both primary and secondary. This allowed some profound innovations and changes to pre-service courses to be implemented, trialed and evaluated. 50 staff members from across our cluster of schools commenced a Master’s degree in Clinical Teaching, we have sent secondary pre-service teachers into the primary schools and primary pre-service teachers into secondary schools to enable seamless transition between our sectors. We have hosted international academics who are looking to emulate world’s best practice. We have had articles published broadly and enhanced our reputation as an exemplary organisation that delivers the highest standard of teaching and learning. We have set up a dedicated space for sharing practice, seminars, filming, and modeling what an excellent lesson looks like. This will be widely shared and we are proud of our capacity to shape the future of pre-service teacher education and the teaching profession.

VCE Results 2012

Congratulations to all our students for their wonderful individual achievements. In the same way that we applaud our sports, drama and arts students for their successes, it is very important that we also recognise outstanding academic achievements. We thank all our many feeder primary schools for the great start they provide our students.

In 2012 our top student was Nicolas McIndoe with an outstanding ATAR score of 99.65.
Two other students also achieved ATAR scores above 99 – they were Susanne Kitching and Boglarka Ropolyi. Excellent results were also gained by Kate Mosse 98.3, Dana Tabbara 97.55, Zhaolin Wang 97.4, Nathaniel Cutter 96.75, Declan Tate 96.6, Vincent Phan 96.25, Ming Zhang 95.9, Lahra Lanigan 95.65 and Iona Chindris 95.45.

In 2012, 22% of our VCE students achieved an ATAR above 90 with 45% of students achieving an ATAR above 80 and a significant 66% of students achieving an ATAR above 70.

The VCE results for 2013 were not available at the time of printing.

School Council
The school is fortunate to be governed by a dedicated and progressive School Council team. The membership for 2013 has been:

Parent Members
- President: Paul Harris
- Vice President: Debi Judd
- Treasurer: Kyle Joustra

Parent Reps
- Alison Cooke
- Carol Thompson
- Cath Bennie

DEECD Members
- Principal: Peter Wright
- Staff Reps: Patricia Cotter, Mark Quinlan, Anne Abbott, Allira Best, Ann Stanley

Other Members
- Community Members (PFA): Debi Judd, Carol Thompson
- Student Representatives: Jeremy Thiel, Abbey Windley

Five sub-committees contributed much to the efficient and effective decision-making processes of School Council. These sub-committees were Curriculum and eSmart, Community Partnerships and Facilities, Finance, Policy, and Uniform.

School Council achievements for 2013 include:
- Support for the extension of the 1:1 computing program to all year levels, and modification of the former computer laboratories to create a media room
- The transition from paper text books to eBooks and eText.
- Support for the expansion of the Compass system to enhance communication in the school community.
- Support of the International Student Program, and LOTE Programs with the ongoing support of 3 sister schools in France, China and Japan.
- Management of school facilities, in particular the hockey precinct.
- Support of private/public partnerships to enable improved resources.
- Construction of a new fence on the Elgar Road boundary

Koonung School benefits from diversely skilled and experienced councilors and dedicated senior staff that share a passion to see Koonung continue to advance and be recognised as an innovative leading school in the district. I am most grateful to all members. Special thanks to School Council President, Paul Harris for his contribution and leadership. Thank you also to Treasurer, Mr Kyle Joustra, and Vice President, Debi Judd.

Parents and Friends Association
All members of our parent body are considered to be members of the PFA.

I wish to acknowledge, in particular, the work of members who attend meetings regularly and who organise activities and provide support to the school. PFA members are active at school events, on school council, on subcommittees, PFA events and social functions.

The school receives very generous fundraising support from the PFA especially via the Second Hand Book sale proceeds. It regularly provides financial support for student services.

Sincere thanks to the PFA Executive: President Debi Judd, Vice President Carolyn Minster, Secretary Kim Green and Treasurer Diane Kovacs and all active PFA members for their ongoing contributions to the school.
Thank You
I wish to thank, most sincerely, members of the Koonung community who have contributed to all we are celebrating tonight.

Our Students
I thank our students for their friendly, co-operative and courteous disposition. In particular, I thank the many students who have provided leadership and who have contributed selflessly to school community programs and aspirations - College Captains Abbey Windley and Jeremy Thiel; Vice Captains Eliza Campbell and James Bennie; SRC President Ana Tinc; House Captains Matt Garvin, Bridie Barr, Jack Veal, Amber Harrington, Rachel Bottomley, Emily Judd, Lydia Sims and Patrick Campbell; Art Captain Lexie Branda Pawlaczyk; Drama Captains Rohan Dimsey and Gabrielle Raz-Liebman; Community Captains Louisa Lowe and Edward You; International Student Captains Tammy Cheng and Edeline Yang; Music Captains Mark Mackenzie and Lawrence Macdonald, Sports Captains Jess Walden and Toby Marshallsay. And finally the committee of the inaugural “Interact” club.

Our Parents
I thank our parents for their loyalty to the school and for telling us what we are doing well and where improvement is needed. Parent support has continued throughout 2013 in areas such as PFA, School Council, Canteen, school events such as the Debating, Koonung Day, Sport and Music/Drama performances. Thank you to Debi Judd for her leadership of the PFA and their wonderful contribution to the school through activities such as the second hand book sale, Mothers’ Day breakfast, Fathers’ Day breakfast, teachers morning tea, VCE music soiree and assistance with school productions and information evenings.

Our Teaching Staff
Our teachers are skilled professionals who contribute enormously to student learning and student personal development. The dedication of our teachers is commendable. I thank them, on your behalf, for their wonderful work, which is often performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Our Support Staff
Our administration officers, maintenance officers, technicians, nurse, counselor and teacher support staff are vital to the effective running of Koonung. They are dedicated people who continue to put in enthusiastically despite the extensive demands constantly being placed upon them.

Our School Community as a Whole
A special thank you to all members of the School Council for their generous support and the insights they bring to the school, and in particular School Council President, Paul Harris for his wonderful support throughout 2013.

I wish to acknowledge the retirement this year of two significant members of the teaching staff. They are Ms Vera Hilton (12 years at Koonung), Mrs Ailsa Llewellyn (21 years at Koonung). In addition I wish to acknowledge Dr. Susan Marshallsea who will be transferring to Norwood Secondary College in a Leading teacher position for 2014.

I mentioned earlier in my report, the retirement of Assistant Principal Ms Trish Cotter. I thank her again for the wonderful contribution she has made to State Government education and to Koonung in particular Trish was a creative thinker and strategic leader and she will be missed.

I am particularly indebted to our Business Manager, Linda Millership, and our Assistant Principals, Trish Cotter, Anne Abbott, Mark Quinlan and Christina Shaw for their dedication, expert leadership and professionalism throughout 2013.

May I wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing festive season. Best wishes for 2014.

Peter Wright
College Principal