

## CHAPLAIN'S COMMENT

To all associated with the Lindisfarne College community:

We have been engaged in some stimulating discussions in Year 13 Religious Studies this year. These have focussed on the nature of the God we worship and, perhaps more significantly, whether or not this God actually exists.

Our students are growing up in and are part of a highly scientific and technological age. They are encouraged to question and to search out satisfactory answers to such questions.

Typically these answers have to do with evidence and proof. At such a level, we are operating from the "head," from an intellectual perspective. In searching out meaningful answers to questions relating to God, to operate purely from an intellectual level, will not lead us to satisfactory answers.

I have been encouraging the boys to begin thinking at a deeper level – from that of the "heart." From here, concrete answers become unimportant, and we begin operating from an experiential level. From here God becomes real to us; we become open to God's presence in the world and in our lives. Many boys spoke of needing to experience a miracle in their lives, before they would come to a belief in God. The reality is, there are miracles happening all around us at every moment, but sadly for so many, they go unnoticed. Opening ourselves to the "possibility" of God opens us to the reality of life itself being a miracle and to the possibilities these contain.

What better environment for your sons to experience this possibility than a school community like Lindisfarne. The opportunity to worship regularly, to live out Christian values and to work at making a positive difference, not only within our school community, but also out in the wider world.

Worship continues to be a focal point for the Christian cornerstone of our college, with our **four house leaders** and **Year 12 students** to be congratulated for the quality and inspiration given in their chapel services over the past two terms. Once again the themes developed have been varied and thought provoking and are a real credit to the boys who rise to the challenge of leading the school community in worship.

An encouraging trend to continue again this year, has been the tremendous support shown for our **Sunday evening chapel services** – both by students and parents, grandparents and supporters of the college. The boys certainly appreciate the attendance of parents and other adults, which adds another dimension to our worship, and certainly aids our singing.

Two of the three Bible Reading competitions have been completed. The **Intermediate School Bible Reading Competition** was held in term one and as always, was keenly contested by a good number of students from that level. Our adjudicator was **Mr Stephen Rowley, Musical Director at Hereworth School**. The six finalists read to an exceptionally high standard, with only a

few marks separating the place getters. Third in the competition was **Jacob Weaver**, second was **Sandy Radburnd**, and the winner for 2006 was **Scott van Heerden**.

In the **Junior Bible Reading Competition** the competitiveness was just as high. Our adjudicator for this competition was our own **Mr Reimana Johnson**, whose adjudicating and summing up remarks were outstanding. In third place was **Scott Ansell**, second **Anthony Lai**, and in first place for the second year in a row **Duncan Hope**. My appreciation also goes to **Mrs Glen Sutherland** for assisting me in the preliminaries of these competitions.

My appreciation also goes to **Mr John Snowling, Mr Flemming Kristensen and the boys** who comprise the various musical groups that accompany or hymn singing. As was evidenced earlier this term, we certainly miss you when you are not present. Your efforts and commitment are greatly valued.

Term two begin with our **Service of Confirmation and Baptism** to be held on **Sunday, 23 July**. We have had a great response to the opportunity of students presenting themselves for baptism, with a smaller number of boys offering themselves for confirmation.

I take this opportunity to once again thank all associated with the Lindisfarne College community for their ongoing support of the Christian cornerstone. Enjoy safety and relaxation with your sons over the holiday break and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of Term Three.

May God richly bless your every endeavour.

Rev Warren Fortune  
Chaplain