

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – 2010

Of the 46 year history of Whitebridge High School, 2010 will be remembered as significant for the improvement in some of the facilities at our school. Our six (6) science laboratories were upgraded in a NSW State Government program to reflect contemporary teaching and learning practice in combined theory and practical learning spaces with the inclusion of technology and internet facilities in all classrooms. This is a significant and welcome improvement in the quality of the science learning spaces which, had not been varied since the construction of the school. This program is valued at \$980,000 and was managed by the NSW Department of Commerce.

Whitebridge High School was fortunate to be the recipient of a Federal Government Industry Skills Grant which enabled the upgrade of metal and engineering lathes as well as the upgrade of one (1) kitchen area to industry standard to enable the teaching of Certificate 2 level in Hospitality (Commercial Cooking and Food and Beverage) for senior students. This funding will significantly improve the specialist industry facilities we have to meet the demands of teaching senior students, dual accredited courses and prepare them for TAFE delivered Certificate post graduation from Year 12. This program is valued at \$181,000 and was managed by the school.

Added to this is the Federal Government grant of \$200,000 under the National Schools Pride dimension of the Building Education Revolution program. With this funding the school managed the construction of the cover of the tennis and basketball paved area. This has added greater utility to the use of these play and physical education areas as well as providing a larger area of shade and wet weather protection for students.

A major upgrade of the canteen was conducted in January this year. This upgrade, valued at \$160,000, provided a complete new fit out of the canteen. We now have new facilities for food preparation and serving.

We are appreciative of the efforts of our Federal and State members of parliament for their support of our school. I am appreciative of the advice and expertise of the School Council and the executive staff who have assisted in the management of these building programs. I am also extremely appreciative of the teachers and students who co-operated with the builders and endured teaching in alternative rooms while the building programs were conducted. The school ran smoothly throughout conduct of the building programs.

I am also aware that the graduating Year 12 students will feel as though they have missed out on getting maximum benefit from the new facilities. I guess that

they can take heart for being the year group that was part of the old and new facilities.

In terms of developments in student learning, 2010 was the second year in a four (4) year Federal Government program (Digital Education Revolution) of the supply of notebook computers to successive Year 9 students. This program has seen the issue of notebook computers to teachers, the installation of a dedicated school wireless system and a support person to maintain and repair the computers and system. This program has seen a significant upgrade in teachers' skills in using the notebooks as part of the lesson and at the same time utilising the sophisticated software package as part of the scope of the lessons. These are significant developments in teaching and learning at our school.

I am continually impressed by the efforts of the students in their achievements while at school. Their combined efforts bring acclaim from a wide range of the public and providers associated with the school. Of note is the high incidence of positive comments and feedback of the appearance of the students and their obvious pride in their presentation. The improvement in student compliance with the school dress code, including the correct footwear, has had an extremely positive impact on the presentation of the school to the public. It is most heartening to receive the compliments of the students and the school from members of the public. I would like to thank the teachers and executive staff for their efforts and leadership this year. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the canteen supervisors and mothers that give freely of their time to assist in this aspect of our school. Included in this acknowledgement is the guidance and governance of the P&C and School Council who have assisted in providing leadership and direction to the school.

Safe holidays and I look forward to working with the student leaders, staff and parent governance groups in 2011.

Ian Wilson  
Principal