

Lilydale High School
7995

2007 Annual Report to the
School Community



School Overview

- Responsibility
- Respect
- Commitment

School Overview

Lilydale High School is a large co-educational school situated in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne with a total student enrolment of approximately 1824 students.

This annual report is designed to inform the community of the achievements of 2007. This report is published every March to ensure all members of the school community are aware of our achievements and goals for the future.

The school has a fine commitment to democratic decision making, curriculum innovation and meeting students' needs. Teachers are caring, dedicated and committed to providing an excellent quality of education for their students. The school currently has a teaching staff of 150 teachers. Principal Class include the Principal and 3 Assistant Principals. Seventeen Leading Teachers complete the overall leadership team. The non-teaching staff of 27 comprise 6 Administrative staff, 2 First Aid/Administrative staff, 3 Laboratory Technicians, 2 Library Assistants, 4 Computer Technicians, 4 Domestic Arts, 3 Integration Aides, and 2 Teacher Aides.

The goals of the current School Strategic Plan (2006 – 2009), that set the direction of the school for future include:

- VCE results
- Student Connectedness to School
- Transition of Students through the Middle Years

VALUES

The values that underpin the guiding principles and beliefs at Lilydale High School include:

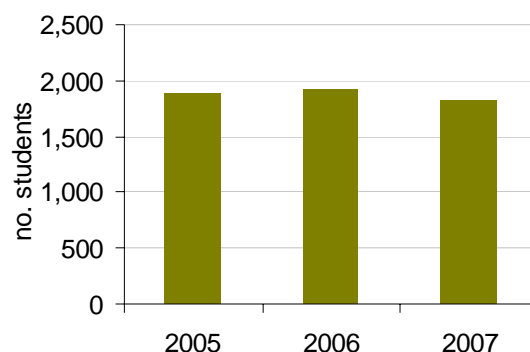
- Initiative
- Integrity
- Self Discipline

At Lilydale High School we strive to achieve a productive community to enable all students to reach their potential both academically and socially and in doing so prepare them for the challenges of the twenty first century. Lilydale High School works closely with parents, guardians and the community to ensure that each individual has every opportunity to achieve their personal best. The staff of Lilydale High School, are committed to delivering a curriculum that caters for all students, taking into account their individual learning styles and needs. The integration of learning technologies has been, and will continue to be, part of our priorities to ensure that the school remains at the forefront of education.

Student enrolments

The enrolment in 2007 remained very strong with a total enrolment of 1824 students. The year 7 enrolment was 295 in total with a gender break down of 135 boys and 160 girls. The students continue to enrol from 45 Primary feeder schools across the Yarra Valley and areas to the south and west of Lilydale.

Total students enrolled in school

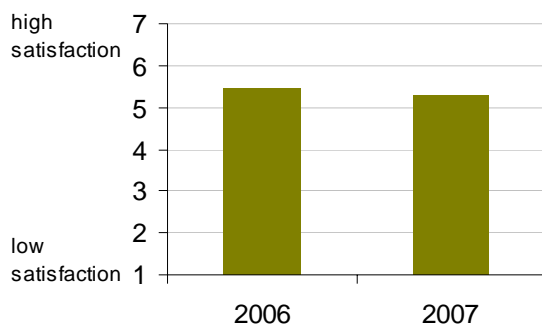


Parent Satisfaction

The Parent Opinion survey for 2007, which is commissioned annually by the Department of Education, indicated a high level of parental satisfaction. The question relating to parents general satisfaction with the school scored an average of 5.26 out of a possible 7, although this is slightly below the State Secondary Benchmark of 5.31, the return of surveys was relatively low. We are aiming at a greater return of completed surveys for 2008.

Parents are always welcomed into the school. Many and varied opportunities for parents to meet with the teaching staff through morning teas, breakfasts, performance evenings, involvement in programs to assist organisation and parent- teacher- student conferences contribute to this welcoming environment. Regular viewing of the school website is also strongly encouraged to keep parents informed about activities in the school. Parents are also encouraged to take an active role in their child's education, and are kept informed regarding their academic and social progress.

Parents' satisfaction with this school
(average score on scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is best possible score)



Commonwealth Requirements

• Teacher Satisfaction

Every year all Victorian Government schools are required to survey staff using the School Organisational Health Questionnaire. In the 2007 survey responses far exceeded the state benchmarks in all variables. In the

'individual morale' variable the staff scored in the top 14% in the state, the 'school morale' variable score was in the top 5%. All variables scored exceptionally well, indicating a harmonious, enthusiastic and motivated teaching staff.

- **Teacher Absence** - "The average number of days absent per teacher was 6.60 days compared with the state median of 7.06 days.
- **Teacher Retention** - Of the 163 teaching staff at Lilydale High School at June 2006(including those on leave without pay), 143 or 88% were still at the school at June 2007. This figure across all Government schools was 86%.
- **Teacher participation in professional learning** – All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year, such as the Teacher Professional Leave program, the Induction / Mentoring for Beginning program for teachers, a range of Professional Development both in and out of school and whole staff PD days.
- **Teacher Qualifications:** All teachers in Victorian Government schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching can be found at; http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241

Principal's Report

I am very pleased to present this annual report for the 2007 school year. The data presented here shows that Lilydale High School has continued to serve its community extremely well and has also made significant progress towards achieving its long term goals.

Lilydale High School places great value on students development and achievement and continues to enjoy very high levels of students, parent and teacher support. It enjoys an excellent reputation in the local community and demand for enrolment has continued to be high.

Lilydale High School continues to be a school characterised by excellent results, the development of exemplary students and very high levels of high public confidence.

New Strategic Plan

A new strategic plan was in operation for 2007, developed as a result of the school review conducted in 2006.

Key features of the new plan include:

- A continued emphasis on VCE achievement with a particular focus on improving the overall study score average and increasing the number of students who achieve a study score of more than 40 in individual studies
- Investigation and development of programs aimed at increasing the levels of engagement and connectedness to school in Years 9 & 10

Significant progress has already been made towards achieving some of these goals with marked improvement in VCE results evident in the first year of the new plan.

Other Highlights

Some of the other highlights of the year included:

- Significant improvement in the school's VCE results

- A marked reduction in the level of student absences
- Continued sporting success in interschool and state competitions
- A wide range of extra curricular activities including camps and tours, a school musical and variety night, arts evenings and performances, an overseas excursion to Malaysia, year level socials, three debutante balls, and many other activities.
- Continued involvement with The Yarra Valley eLearning Community.
- An expanded professional learning program for teachers.
- Completion of the second stage of the school's building program
- Relocation and renovation of the Performing Arts facilities at the school

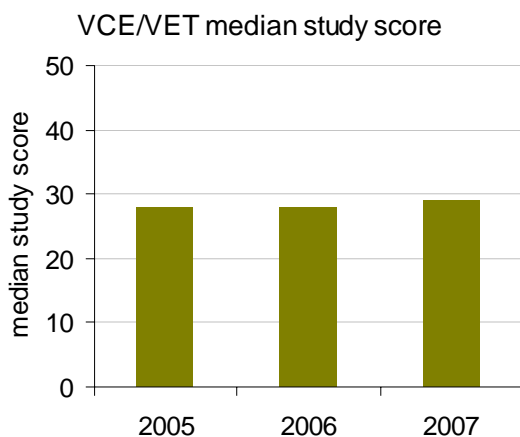
Members of the teaching and non teaching staff continue to report very high levels of job satisfaction and commitment to the schools programs and have worked tirelessly to achieve the excellent results evident in this report.

The school was also served extremely well by an active, well-informed and industrious school council which has also aided further development of the school. They are to be thanked for their contribution to the continuing success of Lilydale High School. Mr Lyle Godden who had been school council president for many years, retired from that position in 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him publicly for the countless hours of work he contributed.

Student Progress & Achievements

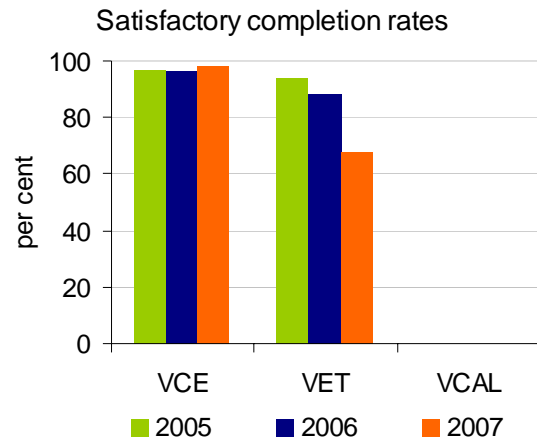
Student Learning

Achievement in the VCE continued to be one of the charter priorities in 2007. We are very pleased to report that the VCE median study score for all subjects rose from 28.3 to 29. This was the goal for 2007 in the school's Annual Implementation Plan and it is the result of the hard work of the students, teachers, parents and their willingness to support a range of activities that have emerged from the VCE Achievement Working Party, these include: an after and before school tutorial program, which was strongly supported by the VCE teaching staff and parents, strict attendance requirements, supervised study periods and guest speakers to encourage and motivate the students to strive to achieve. The ongoing culture of excellence and encouragement to achieve the best that is possible underpins the daily interactions with all students.



Other initiatives include: intensive preparation for the General Improvement Test, mentoring of VCE students by teaching staff, Study Skills programs, practice exams, close monitoring program for at risk students and a '40s Club' for those students who want to aim to achieve a study score of 40 or above.

Of the total number of Year 12 students who undertook VCE, 98% successfully completed. Year 12 VET students had a successful completion rate of 80.5%



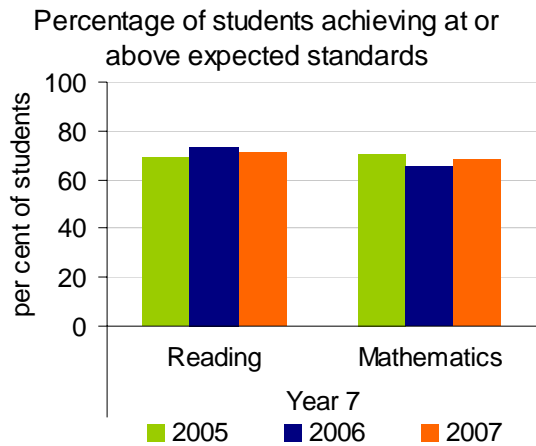
VCAL is not offered at Lilydale High School.

In 2007 the number of VCE students who scored 40 or above in one or more studies rose a whole percentage point to 4.4%. This was an excellent improvement and satisfied the goal that was set on the 2007 Annual Implementation Plan. It is a reflection of the dedication of the students and teachers, and the support of parents.

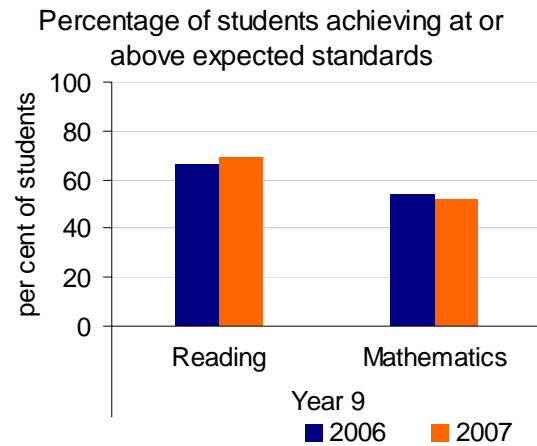
Achievement Improvement Monitor

Year 7 AIM results for 2007 showed that approximately 71.15% of students are achieving at or above expected standards in reading. Of these, 32% are at level 4, 43% at level 5, and 19% at level 6 against the CSF/VELS. This has exceeded the Strategic Plan goal of 15% being beyond expected level, ie; Level 6.

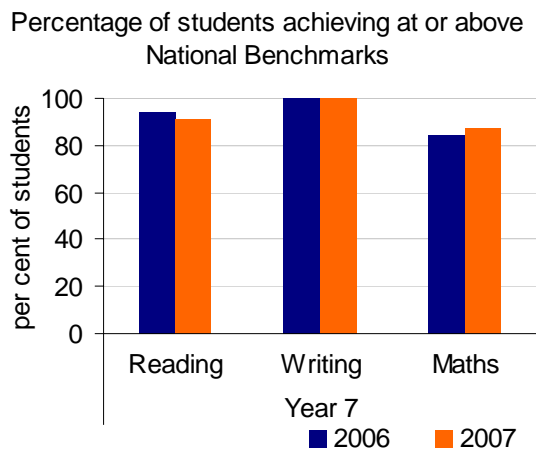
In Mathematics 68.06% of students were achieving above expected levels. Of these, 35% are at level 4, 47% at level 5 and 13% at level 6. This is a slight increase from 65.48 in 2006.



In year 7, 91% of students are achieving at or above National Benchmarks in Reading, 100% in Writing and 87% in Mathematics.



Despite this, both sets of results are equivalent to the state mean. An examination of these results will be undertaken by the Middle School Engagement Working Party and recommendations will be implemented to ensure that improvements can be made.



In year 9 there is a slight upward trend in the number of students achieving at or above expected standards in reading (69.02%) and a slightly lower result for maths when compared with 2006 (51.64%).

Student Pathways and Transitions

The Year 7 enrolment in 2007 was 348, with students enrolling from 50 Primary feeder schools. The average class size for students in year 7 was 22. One of those classes was the Select Entry Accelerated Program. Those students had been through the selection process in April 2006.

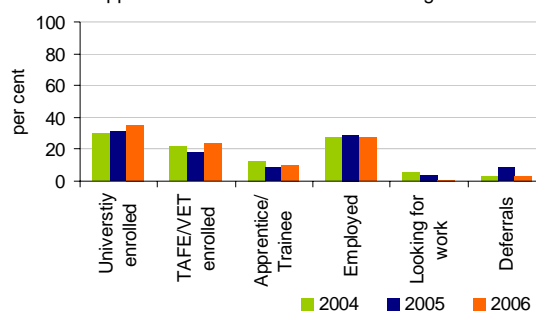
The transition program began in earnest during 2006 and continued throughout 2007. The students were encouraged to complete the passports that were established by the Transition Network to enable the Year 7 teaching teams to familiarise themselves with the students interests, hobbies, academic strengths and areas that they identified may require assistance. Most of the students were involved in many activities which required visits to the school in the year prior to enrolment. All students were tested prior to entry to establish those who may have needed literacy or numeracy support. Those identified were confirmed following consultation with the year 6 Primary School Teachers and parents/guardians.

At years 9, 10, 11 & 12 the focus has been on guiding students toward an array of options, depending on their interests and abilities. The Managed Individual Pathways program begins in Year 9 and is well in place for every student by the time they reach the age of post compulsory education. Each student meets with their counsellor, both formally and informally, throughout the year to monitor their progress. The careers/pathways counsellors and year level coordinators work with students and their parents to ensure that they are always fully aware of career and further education options. The new Strategic Plan includes Middle School Engagement as one of its main foci with a working party examining curriculum, special programs and the facilities that are available to Year 9 and 10 students. The work with this group is continuing with a number of recommendations expected to be implemented

in 2007/2008. Stage 2 of the building program includes 22 new classrooms with specialty art and food technology facilities plus a large number of general purpose classrooms. The middle school students have a great number of their classes in these rooms.

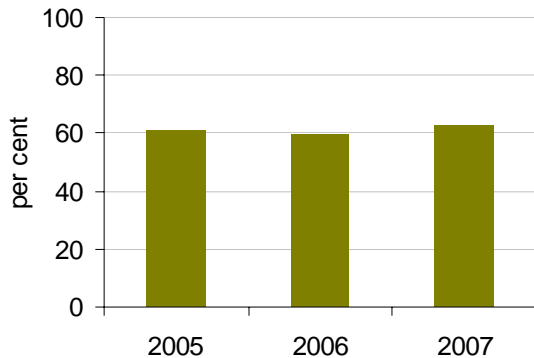
At the end of 2006, the percentage of students who gained a place to undertake further education or training had increased from the 2005 figures. University placements had increased as did those who enrolled in TAFE and VET. The proportion of students leaving to pursue full time employment was slightly lower than previous years and those still 'looking for work' was 1%. It is pleasing to see that almost everyone who left Lilydale High School in 2006 is gainfully employed and/or in some form of education or training. The results for 2007 will be available in the 2008 annual report.

What happened to Year 12 students on leaving school?



The curriculum and other programs provided at Lilydale High School have contributed to an improvement in retention rates in 2007. The retention rate rose slightly from 59.5% in 2006 to 62.7% in 2007.

Retention rate between years 7 & 12



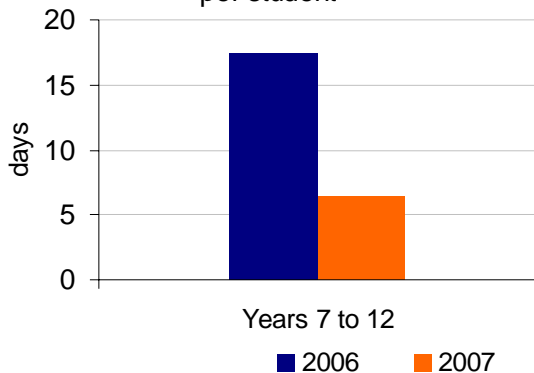
Other initiatives devised by the working party and implemented by staff include: regular newsletter information making links between regular attendance and academic success/social competencies, recognition of excellent attendance, attendance competitions, daily contact with parents/guardians of absent students by the Year Level Coordinators, attendance phone line.

The importance of regular attendance was again highlighted whenever the opportunity arose ie. assemblies, information nights and through the weekly newsletter. A range of competitions, awards, prizes and certificates were presented to students at assemblies. The introduction of electronic roll marking has contributed also by ensuring that data is promptly and accurately recorded.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

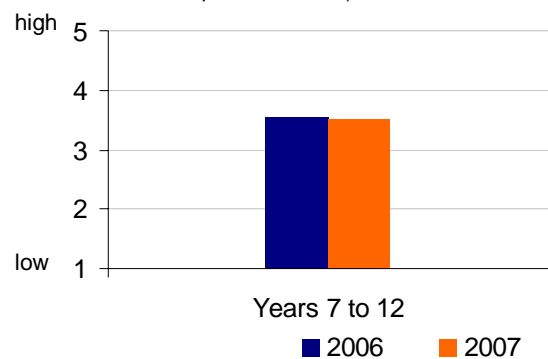
The attendance working party again continued with all of the existing programs as per the School Strategic Plan. The attendance premiership competition across all year levels encouraged students to take a team approach to improving attendance rates for themselves and their peers.

Average number of absent days per student



The average number of absent days per student in 2007 dropped significantly and is a result of a great deal of time and effort being put into ensuring that school is a priority for students. The parents have also contributed to this result by ensuring that their child/children regularly attend school.

Student connectedness to school
(average score on scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is best possible score)



The mean score in the Student Opinion Survey to the questions regarding *how students felt about going to school* (school connectedness) remained above the state benchmarks at 3.53 out of a possible 5. The scores in the dimensions of *Student safety* and *student morale* were also well above the state benchmarks across the year levels.

Curricular and extra curricular initiatives continue to be put in place to improve connectedness to school. The Strategic Plan for 2006 – 2009 will focus on the transition of

students from years 8 through to year 10. The Middle School Engagement Working Party is exploring options and initiatives that will be implemented throughout 2008 and 2009. These will involve both extra curricular and curriculum programs that take into account the needs and interests of our students. This introduction of three way conferencing, individual learning goals and digital portfolios have all proved very successful in encouraging students to engage in their learning through the use of ICT and be more reflective of what they are doing in the classroom.

Extra curricular programs that will also continue include; Interschool and inter- house sport, Peer Support, Student leadership positions, drama/music programs, school production, camps, tours and excursions at all year levels, lunchtime activities, theme nights and special events such as the 'Active and Successful Girls Breakfast' Student Representative Council membership, 'socials' and 'formals' for all year levels, health and well being programs across the year levels, transition program for incoming Year 7 students, MIPS programs for Years 9 – 12, a wide variety of awards and recognition for the majority of students.

Future Directions

Following a year of review and planning in 2006, 2007 was a year to continue with the VCE and Attendance goals from the Strategic Plan and a year to establish, research and explore the possibilities for the two new Strategic Plan goals; Connectedness to School and the Transition through the Year Levels.

As VCE achievement remained a priority for Lilydale High School, the working party in conjunction with the whole staff will continue to build on the successes and strive for improvements in student outcomes and hence successful transitions/pathways for all of our students. Attendance will also continue to be a priority to ensure that the links between regular attendance and academic success are fully

recognised and acknowledged by the whole school community.

Stage two of the three stage Major Works upgrade was near completion at the end of 2007 and it is expected that students will be fully immersed in their new surroundings by February 2008.

The Victorian Governments' Blueprint For Education and its associated flagships will continue to be addressed. Flagship 3 'Building Leadership Capacity', will provide a focus to enable the successful transition of our graduate, accomplished, expert and leading teachers into future leadership positions through extensive Professional Development opportunities.

The successful implementation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (Flagship 1) will continue to be a priority in 2008. All teaching staff will continue to undertake Professional Development throughout the year, on all aspects of the standards. The focus for the Professional Development day in May 2008 will be on effective feedback and reporting on student achievement. Implementation of the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PoLT) will continue. Refining the 3 way conferencing process, digital portfolios and learning goals for all students from years 7 – 10 in 2007 will be another aspect of reporting and assessment in 2008.

The LHS Learning Coaches will continue to assist the teaching staff to deliver ICT as an integral part of the curriculum as well as the ongoing professional development that takes place both in and outside of the school.

We will continue to work with the local Primary Schools to ensure that students make a successful transition to secondary school and remain engaged throughout the Middle Years of Schooling.

School facilities will continue to be enhanced to ensure that the learning environment is optimal.

The new Performing Arts Centre will house the music and drama in spacious classrooms, and the Information and Communication Technology Centre will be refurbished to enhance the teaching of programs such as Media Studies which continues to grow at years 9 to 12.

Student focus groups at all year levels will continue to be an important priority to give the students important input into the improvements that would enhance their learning with a view to improving the 'stimulating learning' questions on the Student Attitudes to School Survey.

For over ten years Lilydale High School has been acknowledged as a school with an excellent reputation. It will continue to build on this by ensuring that programs and initiatives are reviewed and refined to meet the needs of our students. The leadership team and staff as a whole, look forward to enthusiastically continuing the challenge of making Lilydale High School a vibrant learning community that provides students with educational opportunities that are second to none.

Financial Performance

Financial Performance for the year ending 31st December, 2007	
Revenue	2007 Actual
DE&T Grants	\$1,652,404
Commonwealth Government Grants	\$153,107
State Government Grants	\$20,616
Other	\$249,002
Locally Raised Funds	\$1,153,253
Total Operating Revenue	\$3,228,382
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	\$160,577
Bank Charges	\$2309
Consumables	\$432,621
Books and Publications	
Communication Costs	\$45,728
Furniture and Equipment	\$179,774
Utilities	\$122,411
Property Services	\$608,841
Travel and Subsistence	\$2446
Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$34
Administration	\$34,550
Health and Personal Development	\$3092
Professional Development	\$94,515
Trading and Fundraising	\$157,105
Support/Service	\$309,995
Miscellaneous	\$521,679
Total Operating Expenditure	\$2,675,678
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	\$552,704
Capital Expenditure (Cases 21 Finance Only)	\$218,074
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2007	
Funds Available	2007 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	\$1,166,650
Official Account	\$4133
Other Bank Accounts(listed individually)	
<i>VTCU</i>	\$409,928
<i>MECU</i>	\$508,846
Total Funds Available	\$2,089,558
Financial Commitments	2007 Actual
Accounts Payable Control	
Camps/Excursions	\$30,028
Building/Grounds including SMS	\$1,057,325
Special Programs inc Student Services	\$115,542
Region /Clusters Funds	\$45,373
Professional Development	
Other (please list)	\$545,612
School Operating Reserve	\$295,678
Total Financial Commitments	2,089,558

School Contact Information

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This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact Leon Bishop - Principal