



# Clarkson

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2011

— IN BRIEF —

## 2 COOPERATION AND RESPECT FOR EVERYONE

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*'At Clarkson, we care about one another...'*



**Samantha Bradock**  
Head Girl 2011



**Jordan Long**  
Head Boy 2011



**Chikondi Kandenya**  
Dux of School (ATAR) 2011



**Chloe Hough**  
Dux of School (VET) 2011

## 3 THE PRINCIPAL SAYS...

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At Clarkson, kids come first! CCHS is all about serious fun, common sense and hard work. Central to Clarkson's mission are engagement with learning and a zest for life's challenges and rewards. At the centre of the curriculum is a focus on improving literacy and numeracy.

At Clarkson, learning is a journey that gives students' lives meaning, greater wellbeing, a chance to flourish. Ensuring kids are happy and fulfilled are essential parts of CCHS's positive behaviour support.

Parents want credible vocational pathways for their kids with an eye to future job opportunities. A few CCHS students go on to university. Most, however, opt for an apprenticeship, traineeship or TAFE course or enter the paid workforce after graduation.

Clarkson has forged strong community partnerships.

In recent times, CCHS has gained an improved reputation as a good school with a focus on learning, with every student enjoying increasing success.

We have a strong emphasis on Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses. TRADESNORTH is now a runaway success. Clarkson students continue to shine, as can be seen in recent years with a string of Top Public School awards and a Prime Minister's award for THE SHED.

Clarkson is leading the use of information and communication technology in education. Every student in Years 10, 11 and 12 has been provided with a **MacBook®** computer.

Our school's **Positive Behaviour Support Plan** spells out how we intend to build and maintain a successful school based on cooperation and respect for everyone.

I have worked for the Department of Education for more than thirty years and in 2012, I am in my seventh year as Principal of Clarkson Community High School. I am very proud of the school's achievements and confident in the vision we share for its future.

## 4 THE PRINCIPAL SAYS...

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One of the highlights of 2011 was the increased number of students who recognised the benefits of engaging in a vocational program of study. Student engagement in mainstream national qualifications has escalated considerably over the last three years, with a 100 per cent increase from 2007 to 2009, a 73 per cent increase from 2009 to 2010 and a further 22 per cent increase from 2010 to 2011.

Most students obtained a full nationally-recognised qualification, up to two years' work experience in their desired career area and the WACE.

In the arts, we held a range of performances, including the drama production *So Much to Tell You*.

We won the regional rugby league tournament and were invited to become a specialist rugby league school. Six of our players selected in State representative sides.

We conducted four highly successful Outdoor Education/Duke of Edinburgh camps and two students achieved the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

During a tour of Queensland by the soccer academy, our teams won four of the seven games played against various Queensland and NSW state finalist teams.

I commend both our full annual school report and this brief version to parents, caregivers, other members of the school and Clarkson communities and all those who are interested in the future of the kids in the north-western suburbs.



*John S. Young*

April 2012

## 5 OUR SCHOOL

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Clarkson Community High School is a comprehensive public senior high school (Years 8 to 12) providing a high-quality education to almost 900 young people in the north-western suburbs of Perth, including Brighton, Butler, Clarkson, Merriwa, Mindarie and Quinns Rocks.

Built between 1996 and 1999, Clarkson provides opportunities for studies at one of the most modern, technologically-advanced public schools in Western Australia.

Students have access to state-of-the-art computer equipment, networked and linked to the world via a high-speed broadband connection.

Our goal at Clarkson is to encourage students to enjoy and value learning.

We aim to widen their horizons by presenting a diverse curriculum that prepares them to live and work in the twenty-first century.

The curriculum reflects our desire for our students to become responsible and flexible thinkers who will be well prepared for the changes that lie ahead.

We are dedicated to excellence, personal service to students and the provision of a caring, friendly learning environment. We provide courses that are challenging, relevant and responsive to student, employer and community needs.

Our mission is to ensure that all students develop understandings, skills and attributes relevant to their individual needs, enabling them to fulfil their potential and contribute confidently to the development of society.

## 6 OUR SCHOOL

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The ethos underpinning all aspects of the school is that of **CARE**:

*Cooperation And Respect for Everyone.*

At Clarkson, we work toward building strong interpersonal relationships between students and teachers, founded on trust, respect and responsibility.



Clarkson Community High School Annual School Report 2011 In Brief

The school is involved in various mentoring and volunteer programs that enhance student-teacher and school-community relationships. There is particular value in the relationship between the school and senior members of the community through our students' association with local retirement villages.

In addition, Clarkson has very successful State Emergency Services and Bush Rangers Cadet Units run by members of the local community. The school also has strong links with West Perth Rotary.

An innovative middle-school structure, with two learning communities, meets the specific needs of students in Years 8 and 9. The senior school provides a range of study pathways for Years 10, 11 and 12 students.

While Year 10 students continue to apply the learning skills developed in the middle years within the framework of the eight Curriculum Council learning areas, Years 11 and 12 students are offered a wide range of study options.

## 7 OUR SCHOOL

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As a learning institution at the centre of a thriving community, Clarkson recognises that the participation of the greater community enriches learning opportunities for everyone.

We have productive relationships with West Coast Institute of Training, Edith Cowan University and a wide range of employers that provide structured workplace learning opportunities for our students.

## 8 SCHOOL AIMS

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Clarkson is a community-based public senior high school with a particular focus on academic performance, personal development and community involvement.

### Academic performance

We strive for excellence in the achievement of learning outcomes and every student is encouraged to achieve his or her personal best.



### Personal development

We seek to encourage students' self esteem and instil in them a positive attitude toward lifelong learning.

### Community involvement

We develop and maintain links with the community that ensure learning extends beyond the classroom and includes parents, caregivers and the wider community.

The purpose underpinning all that we do is to enable students:





## 9 SCHOOL AIMS

- to be successful learners, who develop and achieve their individual academic potential and personal excellence;
- to make the best possible choices they can, based upon the information available, their beliefs and their particular contexts;
- to 'own their own behaviour', be responsible for this and accept consequences;
- to contribute to the wider community;
- to learn skills, including those of enquiry, innovative thinking and problem solving; and
- to appreciate and develop a concern for the environment.



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Everyone to Care

## 10 SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

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A set of fundamental principles guides teaching and learning practices at Clarkson. Our aim is to provide an educational environment in which each student can develop:

- self-confidence, initiative, self-discipline and resilience;
- skills in relating to and working with others, including teamwork, communication and respect for others;
- transferable life skills in job seeking, decision making and goal setting;
- effective literacy and numeracy skills;
- skills in maintaining good health, personal fitness and wellbeing;
- an understanding of the society in which we live, how we interact with others from different cultural backgrounds and the responsibility of citizenship;
- skills and abilities in technology and an appreciation of the role of technology in our society;
- an appreciation of and confidence to participate in the arts;
- an understanding of the natural world and scientific principles



## 11 SCHOOL CODE

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At Clarkson, all students have the right to learn and all teachers have the right to teach free from disruption.

In addition, all students and staff have the right to:

- be treated courteously and with respect;
- work in a clean and safe environment;
- have their property cared for and respected;
- be free from verbal and physical abuse;
- expect all members of the school community to abide by
- the regulations of the Department of Education; and
- be listened to at the appropriate place and time.



*Tashai van Niekerk performed in front of the Queen and the 52 presidents and prime ministers of Commonwealth countries at CHOGM 2011*

## 12 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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Clarkson offers a range of programs that ensure our students maximise their abilities, talents and potential.

Underlying everything we do is an ethos of care that is supported by the student services and pastoral care programs.

Other programs that enhance our students' opportunities include:

- Aboriginal School-Based Traineeships
- Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ATAS)
- Challenge
- Commonwealth Literacy and Numeracy (CLNP)
- CoreMacBook
- English as a Second Language (ESL) support
- Getting it Right (Literacy)

- Keys for Life
- Profile-funded TAFE courses
- Road Awareness
- Rugby
- Skills Passport (in collaboration with West Coast Institute of Training)
- Soccer Academy
- Specialist Music
- State Emergency Services and Bush Rangers Cadet Units
- The Real Game
- Virtual Infant (VIP)
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- You Can Do It

*Blake Phillips represents Australia in the Australian World Youth Athletics discus and shot-put and is aiming to make it in the Rugby Australian World Junior Team.*



# 13 STUDENTS

First semester student numbers, Clarkson Community High School, 2008-2012

Year level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8				153	205
9	{691	{673	{522	97	198
10				223	104
11				229	239
12	{278	{367	{346	159	141
<b>All</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1 040</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>887</b>
Males				415	475
Females				446	412
Non-Indigenous				795	822
Indigenous				66	65

*The half-cohort that resulted from the change to the legal age for entry to schooling reached Year 9 in 2011 and Year 10 in 2012.*

# 14 YEAR 9 ACHIEVEMENT

Clarkson Community High School, Year 9 scores, National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy, 2009-2011

Year	Schools	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
2009	Clarkson	525	482	529	509	526
	Similar schools	555	534	550	545	560
	All schools	580	569	576	574	589
2010	Clarkson	525	506	537	531	527
	Similar schools	549	536	555	550	557
	All schools	574	568	579	579	585
2011	Clarkson	532	490	537	522	531
	Similar schools	555	527	555	542	554
	All schools	580	566	581	572	583

*Although Clarkson students continued to perform below students at similar schools in 2011, the gap narrowed and in three of the five areas tested they performed as expected compared with all other WA public schools. In WA Monitoring Standards in Education testing, the proportion of Clarkson Year 9 students achieving at or above the WAMSE standard in science was 34 per cent and in Society and Environment 26 per cent.*

# 15 YEAR 9 ACHIEVEMENT

## Percentages of Clarkson Community High School students above, at and below National Minimum Standards, NAPLAN 2009-2011

Year	Numeracy			Reading			Writing			Spelling			Grammar and Punct.		
	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below	Above	At	Below
2009	44	41	15	41	35	23	30	31	39	53	28	18	37	31	31
2010	47	35	18	48	34	18	36	37	28	57	23	20	54	23	24
2011	44	44	13	45	40	15	35	23	42	55	21	24	41	36	22

## Clarkson Community High School students' performance compared with all WA public schools, NAPLAN 2009-2011

	2009	2010	2011	Key
Numeracy				Below expected performance in comparison with the results of all other WA public schools
Reading				
Writing				Expected performance in comparison with the results of all other WA public schools
Spelling				
Grammar and Punctuation				

# 16 YEAR 12 ACHIEVEMENT

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Clarkson Community High School students' scaled scores, Tertiary Entrance/WA Certificate of Education examinations, 2009-2011

Subject	2009	2010	2011
Biological Sciences	44.6	28.4	54.8
Chemistry	60.5	42.6	54.4
Drama	NA	29.6	27.6
English	36.8	47.7	44.6
Geography	28.8	28.7	41.3
Mathematics 2A/B	NA	28.1	34.8
Mathematics 2C/D	NA	41.3	43.8
Media Production and Analysis	NA	29.0	26.7
Modern History	44.3	44.1	41.1
Physics	53.0	NA	52.8

*There were significant improvements in students' performance in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Geography in 2011.*



# 17 YEAR 12 ACHIEVEMENT

## Clarkson Community High School Year 12 participation, 2009-2011

Year	Eligible students	Achieved Australian Tertiary Admission Rank	Achieved ATAR and scaled score of 75+ in at least one subject	Studied for Certificate II or higher	Completed Certificate II or higher	Achieved WACE
2009	72	14	3	39	27	53
2010	75	12	0	47	31	65
2011	100	31	1	83	53	96

*The number of students achieving an ATAR almost tripled compared with 2010, while VET Certificate II enrolments rose by 77 per cent and completions by 71 per cent and the number of students achieving the WA Certificate of Education rose by 48 per cent. The median ATAR of students who applied for university entry through the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre was 64.5, which was directly comparable with the median ATARs of most of like schools. The attainment rate is the proportion of students who gain a Certificate II or higher and/or an ATAR of at least 55. Clarkson achieved a very strong attainment rate of 70 per cent in 2011, compared with 60 per cent for the State as a whole and 64 per cent for the North-East Metropolitan Education Region, due largely to its extensive range of high-quality VET programs. Only 23 public schools in the State had a higher attainment rate than Clarkson. University offers were received by Samantha Bradock, Cassandra Halliday, Toniya Jones, Erin Lawrence, Jayde Stiff, Rebekah Tilley and Czarista Williams (Edith Cowan); Jade Morgan (UWA); Brandon Byrne (Murdoch); and Sea Po'ked (Curtin).*

# 18 YEAR 12 ACHIEVEMENT

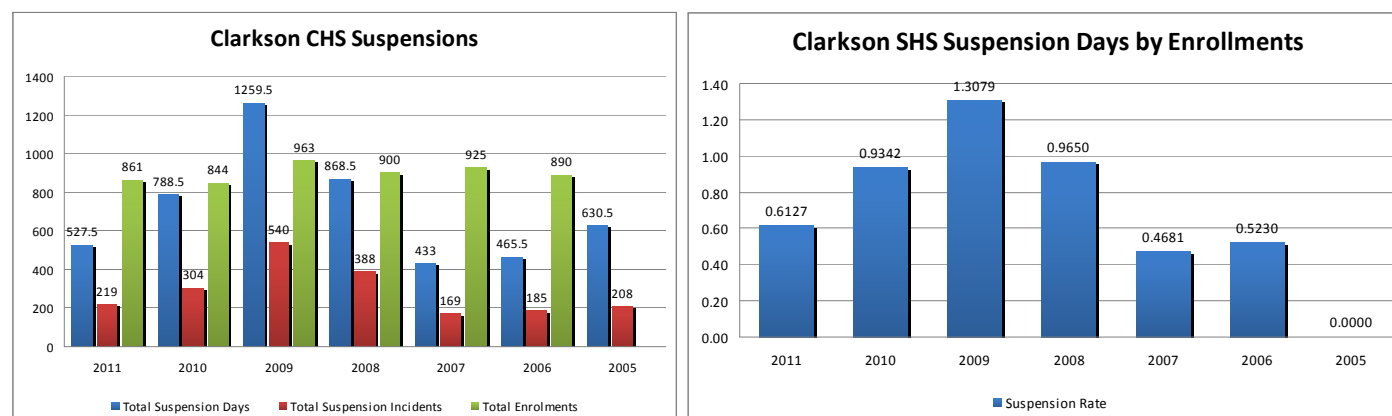
Clarkson Community High School students' intended and actual post-school destinations (percentages), 2010-2011

Destination	Intended 2010	Actual 2011
Return to school	0.0	1.0
University	12.8	3.0
TAFE	53.8	11.0
Apprenticeship	15.4	9.0
Traineeship	7.7	8.0
Other training	2.0	1.0
Employment	5.1	34.0
Employment assistance	0.0	32.0
Other	2.6	1.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*More than half of the students intended to enrol at a TAFE college in 2011, but only 11 per cent did so. Less than a quarter of those who were seeking university entrance were enrolled at a university in 2011. However, almost seven times as many students as expected entered the workforce, justifying our emphasis on preparing students for the world of work. No student expected to rely on employment assistance, but in the event one-third did.*

# 19 ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

Clarkson Community High School attendance rates (percentages), 2009-2011



*The suspension rate is calculated by dividing total days of suspension by total enrolment. It fell by over 50 per cent between 2009 and 2011.*

## 20 STAFF

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All our teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teachers in Western Australian schools and are registered with the Western Australian College of Teaching.

### Clarkson Community High School staff, first semester 2012

Category	Actual	FTE	Category	Actual	FTE
<b><i>Administration</i></b>			<b><i>Support</i></b>		
Principal	1	1.0	Clerical/administrative	10	8.8
Deputy principal	2	2.0	Gardening/maintenance	1	1.0
Program coordinator	7	7.0	Instructional	1	1.0
			Other non-teaching	22	15.4
<b><i>Teachers</i></b>	58	52.3	<b>Totals</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>88.5</b>

*Fifty-nine teachers were retained from 2011 to 2012.*

## 21 FINANCES 2011

Income		Expenditure	
Voluntary contributions	24 695	Administration	82 343
Charges and fees	162 384	Leases	3 772
Government allowances	47 239	Utilities	189 194
P&C contributions	8 000	Repairs and maintenance	549 513
Fundraising	6 088	Salary Pool	300 000
Dept of Education grants	635 171	Assets and resources	347 716
State grants	46 771	Trading activities	2 323
Trading activities	1 911	Education services	311 663
Other	125 481	Other specific programs	598 983
Internal transfers	470 500	Other expenditure	46 126
		Transfers to reserves	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1 528 241</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2 431 633</b>
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>982 642</b>	<b>Total bank balance</b>	<b>465 334</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>2 510 883</b>		

*In 2012, Clarkson received an overall rating of 'excellent' in the Department of Education audit, repeating its achievements in 2007 and 2009.*

## 22 SCHOOL DIRECTIONS

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Significant changes are signalled for our school in the future.

Clarkson TAFE, known as **TRADES NORTH**, was built on the school campus at a cost of \$21.6 million and opened in March 2011.

TRADES NORTH provides trades training, while a full commercial kitchen will be developed from the existing Home Economics room, with West Coast Institute of

Training delivering Certificate III and IV courses. Pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and post-trade training will be available in electrical trades, metal fabrication, carpentry, joinery, bricklaying and block laying, solid plastering, and wall and floor tiling.

**THE SHED** is a purpose-built facility that delivers building and construction training to young people in the Brighton-Clarkson area. Through pre-apprenticeships and onsite community involvement, it aims to increase job opportunities for local youth while addressing industry skills shortages. It also provides practical involvement in community projects, job placements and careers information, a mentoring program, enterprise training and life skills training.

## 23 SCHOOL DIRECTIONS

### Pathways



One reason for student dissatisfaction is a failure to achieve, which can be the result of choosing unsuitable upper-school courses.

Pathways are carefully-designed combinations

of courses of study that enable students to choose those that are the most suitable preparation for their post-school ambitions.

They are an important feature of the school and we are developing a comprehensive approach to pathways counselling, with a review of options and opportunities.

### Vocational education and training (VET)

Many of our students are attracted to the wide range of VET courses available at Clarkson, which was again among the top 50 VET schools in the State in 2011.

VET courses offer credit for the Western Australian Certificate of Education, higher-level Certificate and Diploma courses at TAFE colleges, and entry to apprenticeships and traineeships. Some are suitable for students with disabilities, of whom there are 12 at Clarkson.

VET programs may include workplace learning (where students apply and practise industry skills in real settings).

### Independent public school

Clarkson may soon seek independent public school status and become an increasingly-significant provider of trade training as a result of having greater autonomy to chart a self-directed future.

# Clarkson

## COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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