2014
SMYL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT
In 2014 we had our most successful year for educational outcomes. All 15 of our Year 12 students attained a WACE certificate and collectively they amassed 33 vocational qualifications during their time at SMYL Community College—an average of 2.2 vocational qualifications each.

On top of that, our destination survey tells us that six of our graduates are in employment (including three apprenticeships) and another six are at uni or TAFE. This is what SMYL Community College exists for. We aim to give them the skills they need to get a job or go on to further study. We want to provide them with opportunity—opportunity to participate in the community and lead positive (happy) and productive (useful) lives. So if they end up in a job or study, that is the outcome we are after. If they end up with qualifications as well, that’s the icing on the cake.

We would like to thank Tony McRae, the school’s Principal, for achieving this result. We asked him to step in temporarily as Principal in 2013 and he ended up staying on for two years. He is leaving the school in 2015 to become CEO of an Indigenous Corporation in the Pilbara where we’re sure he’ll be just as inspirational and effective. Tony has done a fantastic job and leaves behind a school with a strong team, a positive culture and in excellent financial health. On behalf of the Governing Council, the staff and everyone at SMYL Community Services we wish Tony all the best in his new position. We’d like to point out that before becoming Principal, Tony also achieved a lot in his various roles as a member of the management team at SMYL Community Services. His work in Timor-Leste in particular stands out, in which he lead the international team in developing and implementing a training plan for the country and provided the Government with advice on vocational training. Well done Tony and many thanks— for this and all the work you have done for us over many years.

So now to the future. We are pleased to have secured the services of Jo Bednall, a highly experienced and dedicated educational professional, to take-over as Principal. Jo was Principal of Tranby College in Baldivis from 1999-2013, during which time the school grew from a struggling new school to a well established College with over 1000 students from kindergarten to year 12. In 2014 she was Campus Principal of the Warburton Remote Community School, one of the small schools that are part of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School in the desert north east of Kalgoorlie. She has always been concerned about students who do not thrive in the mainstream environment and is keen to see the pedagogy associated with Big Picture Education become an established part of the school’s approach. We welcome Jo and look forward to working with her over the coming years.

Phil Brooks
Chair of Governing Council

Sam Gowegati
School Director
Resilience is vital for dealing with change. And in 2014, our 4th year of operating, the importance of resilience was clear – everyone in the school community dealt with the joy and challenges of friendships and of achievements and disappointments. Everyone, in some way, was touched by the grief of a loved one or former colleague passing away. And in the middle of these successes and failures, of profound loss and in new bonds, we all learned that life goes on; that we have a personal journey that demands we strive to continue. In SMYL College these life challenges are met with enough energy to power a city!

Most students come to SMYL Community College with attendance rates of less than 20% and little optimism about their own potential. It is a pleasure to report that the average attendance rate at SMYL College across 2014 was almost 72%, with more than one third of students attending more than 90%! In every year group, students are re-discovering the joy of learning and personal growth. The measure of attendance and participation is a very good indicator of student outcomes in education and training as well as later life opportunities.

2014 has provided outstanding results and is a credit to everyone in the school community – ESPECIALLY BIG CONGRATULATIONS go to the 2014 Year 12s! - they became wonderful leaders and really interesting and dynamic young adults.

A number of people were part of making SMYL Community College a great place and left in 2014 – thunderous applause and big cheers to long-time SMYLies: Ruth Degrassi, Melissa Priemus; huge thanks to Penny Louis for her great year with the Year 12s and 10s and best wishes to Chantelle Hicks who started her teaching career at SMYL College. The College continues to receive great support from our colleagues in SMYL Community Services. To all of these people - a big thanks!

I will be moving on to a new job after handing over at the start of 2015 and want to record my deep appreciation to my colleagues and students - working at SMYL College has been one of the most rewarding positions I’ve had in more than 40 years of work.

I leave with the confidence that our long-term staffers and those joining us in 2015 are simply brilliant people who will make their contributions to this truly wonderful community!

I wish everyone ‘happiness and usefulness’ for the future.

Tony McRae
Principal
SMYL Community College was established in 2011 as a CARE (Curriculum and Re-engagement to Education) school for Year 10-12 students in the Rockingham and Kwinana area who are at risk of, or are, disengaged from mainstream schooling. For this reason SMYL Community College provides an alternative education program that caters for both the educational and welfare needs of each student. The focus of the program is the development of literacy and numeracy, social skills, practical skills and workplace experience, while providing counselling and social-work support where required.

Vision
To alleviate distress and build capacity within people and communities.

Mission
To provide an inclusive and supportive learning community that offers an alternative approach to education and training for young people aged 15 to 17 years of age who are at risk of missing out on opportunities due to their home life, health and other issues. Young people will be provided with the opportunity to progress, with all the support they need, along a pathway to employment.

Ethos

SMYL Community College believes that all young people:
• are individuals, with their own circumstances, abilities and aspirations in life;
• have the right to receive an appropriate education;
• deserve the opportunity to participate in the workforce.

Goals
• To create a supportive team approach to learning that includes students, parents, teachers, mentors, youth workers and counselors.
• To deliver project-based hands-on education and training in an enterprise/workshop based setting.
• To foster the self-confidence and motivation, and develop the skills, in young people that will enable them to move on to further education, training or employment.
• To provide a clear pathway to further education, training and employment.
• To provide direct opportunities for employment.
• To develop responsibility and respect in individuals.
GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

**Workforce Composition as of 31 December 2014:** The workforce of SMYL Community College consists of 12 people, of which three are male and nine are female. The average age of the workforce is 45.1 years old.

### Governing Council
- Philip Brooks: Chair
- Rohan Lewis: Deputy Chair
- Michael Keep: Secretary
- Jan Sonder-Sorensen: Member
- Len Collard: Member
- Maureen Thomson: Member
- Ian Linn: Member
- Sam Gowegati: School Director (ex officio)

### Staff* as of 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Tony McRae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Louise Attley</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Ian Mitchell</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Emily Brook</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Emily Godfrey</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Penny Loois</td>
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<td>Education Assistant</td>
<td>Kirsty Low</td>
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<td>Student Welfare</td>
<td>Nathalie Ward</td>
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<td>Youth Worker</td>
<td>Anne Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT Support</td>
<td>Leena Mishra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Patricia Fenton</td>
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*Other Staff in 2014:
- Ruth Berechree: Teacher
- Mellisa Priemus: Teacher
- Chantelle Hicks: Teacher

**Teacher standards and qualifications**

The school employs five West Australian registered teachers including the Principal. The Teacher’s Registration Board requires teachers to have: an appropriate teaching qualification, a current working with children check and a police clearance.

Teachers have been involved in professional development activities and programmes throughout the year, including, but not limited to: Mandatory Reporting; Big Picture Training; Certificate IV in Training and Assessment; Keys4Life; ASIST Suicide Prevention; First Aid in Mental Health; Community Lifesaving Certificate; Synthetic Drugs; Resilience in Children; Sharp Reading; Mathematics Foundation Course; The Right Track Program; and, Art on the Move.
The rate of attendance* for the school in 2014 was:
- Based on ‘number of days enrolled’ and ‘number of days attended’: 53.8%
- Including ‘number of days absent with explanatory evidence’: 71.8%

* Based on the attendance data samples recorded for Department of Education Services in each Term of 2014.

Management of Non-attendance

If a student is absent the staff of the College contact the student’s parents/guardians immediately by phone or text. If no response is received the staff of the College contact any agencies with which the student is registered or engaged. If a student is absent without reasonable explanation for a period of more than five days the parent/guardian is notified of the absences in writing and a reasonable explanation is requested from the parent/guardian. If all attempts to locate a student fail after 20 College days and the College has not received advice that the student has enrolled at another school, the Principal will contact the Student Tracking System at Education District Office. Extended and/or regular non-attendance will result in counselling and the development of a re-engagement plan.

Educational Outcomes

Number of students who completed Year 12: 15
Number of students who attained Year 12 (WACE) certificate: 15
Number of vocational qualifications attained by Year 12 students: 33

Post-School Destinations

The post-school destinations of the 15 students in Year 12 in 2014 were:
- Apprenticeships: 3
- Employment: 3
- TAFE/RTO: 4
- University: 2
- Unemployment: 1
- Unknown: 2
PARENT AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

Big Picture Education Australia and Murdoch University conducted interviews and surveys of our students in 2014 as part of a larger project to increase the number of students entering tertiary education in Kwinana, Rockingham and Peel. The interviews found that our students:

- feel safe and belong;
- feel supported and engaged in their learning;
- have a sense of achievement and feel good about themselves;
- want to come to school;
- value the relationship with their teachers who respect, understand and support them;
- value the small size of SMYL;
- feel happier and able to support others;
- felt the benefits of re-engagement extended to their relationship with their families.

The surveys undertaken found that:

- Few students surveyed reported that they are likely to go on to university after high school—TAFE and full-time employment were more likely post-school destinations.
- Discussions with teachers about what students will do when they leave school were most likely to be about work—TAFE and University were also discussed but less often.
- In terms of attitudes to school, a large proportion of SMYL students were ambivalent, although the majority of students agreed that academic success is important.
- SMYL students seem to be confident in their abilities, if they try.