



SOUTHERN CROSS  
GRAMMAR

# Community Report 2018



# From the Principal

Located in Melbourne's western suburb of Caroline Springs, Southern Cross Grammar is a co-educational school with a non-denominational status. In 2018, the school had 630 students from Foundation to Year 12.

Since commencement, the school has experienced strong interest, with almost 100 students joining us annually over the first seven years. This is reflective of the high regard in which the community hold the staff and programs of the school.

An innovative approach to teaching and learning within the framework of New Generation Learning has seen Southern Cross Grammar recognised as a high-quality coeducational school.

Consequently, demand for places is strong and well in advance of projections.

The ongoing goal of the school is to be the school of choice in the western metropolitan region. Many consider that the school is well on the way to achieving this objective.

Our 2018 NAPLAN results indicated that the vast majority of students are achieving at the 'above expected level' with 'high rates of progress'; this places the school in the highly-regarded category nationally.

Intentionally, Southern Cross Grammar is a medium-sized, independent school— big enough to offer a broad range of opportunities, yet small enough for

students to experience regular success and to be known and understood.

What makes Southern Cross Grammar different?

- An internationally-benchmarked contemporary approach with an emphasis on high standards.
- Learning programs that are highly individualised, recognise talents and encourage a love of learning.
- An emphasis on the appointment of high-calibre teachers and leaders.
- Facilities that support innovative teaching practice.
- Our strong emphasis on knowing each child and preparing each child as well as we can for their preferred future through highly-personalised options.

In this report, you will find information regarding key aspects of the school's operation.

I warmly commend the students of 2018 — where the overwhelming majority of Southern Cross Grammar students are performing to their potential. In an open enrolment setting, this says much about the quality of our staff, the commitment and support of our parents and the dedication of our student population.

More information on the school's innovative approach to teaching and learning can be found by visiting our website [www.scg.vic.edu.au](http://www.scg.vic.edu.au), or by contacting us via [admin@scg.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@scg.vic.edu.au).

Andrew Ponsford - Principal

# New Generation Learning

## NEW GENERATION LEARNING

SCG PEDAGOGY & GRADUATE



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### The SCG Clinical Principle

The SCG Clinical Principle is the evidence-based process of diagnosing, responding to, and reviewing issues that are identified as critical to student achievement. This principle is applied at the individual student level, the teacher/ classroom level and at the whole school/ community level.

Learning is a complex process in which teachers have a primary responsibility for assessing each student's individual intellectual, social, emotional, physical and cultural needs relevant to their current stage of learning.

This requires the identification of any strengths or impediments, followed by the development and implementation of programs to enable each student to progress in their learning.



### The SCG Futures Principle

The SCG Futures Principle focuses on the application of technology to expand learning opportunities, knowledge and pedagogy in ways that develop appropriate understanding, skills and orientations to learning.

The increasing availability of data and information, and the networks for accessing and utilising it as knowledge, require the development of teaching and learning practices with the capacity to leverage emerging opportunities in a variety of contexts.

The School addresses these issues by engaging learners through technology in enriched learning environments.

Possibilities are created for expanded opportunities and high levels of student achievement.



# New Generation Learning

## The SCG Thinking Principle

The SCG Thinking Principle is defined as a continuous process of purposeful exploration to build student understanding.

This principle relates to the development of the human brain, particularly in relation to thinking processes. Thinking, especially deep thinking, requires effort, persistence, concentration and discipline, and is nurtured by a range of social, psychological and physical factors.

Fundamental to the SCG Thinking Principle is the concept of challenge, where students are challenged to think at levels of abstraction and depth beyond that to which they are accustomed.

The School believes that no single thinking theory or method works for all students.



## The SCG Passion Principle

The SCG Passion Principle involves teaching and learning with heart, to create quality educational experiences and engaged responsiveness in learning.

We work with deep pedagogical motivation and conviction to build on the individual and collective knowledge, skills, gifts, talents and personalities of all members of the School community.

Southern Cross Grammar is unrelenting in its expectation that students will achieve their potential.

We believe understanding one's own gifts, talents and personality as well as those of others is a prerequisite for the development of effective teaching and learning.



# Vision

At Southern Cross Grammar we will provide a high quality learning environment embracing the principles of New Generation Learning that affirm the individuality of each student. We endeavour to develop in our students the ability to:

## STUDENT CENTRED VISION

The following student attribute statements represent the collective goals of Southern Cross Grammar's New Generation Learning Principles, and, embedded in our pedagogy, they continually shape the journey of our learning community.

### Be fair and helpful

Be an ethical, compassionate and socially responsible global citizen.

### Listen and respect

Actively listen to others and value different points of view.

### Understand yourself

Understand your own talents, strengths and weaknesses, and be respectful of the rights and feelings of others.

### Take risks

Take risks and value mistakes as an opportunity to learn.

### Be responsible

Accept responsibility and demonstrate accountability for your own learning.

### Do your best

Be resilient, determined and persevere through adversity.

### Question and explore

Question, investigate and reflect upon your learning.

### Aim high

Have high aspirations, be curious about the world and demonstrate connectedness in a variety of ways.

### Be a leader

Demonstrate leadership and entrepreneurial qualities.

### Be creative and a problem solver

Be creative problem solvers and lateral thinkers.



# Our School's Leadership

Southern Cross Grammar is a company limited by guarantee.

The School Board is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the School, with the management of the School vested in the Principal, Mr Andrew Ponsford.

In addition to the Principal, a team of six experienced and highly credentialed senior staff are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School.

The Board and Senior Staff of Southern Cross Grammar have developed and maintained a detailed Strategic Plan since inception which is updated annually.

The Strategic Plan, which incorporates the Annual School Improvement Plan, sets the framework for the success of the school both in the short-term and through to 2022.

The Strategic Plan, which underpins all aspects of the school's operation, is structured into four core pillars: Our Education, Our Community, Our Facilities and Our Governance.

Each pillar lists initiatives which include comprehensive goals and processes for achievement.

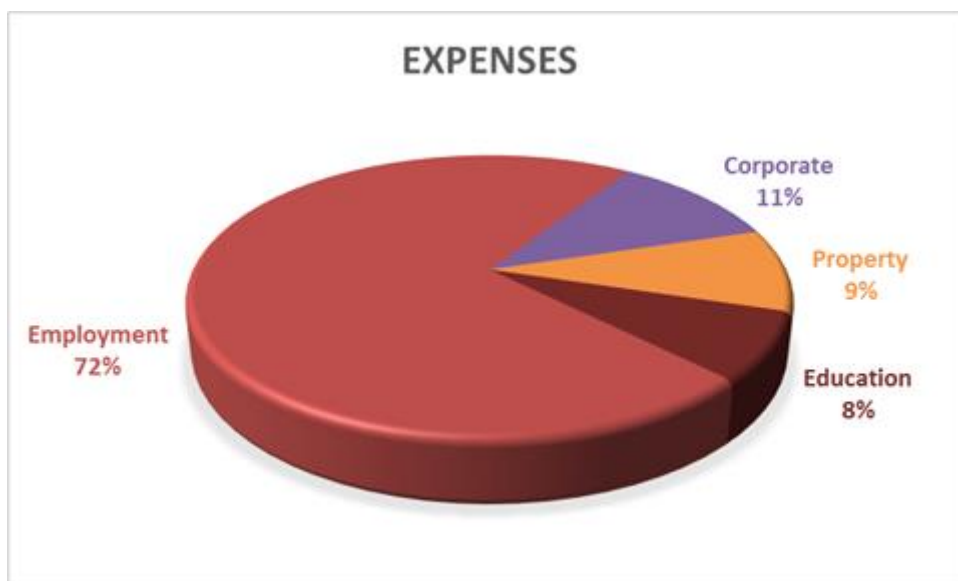
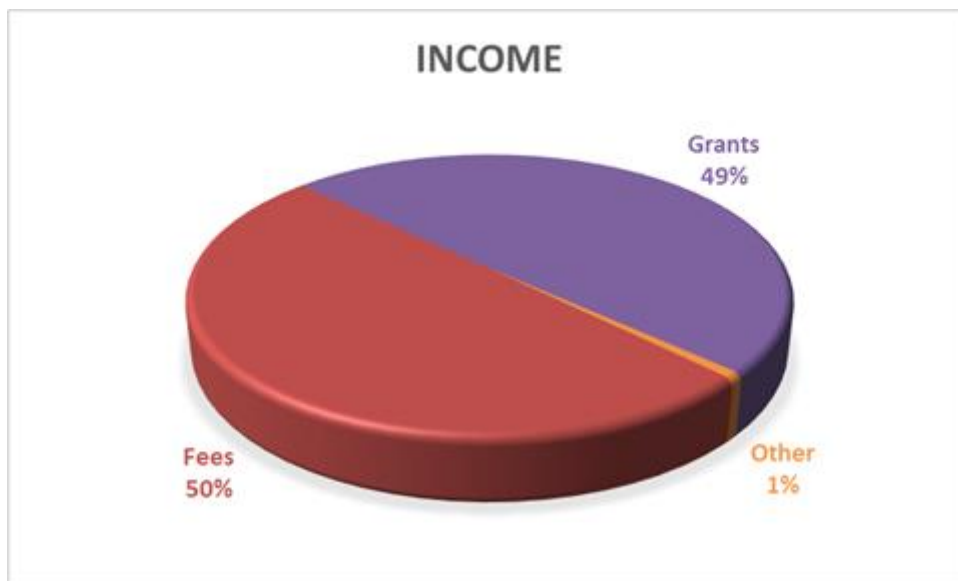
<p><b>Our Education</b></p> <p>Curriculum and Pedagogy Innovation Individualism Pastoral Care</p>	<p><b>Our Community</b></p> <p>Virtual Community Local Community Parents and Friends Association</p>	<p><b>Our Facilities</b></p> <p>Site Maintenance Building Program</p>
<p><b>Our Governance</b></p> <p>Financial Planning and Management Governance and Risk Management</p>		

# Finance

Southern Cross Grammar is a not-for-profit organisation and has strong business practices in place to ensure that its finances are managed in an effective, efficient and compliant manner.

The School has now completed seven full calendar years of operation, and has delivered surplus results in all years. These surpluses are applied to facility development and to improvements to educational resources and services.

The charts indicate the categories of income and expenditure for the 2018 calendar year.



## Facilities

In 2017, the School commenced construction of a new VCE Centre which was completed for the start of the 2018 school year. The VCE Centre provides a purpose-built facility for the wide variety of VCE subjects.

The Junior School building, a finalist for a national design award, was opened in 2015 and accommodates the Foundation to Year 4 students. This building includes dedicated facilities that virtually enable complete independence from the other sections of the school.

A dedicated Middle School building enables the provision of all core subjects together with up to sixteen different elective subjects at the Year 8 and 9 levels.

Plans are well advanced for the next exciting stage of our Master Plan – a Performing Arts, academic and administrative building that is scheduled to commence construction in 2020. Following this building will be the construction of a sports and wellness centre.



*The VCE Centre, which was opened in 2018*



*The Junior School Learning Hub*



# Facilities

The School's playing fields allow for year-round usage and include a large playing surface within a four-lane running track.

Passive playing areas around the Junior School building accommodate family and community engagement with the school.

The School's Student's Services program continues to expand with one-on-one mentoring across Literacy and Numeracy for students of all abilities as well as Welfare, Positive Education, Counselling, Individual Needs and Gifted and Talented programs.

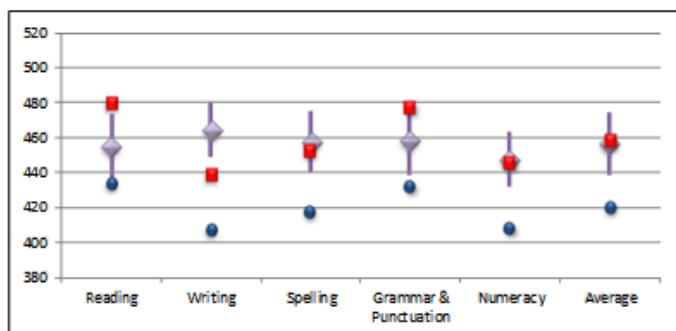
Southern Cross Grammar offers Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) for students both before and after school.



# Student Achievement

Student achievement and performance were again featured highly in the 2018 school year; we were particularly proud of the performance of our first cohort of VCE students since our commencement in July 2011.

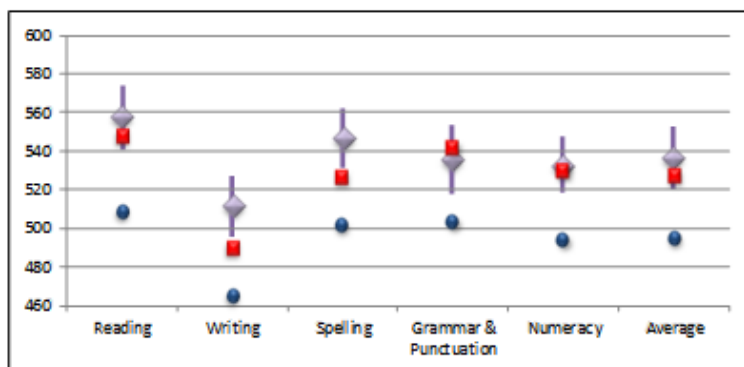
## Year 3



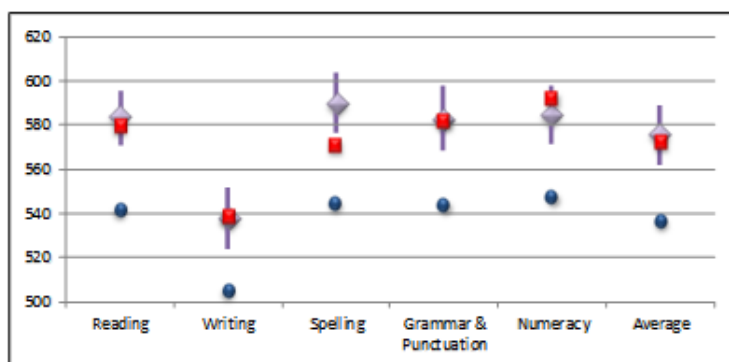
100% of Year 3 students were performing above the National Minimum standard.

## Year 5

100% of Year 5 and Year 7 students performed above the National Minimum standard.



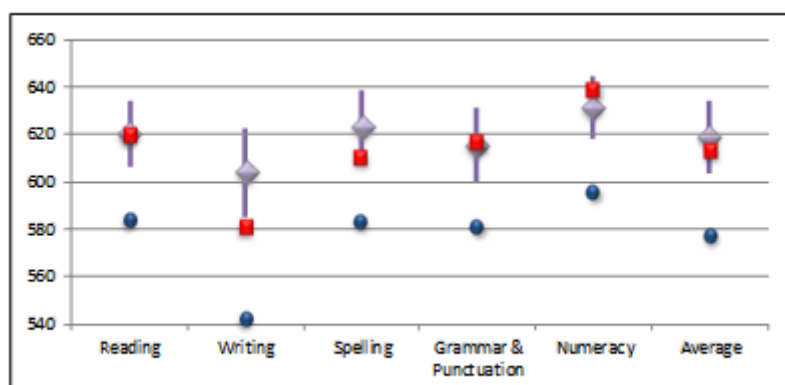
## Year 7



100% of students recorded growth at the medium – high growth rate irrespective of their year level

## Year 9

100% of Year 9 students performed above the National Minimum standard



- ◆ Southern Cross Grammar NAPLAN Results
- Australian Average
- Similar Schools

# Student Attendance and Community Service

The average attendance rate of students was 95.0%. Key reasons for absence included illness, medical reasons and family commitments.

The student retention rate for 2018 was 90.8%. This is measured by the number of 2018 enrolled students (excluding Year 12 students) who re-commenced in 2019.

Southern Cross Grammar also encourages students to think beyond their own community and to consider those who are less fortunate.

Each year, the students elect School Captains as well as Social Justice Captains to lead action groups who select and support worthy causes within the community.

In 2018, the entire Year 6 cohort were privileged to visit Canberra and partake in the ANZAC Day Remembrance events on ANZAC Day. Students attended the Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial and experienced the importance of remembering and honouring all the men and women who served our country past and present. They were also invited to attend the ANZAC Day National March where they sat amongst war veterans, politicians and Australia's Governor-General, Peter Cosgrove.



*The Year 8 Snow Camp, 2018*

## VCE Results 2018

2018 was a historic year at Southern Cross Grammar with the delivery of the school's first full VCE program and the graduation of the school's first cohort of Year 12 students.

Nearly 30% of our students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) above 80, with many of the rankings in the high eighties or nineties.

The School's first Dux recipient received an ATAR in the mid-nineties.

More than 60% of the School's Year 12 students achieved an ATAR above 70, which is higher than the average Victorian ATAR score of the mid-sixties.

Study Scores of 40 are awarded to the top 8% of students enrolled in each Study across Victoria. Six Southern Cross Grammar students achieved a total of 11 Study Scores of 40 or higher in six different Studies. The results are an excellent achievement and representation of the high calibre of hard work and dedication our students put into their studies.



*Our 2018 Year 12 graduates*

## Investing in Human Resources

At Southern Cross Grammar, we recognise that our most important assets are our students and staff.

All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have current Working with Children certificates and have completed a criminal record check and Level 2 First Aid training.

All members of the teaching staff, most with post-graduate qualifications, are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

In 2018, Southern Cross Grammar employed 44.52 FTE teaching staff and 19.87 FTE non-teaching staff. The average attendance rate for teachers in 2018 was 96.7%. 6 teachers (6.0 FTE) from 2018 did not return in 2019.

