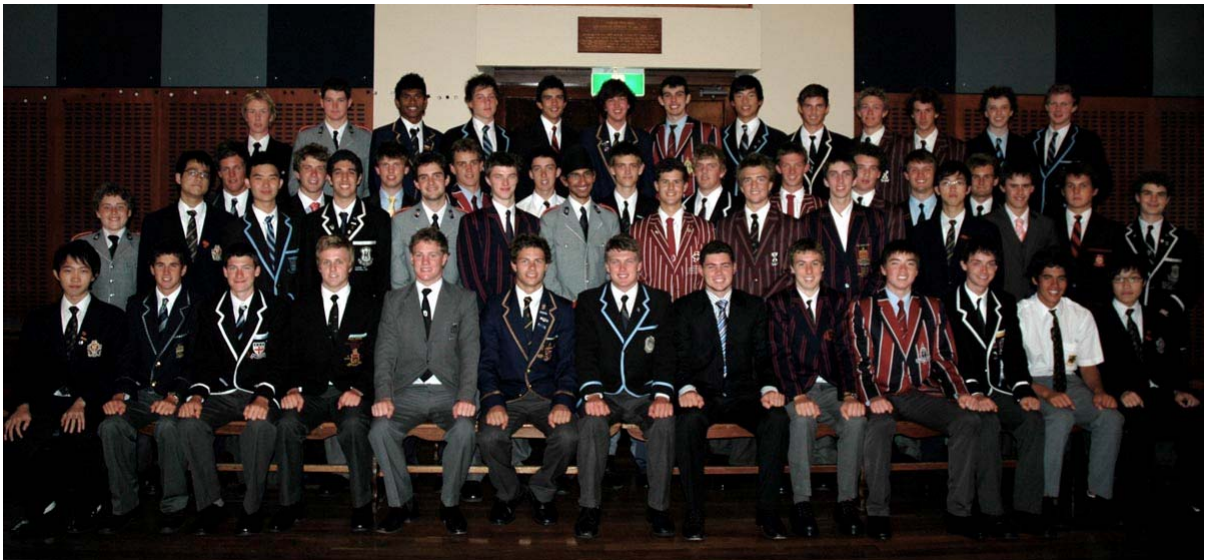




# The Leadership Edge Conference

## REPORT



**Sunday 18 January - Wednesday 21 January 2009**  
**Christ Church Grammar School**  
**Claremont, Western Australia**



**CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

## INTRODUCTION

The Leadership Edge conference was designed to bring together student leaders in Independent Boys Schools throughout Australia and Asia Pacific. The aim of the conference was to challenge the boys with activities, inspire them with speakers and create a network of minds to help develop their leadership skills for the coming school year. It was also hoped that they would be kept in touch through use of contemporary technology and by so doing, create a leadership network within schools of the International Boys' Schools Coalition in the region.

On Sunday 18 January 52 boys from Australia and Hong Kong arrived at the Christ Church Grammar School residential boarding house to begin what was to become a most challenging and rewarding three days.

The conference activities included a day sailing on the STS Leeuwin II, a visit to the Special Air Services Regiment (SASR) Barracks, a workshop from Educational consultant Greg Mitchell and talks from Ros Worthington OAM, recently retired international cricketer, Justin Langer, and The Very Reverend John Shepherd, Dean of the Perth Cathedral. In addition a number of reflective and constructive online workshops were presented.

### Participating Schools:

Aquinas College, WA  
Barker College, NSW  
Brisbane Grammar School, Qld  
Camberwell Grammar School, Vic  
Cranbrook Grammar School, ACT  
Christ Church Grammar School, WA  
Guildford Grammar School, WA  
Hale School, WA  
Ipswich Grammar, Qld  
Knox Grammar School, NSW  
Newington College, NSW  
St Paul's College, Hong Kong  
Scotch College, WA  
The Hutchins School, Tas  
The Kings School, NSW  
The SouthPort School, Qld  
The Sydney Church of England Grammar School, NSW  
Wesley College, WA

## REFLECTIONS OF THE PROGRAMME

### STS Leeuwin II - Ocean Adventure



The students boarded the STS Leeuwin II in Fremantle for a day of sailing, team and leadership exercises. The day was sunny, rough and windy and provided the perfect environment for challenging activities on board.

*Climbing up to unfurl the topsail: strangely enough, though I have an acute fear of heights, I did not at all feel that fear while climbing or while hanging onto the sail. The beautiful views, fresh air, peace and isolation just overwhelmed the inner coward within me*

**Benjamin Adler - Newington College, NSW**

*The Leeuwin was an experience that we were lucky to have. I enjoyed climbing to the top of the first mast, it was an extremely rewarding experience that I may not get to complete in my life ever again. The teamwork that was needed throughout the day was phenomenal and the leadership shown by the red shirts, our watch leader in particular was fantastic.*

**Casey York - Wesley College, WA**

Dinner was served onboard, followed by a talk from World-class sailor, Peter Gilmour.

*Peter Gilmore's speech was a very fitting and inspirational end to a fantastic day. His words of advice - especially taking hold of an ambition and following it through - and the general confidence, success and optimism he exuded brought home for me what can be achieved if the lessons of teamwork and perseverance we learnt on board the Leeuwin are applied to life's pursuits.*

Benjamin Adler - Newington College, NSW





## Visit to SASR Barracks



A rare visit to the SASR Barracks in Swanbourne was a most memorable morning for the students. A presentation on Leadership in the military, by Major Grant Walsh, a series of physical team challenges and an opportunity to view the museum and memorial, made a lasting impression.

*We left the base with a great deal of respect for the soldiers in the SAS not only for their physical and mental toughness and commitment but for their sense of family and basic values which keep their life balanced*

Matthew DeFina - Camberwell Grammar, Vic

*We received a marvelous insight into the SAS and its history after listening to a talk by Mj Grant Walsh. Leadership occurs everywhere in all sorts of organizations and cultures and we were privileged to have learnt about it in the military context. A vision and a goal whether long term or short term I discovered was key to a team's success.*

Timothy Shue - Camberwell Grammar , Vic

## Ros Worthington OAM



The boys were provided with an opportunity to listen to philanthropist Ros Worthington speaking about what you can do with the 'passion within'.

*To be honest, I didn't know who Ros Worthington was before I entered the staff room, but I am glad to have known her. I must say that her greatest value, "passion", is one all members of the conference should take back from the experience. Her emotional and powerful messages of life clearly reflect her unbeatable personality. It was humbling to listen to such a powerful speaker of our time.*

Gyu Hwi Lee - Brisbane Grammar School, Qld

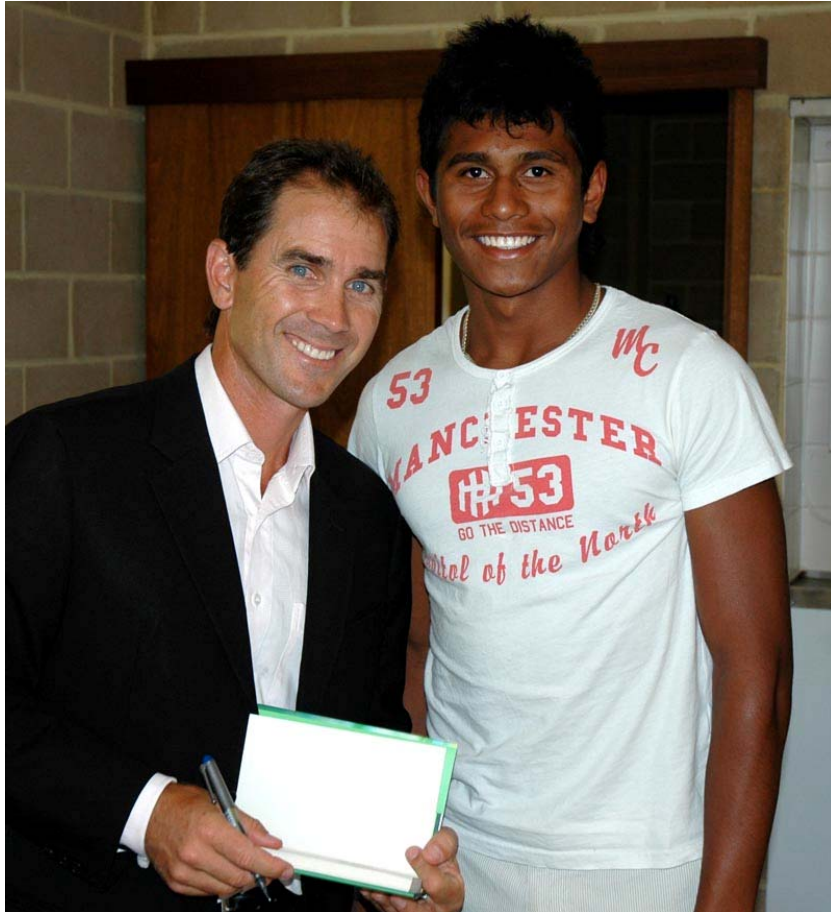
*Ros Worthington was a very motivational speaker with an incredible life story. Her life was dominated by hardships and yet her selflessness and optimism was inspiring. She taught the great impact passion has on one's drive and its importance in leadership.*

James Thompson - Brisbane Grammar School, Qld

*Ros mentioned 'Never have any regrets in your life' this statement really touched me. I have been troubled by the problems in the past and may seek a path to walk past the problem, avoiding to deal with it. However, through Ros' experience, I realized that life sometimes may not be as smooth as we thought, and we should really treasure the moment that we live in and learn from our past as well as setting our goals in the future.*

Nathanial Lau - St Paul's College, Singapore

## Justin Langer



On arrival each boy was given a copy of Justin Langer's book *Seeing The Sunrise* and many of his messages were used as themes throughout the three days. A highlight for many was seeing Justin, hearing him account many of the stories relating to the messages in his book and signing the copy of their books.

### **Leadership Online Workshops**

A series of online workshops provided students the opportunity to blog reflections and brainstorm ideas. This has set the foundation for an ongoing network for the students.

One such exercise was based on the Introduction in *Seeing the Sunrise*; it was titled 'I am...' Below is an 'I am' statement from one of the Conference participants:

*I am a basketball player who is a part of the St. Paul's College basketball team.  
I believe in the determination of a person.  
I struggle between the correct virtues and the reality.  
I've got a number of good friends and very few best ones.  
I hate disrespect.  
I often think about how to deal with people correctly around me.  
I love peace.  
I love watching the sea.  
I am generous to the needy.  
I believe aim and belief are essential for life.  
I like Chinese culture.  
I know life isn't always fair, however, I strive for fairness.  
I consider people in preference to materials.*

Billy Pang - St Paul's College, Hong Kong





## Overall Conference feedback:

To reflect upon this the first Leadership conference and to assist with the planning of future conference we asked for feedback from the boys about each section of the conference.

The sessions rated as follows:

	<i>excellent</i>	<i>average</i>	<i>poor</i>
	1 ----- 2	----- 3	----- 4 ----- 5
<b><i>Greg Mitchell Workshop</i></b>			
How relevant was this session to you?	1.75		
How would you rate the presenter?	1.67		
<b><i>STS Leeuwin II Ocean Adventure</i></b>			
How enjoyable was this activity?	1.7		
How relevant was this to your role as a leader?	2.3		
<b><i>SASR Barracks Visit</i></b>			
How enjoyable was this activity?	2.5		
How relevant was this to your role as a leader?	2.3		
<b><i>Ros Worthington</i></b>			
How relevant was this session to you?	1.7		
How would you rate the presenter?	1.6		
<b><i>Justin Langer</i></b>			
How relevant was this session to you?	1.5		
How would you rate the presenter?	1.3		
<b><i>Reverend Dr John Shepherd</i></b>			
How relevant was this session to you?	2.4		
How would you rate the presenter?	2.6		
<b><i>Final Day Workshops</i></b>			
How useful were these sessions?	2.2		
How relevant were these to you as a leader?	2.0		

## Student Comment:

*Learning how to perform the orders, the knowledge given, the fun provided and the bonding had was a great experience I'll never forget and I feel greatly privileged to be given that experience, thank you.*

James Levien - Hale School, WA

### Further Student Comments:

“Overall, a very well done, interesting and rewarding conference. Definitely provides a lot of useful elements of leadership which will apply to our school year.”

“ It was great, couldn't have asked for more!”

“I believe that this conference was time well spent in developing myself as a leader.”

“ The conference made for a very unique hands on approach towards engaging these with leadership roles.”

“The boys that came on the conference are so interesting, you can learn a lot from them – therefore I think a more relaxed session is needed so we could bond and chat a bit more.”

“Loved the Blogging.”

“ The blogging was a good way to establish networks between the boys that can hopefully be used after the conference.”

“Keep Greg Mitchell. His speech was practical and useable and also he gave a great example of how to act when speaking in public. This eccentricity was great.”

“The first seminar we had with Greg Mitchell was pretty interesting, I didn't really know what to expect but it taught me a lot about leadership as a whole. It made the idea of a year of being a role model seem less daunting than it had before, but made sure to highlight the fact that it and what comes after it will be a challenge and should be.”

“To be honest, when I first arrived I was slightly nervous. Mainly due to the fact that I would be meeting prefects and captains of schools that were well known both locally and nationally. However all the boys have been greatly welcoming, and easy to chat to. Going to Cott, allowed us to quickly get to know each other, and we were all soon talking about common friends, sport and just generally what we do for fun.”



INTERNATIONAL BOYS'  
SCHOOLS COALITION



CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL