



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



2014 Annual Report to the School Community



North West Christian School

Kindy – Grade 10

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Welcome to the ninth annual report of North West Christian School. In addition to reporting on the many facets of the school in 2014, this report also paints a picture of the school's special character.

North West Christian School is located on 20 acres, overlooking the sparkling waters of Bass Strait, in beautiful north west Tasmania. The school is situated adjacent to the foothills of the Dial Range.

North West Christian School draws students from Wynyard in the west, to Devonport in the east. The majority of students come from the population hubs of Burnie, Ulverstone and Penguin.

The school is a Kindy to Year 10 co-educational facility that has an 'Open' enrolment policy ie: available to students from all faiths (or no faith), cultures and academic abilities.

North West Christian School commenced as Penguin Adventist Primary School in 1975 in the Burnie SDA Church Hall.

In 1976 the school re-located to the present site, where two new class rooms had been constructed. Since this time the school has developed to include High School rooms, Learning Support area, an additional Primary classroom, Computer & Library Lab. and in 2010, a new Primary Library. During 2013 the old High School Library was transformed into a High School Humanities Room. From 2006 to 2012, Commonwealth Government funding assisted in upgrading the school facilities. We are grateful for the many grants we were able to obtain. During 2012 we saw the completion of an extension to the Industrial Arts Department and the building of a new Bus/Farm Shed.

VISION STATEMENT

*Nurture for today
Learning for tomorrow
Character for eternity.*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to promote a quality
Christian education, that promotes values and positive
relationships, leading to a commitment to Christ, and service to
others.*



Primary Students visiting the Don Railway

Principal's Report:

The year of 2014 will go down in history as *The Year of Accreditations, Reviews and Miracles*.

On November 21 there was much rejoicing as the fifth Accreditation and Review for the year was completed, with just one to complete in 2015. They were: Census Review, Bus Accreditation, Tasmanian Schools Registration Accreditation, Move Well-Eat Well (State Government Health & Human Services), Quality Adventist Schools Australia 'Schools Improvement Framework' Review and lastly, work commenced on the Tasmanian Schools Canteen Accreditation. The process saw many answers to prayer – *miracles* that we staff call them. One such miracle was the donation of equipment, which arrived just when needed. Another: the printer said 'refill toner', however the printer kept printing on and on until the review was over.

Once again the School Council, Parents/Guardians and Teachers were involved in information sessions by attending our Parent/Teacher Community Forums. The topics included the newly introduced Australian Curriculum subjects being implemented and trialed in 2014. I thank the parents/guardians who attended the meetings throughout the year.

Community members, parents and school staff worked hard throughout the year on the production 'The Road to Bethlehem'. This was a first for Tasmania. Authentic costumes were sort from many parts of the world. The production was well supported by the community on December 8 & 9. The vision of the organizing committee was a desire to share the story of Jesus' birth with the wider community.



The continued implementation of both the annual Strategic Management Plan and the Workplace Health and Safety Plan saw new initiatives and improvements incorporated into the school program that raised the level of nurture and care as well as educational outcomes for the students.

The Student Behaviour Management Policy continues to be refined so that students take responsibility for their own behaviour and develop self-discipline strategies. Good Behaviour Days rewarded the positive behaviour.

I am grateful to each staff member of North West Christian School for providing the best possible care and opportunities for learning for the students in their classes. The staff recognizes it is a privilege to be able to model Christian ethics and values to the children and to introduce each one to God, their Creator and Friend.

Mrs Cheryl Walsh, Principal

Professional Engagement

Staff Attendance

A typical school year has 190 days which students are legally required to attend. Of these days, there are three that are student-free to allow teachers to complete reports and to attend the professional development program organized by SDA Tasmania Schools Ltd and IST.

Teaching staff allocation of sick leave is a maximum of 12 days. This accrues if not taken. Staff are also granted three days for compassionate leave or carer's leave.

Of the seven full time teaching staff members, all utilized sick and personal leave. The amalgamated days taken were equivalent to 28% of available leave. Four teachers utilized compassionate leave (57% of compassionate leave available).

One teacher has commenced further study to upgrade qualifications at the University of Tasmania.

Staff Retention:

The year started with 100% retention of teaching staff, however during the year (second and third terms) the Years 4-6 teacher carried a .7 & .8 FTE load. This increased to 100% for the last term.

Full time staff numbers remained at seven with two of the full time teachers caring for the Curriculum and Learning Support (second half of year). A part time teacher catered for the Arts.

Teacher's Aides fill a vital role at North West Christian School. Eight part time positions catered for Kindy and learning support in Literacy and Numeracy.

Teacher participation in professional development:

With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, teaching staff members were involved in corporate professional development with both Adventist Schools Australia and Independent Schools Tasmania as well as various other providers. Number of hours of PD: 184 hours.

Teachers and Teachers' Aides were also involved in additional training in:

- Australian Curriculum
- Disability Standards for Education
- Senior First Aid / Workplace Level II
- Responding to Diversity
- 'Encounter' Bible Curriculum
- 'Move Well, Eat Well'
- Risk Management
- Quality Adventist Schools Framework
- PD & Health National
- 'Letters and Sounds' Literacy Program
- IST sponsored literacy, numeracy, financial, legal and Workplace Health & Safety requirements seminars.

Teaching staff completed a total of 185 hours in 2014 of professional development. The implementing of the Australian Curriculum accounted for a majority of the hours.

Volunteers:

We acknowledge the support of time and effort by many volunteers who contribute to the daily running of the school program. This includes assistance in the Technology Department, Primary Classrooms, Music lessons and much more.

Teacher Qualifications:

Name of Teacher	Position	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Mr V Joel Ackland	Full time	B Ed – Avondale College	10
Miss Elysia Beard	Full time 2 Terms .7 & .8FTE 2 Terms	B Ed – University of Tasmania	7
Mrs Denise Kylie-Anne Bobongie	Full time	Prim Dip. Teach - West Sydney (working towards Early Childhood Degree)	20
Mrs Bronwen Fyle	Part Time	Dip. Teach - Art	30
Mr Wayne Pepper	Full time	Dip Teach, BA, B Ed – Avondale College B Ed - South Australia M Ed, Advanced Dip in Design	34
Miss Jacqui Scott	Full time	B Ed – Avondale College	5
Mrs Cheryl Walsh	Full Time	Accountancy Cert, Avondale College Teaching Cert., Hobart Teachers College	35
Mr Daniel Watson	Full Time	B Teach, BA – Avondale College	5

Part Time Support Staff as at 1st December:

Miss B Clayton	Teacher's Aide (part year)
Mr F L Cox	Bus Driver Groundsman
Mrs F King	Teacher's Aide
Mrs K Marciniak-McKay	Cleaner Teacher's Aide
Mrs W McKay	Receptionist & Administration - Bursar
Mr B Cooke	Chaplain
Mrs D Nisbet	Bus Driver Teacher's Aide
Mrs C Purton	Receptionist & Administration - Uniform Co-ordinator
Mrs K Seager	Teacher's Aide Relief Teacher
Mrs J Sell	Teacher's Aide -Kindy
Mrs C Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide Cleaner
Mrs N Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide Media Relations

Student Progress & Achievements:

The School Program

The educational program at North West Christian School is designed to promote the development of the whole child. The curriculum incorporates a wide range of educational activities to cultivate each of the five facets (spiritual, academic, social, emotional, physical) of development.

Spiritual:

The study of Bible stories and Christian values is an integral part of the student's daily program. The School's Chaplain has visited weekly, conducting Chapel programs and spiritual awareness programs, including Bible studies for those requesting further development. Students were involved in organizing and participating in local church productions when requested as well as organizing daily worship segments. The establishment of a Chaplain's Office has enhanced his relationships with students and parents.

Academic:

Excellence in academic achievement is encouraged with priority given to literacy and numeracy skills. Extra classes are allocated for English and Maths in High School. North West Christian School's teacher's aides deliver a comprehensive program to assist students to seek further academic success. This encourages them to develop in a personal manner. Computers are actively used as a learning tool in all classes. Music and Art are regular components of the curriculum involving singing, learning to play instruments, production performances and displays. Each term regular excursions and/or visiting speakers are organized by the teachers to enhance the curriculum.

Social & Emotional:

Each child is encouraged to be independent and to value themselves and others. This will assist them to positively integrate into the community in future years. Grade 10 students each year participate in Work Experience. Also Grade 9/10 students, who are seeking a skills based future, are offered a position in the 'Dream Scheme', where partnerships with local businesses are obtained to assist in further development of the skills of the student. This year five very successful positions were obtained for the students, who once or twice a week participated in work place training.

Involvement in local church social activities has also been encouraged. Each year North West Christian School high school students are encouraged to attend the annual School Camp at Spring Beach Convention Centre, Orford. Our Upper Primary and High School students also may attend the Tasmanian Conference of SDA's Youth Department's Tween Camp each September/October.

Good Behaviour Days are held at the end of each term. This rewards the positive behaviour displayed throughout the school campus.

Anglicare and Relationship Australia counselors have been involved on a needs basis to assist students to work through any personal and family needs.



Road to Bethlehem Shepherds and Soldiers involving Students, Teachers, Community members

Each year students are involved in numerous community service projects which broaden their community awareness. These include:

- Clean Up Australia
- Earth Hour
- Central Coast Council Youth Engaged Steering Committee (Yr 10 School Captains)
- Asian Aid & International Child Care sponsored students
- Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
- National Youth Week
- MS Read-a-thon & Tasmanian Premier's Reading Challenge
- Try-a-Trade
- Burnie 10 Fun Run and Burnie 321Go participation to name a few.

In 2014, the school staff and students were involved in the inaugural Community Project 'The Road to Bethlehem' production on the school's sports field.

Physical:

Students participated in swimming lessons, the annual Walk-a-thon, 'Get Walking Tasmania' activity, Inter High Surf League, Inter High Swimming Carnival, Cancer Council Relay for Life, Jump Rope for Heart, Duke of Edinburgh program, Fitness Track, Inter High Athletics Carnival, morning PE and weekly sports programs.

Students are taught how to care for their bodies and encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle involving nutrition, regular exercise and a lifelong commitment to physical activity. This was emphasized with our obtaining the 'Move Well, Eat Well' Accreditation and receiving an outdoor wall plaque and much needed merchandise.

Healthy eating (Move Well, Eat Well) Kindy students



Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention

Student Enrolment:

The school enrolment at the commencement of school in 2014 was 66.

Student Attendance:

On any given day an average of 5.1 students were absent, with the average attendance by each student being 89.77% of the total school days. This is an increase in attendance from 2013.

Student Retention & Post-school Destinations:

Students from North West Christian School, at the completion of year 10 either:

- Enrolled at Hellyer or Don Colleges to complete Yrs 11/12,
- Enrolled at Tas TAFE / PolyTech
- Left the State of Tasmania or obtained an apprenticeship / job.

Of the 2014 leavers, 83% continued tertiary education at Hellyer College or Tas TAFE, with 17% continuing their education on the mainland of Australia.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKS – 2014

(National Assessment Program in Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing scores show how a school or an individual student is performing according to national benchmarks in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation & Mathematics)

Year 3 & 5 Test Results

2014 TEST	Year 3	Year 5
	% of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 3 students in Australia	% of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 5 students in Australia
Reading	100%	50%
Maths	50%	100%
Writing	100%	100%

Year 7 & 9 Test Results

2014 TEST	Year 7	Year 9
	% of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 7 students in Australia	% of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 9 students in Australia
Reading	60%	50%
Maths	80%	50%
Writing	60%	50%

Results from National Testing:

Administration and teaching staff have evaluated the above statistics and have established a number of strategies to assist the students who are below the National Benchmark. Some students have enrolled at North West Christian School in years 1 to 10 as a result of academic difficulties in their previous education experience.

Strategies established have been:

- Foundation English classes in Years 7/8 and 9/10
- Foundation Maths classes in Years 7/8 and 9/10
- Teacher Aides employed to nurture and assist students
- Individual Educational Plans established for students
- Speech and hearing testing
- Tutoring out of school hours
- In 2014 the results of the National Testing were included in assessment results. This has helped to eliminate the casual approach that students have taken in the past to national testing.

Positive Achievements:

We want to **congratulate** the students who exceeded way and beyond the average in each test. Eleven of the fifteen students tested, achieved above average in one or more of the areas (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Numeracy). Some achieved above average in each area, one student's results were above their grade's highest band.



School Captains, Presentation Night 2014



Primary Production, 'A Midwife's Crisis'



Penguin Parade, 5th December 2014

School Community Feedback & New Initiatives:

Stakeholder's satisfaction

During 2014 an annual survey was sent to school stakeholders as part of the Australia-wide survey collated by Adventist Schools Australia. The surveys netted usable responses from across Australia. Personnel at Avondale College were commissioned to evaluate the responses.

The respondents commented on eight aspects of the school's operation:

- Special Character
- Quality Education
- Teacher Quality
- School Governance
- Health & Fitness
- Serving others / mission of the system
- Chaplaincy
- Views of System Administrators/Other personnel and bodies
- School Relationships.

The respective stakeholder responses demonstrate that:

- The special character of Adventist education is clearly evident in our school
- Curriculum delivery in our school clearly reflects the special character
- Our school provides quality educational opportunities for students
- Governance structures are appropriate
- Quality teachers are available for employment at our school
- Leaders are positive with the school's progress within its academic courses and infrastructure
- Students are responding to new initiatives put in place through advice and suggestions from previous surveys
- Healthy eating, more hydration and exercise have increased with the introduction of the 'Move Well, Eat Well' program.

Each year a different group of the school family will be surveyed to widen the responses, which help in establishing the Annual Strategic Plan.



Accreditation: DHHS



Ice-Bucket Challenge



Hong Kong Exchange Students, 2014

Value Added

Grants:

Over the past eight years we have been blessed by receiving Federal Government funding in a number of grant programs. Close to \$1million has been received. The latest addition, Solar power, is proving to be a wonderful investment by the Government and the School. A new roof needed to be installed before the panels were installed. This funding was obtained from the sale of blocks.

Further Grants are constantly being sort to assist with increasing the number of garden beds. This project, entitled 'Reverse Tithe Gardens', where we give 90% away to the community and keep 10% of the produce for ourselves, is proving to be a blessing to families, neighbours and community groups.

A Grant to assist with the running of the school was given this year. This assisted with Capital items used by Secretarial and Teaching staff.



New front gate signage

Continued and New Incentives:

1. Community Service Projects:
The students of North West Christian school have the opportunity to share their time and talents throughout the year on various community programs. In 2014 students assisted with two new projects: 'Biscuits for Seniors', making clothes for the Samaritan Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box appeal. The largest commitment is for the two sponsored overseas students in Nepal and Thailand. Over \$1000 was raised in the annual Walk-a-thon.
2. New Entrance Signage. The crumbling old sign was replaced over the year end 2013/2014 with a new sign making the gate entrance more attractive.
3. Dream Scheme: In 2014 more students were involved in the new partnerships made available by the generosity of five companies. Each week saw the five students spend one or two days working in the community on a voluntary basis.

4. New Bus signage: This was commissioned and worked on over the New Year Break, 2013/2014.



5. New Play Equipment. Following a very successful School Fair in 2013, the new play equipment was installed. On the Working Bee day, prior to school commencing 2014, the finishing touches were made to the under-fill.



6. Morning PE: this initiative continues with Kindy to Year 10 students exercising for 15 minutes, 4 days per week. Morning fruit breaks are made possible with the assistance of the Adventist Development & Relief Agency, Ulverstone Op Shop.
7. Out-door Education: This class was offered to Grade 9/10 students. Students participated in the activities such as kayaking, abseiling, rock climbing, and orienteering, bike riding. For Primary students: for extra exercise, the Year 4-6 class walks to the local beach and return once each week.
8. Creative Caterpillars Playgroup: This pre-Kinder playgroup is held fortnightly in the Primary Library.
9. Career Pathways: New opportunities opened up this year for our High School students through involvement with different Pathway groups. Expos, visits to Tertiary venues and visits from trades' personnel have added to the program. This year both Year 9 & 10 students were invited to participate in the Rural Health Expos (Medical Centre, Burnie Hospital), plus Try-a-Trade at the Burnie Civic Centre and Launceston Display.
10. Senior students joined hundreds of other senior High School students at the Launceston GRIP Student Leadership Conference, which is unique in that it concentrates specifically on training students for their role as school leaders.

