



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



2015 Annual Report to the School Community



North West Christian School

Kindy – Grade 10

18 Ling Street
Penguin TASMANIA 7316

Phone: 64 372705

Mobile: 0467 065 697

Fax: 64 370976

Email: nwcs@iinet.net.au

Web: northwestchristianschool.com.au

Welcome to the tenth annual report of North West Christian School. In addition to reporting on the many facets of the school in 2015, 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.*



Two Cast members in the Road to Bethlehem Production 2015

Principal's Report:

At the beginning of 2015 I was able to take Long Service Leave for First Term. Mr Wayne Pepper and Mr Barrie Bidmead ably took over the leadership and my classes. As I walked the country lane near my home I was able to reflect on the years of teaching – on the many students who have sat in my classes, who have made an imprint in my memory.

Reflecting forms a major component of each teacher's life. We reflect on each lesson and unit we teach, often leading us to change various aspects of the topic being taught, in readiness for the next year.

Reflecting on this year gives us the same privilege of looking back over the good and the not so good; allowing us to make improvements for the year ahead.

In 2015 we saw some firsts:

- Outdoor Education two day Snow Expedition on Cradle Mountain
- Snow trip to Waratah for the Primary students
- Operation Resilience Course – Boot Camp for Years 4-10 students for one term
- End of year Transition Camp - Years 6 to 10.

Once again the School Council, Parents/Guardians and Teachers were involved in meetings in revising policies & procedures, interviews and improvement strategies. The topics included the newly introduced Australian Curriculum subjects being implemented and trialed.

Community members, parents and school staff worked hard throughout the year on the production 'The Road to Bethlehem'. This was the second year for Tasmania. Extra authentic costumes were sort from many parts of the world to improve on the previous year's production. The production was well supported by the community on December 6th & 7th. 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 Quality Adventist Schools – School Improvement Framework 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 but one utilized sick and personal leave. The amalgamated days taken were equivalent to 33% of available leave. Two teachers also utilized compassionate leave.

One teacher has commenced further study to upgrade qualifications at the University of Tasmania. The Principal, Cheryl Walsh, took Long Service Leave for the full duration of 1st Term and for an additional 3 weeks in term 2 to attend the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Staff Retention:

The year started with 100% retention of full time teaching staff. Our beloved Art teacher of many years retired at the close of 2014, with one of our full time teachers picking up the load.

Full time staff numbers remained at seven with two of the full time teachers caring for the Curriculum and Learning Support. During the year we were blessed with IST's assistance with a designated Learning Support teacher visiting regularly to help us update our Personal Learning Plans, developing new programs and documentation.

Teacher's Aides fill a vital role at North West Christian School. Nine part time positions catered for Kindy and learning support in Literacy and Numeracy. Many children are blessed with this additional assistance.

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: 170 hours.

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

- Australian Curriculum
- Disability Standards for Education
- Senior First Aid
- Responding to Diversity – Challenging Kids
- Your Brain in the 21st Century
- Hearing Seminar
- Safe Places – Child Protection
- Legal Responsibilities
- 'Encounter' Bible Curriculum
- Risk Management
- Quality Adventist Schools Framework
- Outdoor Education
- Science Conference
- Asthma Seminar
- IST sponsored literacy, numeracy, financial, legal and Workplace Health & Safety requirements seminars.

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, Reading to students, Canteen, maintenance, gardening and much more.

Teacher Qualifications:

Name of Teacher	Position	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Mr V Joel Ackland	Full time	B Ed – Avondale College	11
Miss Elysia Beard	Full time	B Ed – University of Tasmania	8
Mrs Denise Kylie-Anne Bobongie	Full time	Prim Dip. Teach - West Sydney (working towards Early Childhood Degree)	21
Mr Wayne Pepper	Full time	Dip Teach, BA, B Ed – Avondale College B Ed - South Australia M Ed, Advanced Dip in Design	35
Miss Jacqui Scott	Full time	B Ed – Avondale College	6
Mrs Cheryl Walsh	Full Time	Accountancy Cert, Avondale College Teaching Cert., Hobart Teachers College	36
Mr Daniel Watson	Full Time	B Teach, BA – Avondale College	6

Part Time Support Staff as at 1st December:

Miss B Clayton	Teacher's Aide
Mr F L Cox	Bus Driver Groundsman
Miss R Gilliam	Teacher's Aide
Mrs F King	Teacher's Aide
Mrs K Marciniak-McKay	Cleaner Teacher's Aide
Mrs W McKay	Receptionist & Administration - Bursar
Pr 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



Visit to AGFEST by Years 4-10, May, 2015

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. This year the latest electronic testing and diagnosis program from ACER was purchased. The program enhances our knowledge of students' progressive achievement in Mathematics, Reading, Written Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. The unique and immediate impact of this program is our ability to now provide academic feedback to parents and teachers. 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. This year 'Operation Resilience' (Boot Camp) was introduced. 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 two very successful positions were obtained for the students, who once a week participated in work place training. For the first time a Transitional Camp

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 and are invited to join the local Pathfinder Clubs. This year a number have.

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. One of our Teacher's Aides has also completed a Counseling Degree and has taken part in work experience with the local Psychologist.



The start of Operation Christmas Child
Service
Shoebbox packing



A visit from the Tasmanian Fire

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

- Clean Up Australia
- Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser
- Mau Mau Adventist School, Vanuatu Fundraiser
- Tai Po Sam Yuk College - Chinese students hosted by school families
- Central Coast Council Youth Engaged Steering Committee (Yr 10 School Captains)
- Banqueting Table
- MS Read-a-thon & Tasmanian Premier's Reading Challenge
- Earn & Learn Project
- Asian Aid & International Child Care sponsored students
- Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
- National Youth Week
- Try-a-Trade
- Burnie 10 Fun Run and Burnie 321Go participation to name a few.

In 2015, the school staff and students were involved in the Community Project 'The Road to Bethlehem' production on the school's sports field. This was the second year, with additional actors and props made available.

Physical:

Students participated in swimming lessons, the annual Walk-a-thon, 'Get Walking Tasmania' activity, Inter High Surf League, Inter High Swimming Carnival, Fitness Track, School Athletics Carnival, 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.



Outdoor Ed expedition, Years 9/10



School Captains, Abbey and Austin laying the ANZAC wreath at Penguin

Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention

Student Enrolment:

The school enrolment at the commencement of school in 2015 was 73.

Student Attendance:

On any given day an average of 6 students were absent, with the average attendance by each student being 87.67% of the total school days. This is an increase in attendance from 2013, however lower than 2014.

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 2015 leavers, 100% continued tertiary education at Hellyer College and Don College.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKS – 2015

(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

2015 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	80%	83%
Maths	80%	83%
Writing	70%	100%

Year 7 & 9 Test Results

	Year 7 % of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 7 students in Australia	Year 9 % of students achieving within the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Yr 9 students in Australia
Reading	66%	100%
Maths	66%	75%
Writing	66%	100%

Results from National Testing:

For the first time a number of parents withdrew their students from the 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.

It is great to see an increase in positive results in:

- Year 3 Maths,
- Year 5 Reading,
- Year 7 Reading and Writing,
- Year 9 Reading, Writing and Maths.

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.

Positive Achievements:

We want to **congratulate** the students who exceeded way and beyond the average in each test. This year:

- Eight (8) of the twenty-three (23) students tested, achieved above average in one or more of the areas (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Numeracy).
- This means they are two or three bands above the average class student in Australia.

- Some achieved above average in each area.
- One student's results were above their grade's highest band, hence off the page! Well done.



gardens in full flower



Apple Blossom in front of Humanities Room

S c h o o l

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. Further Parent Information Surveys were carried out in 2015. The surveys netted usable 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
- Curriculum development has been high on the Staff Meeting agendas
- 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 developing strategies as we work through the self-examining Quality Adventist Schools –



Visit by local Band members
Primary Students with their well



Upper

earned books - Prize from the School
for being the first class to have all
class members participating in the Tas.
Premier's Reading Challenge and reaching
the goal of 10 books read in 10 weeks

Value Added

Grants:

Over the past nine 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 the subdivision 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 was received this year to assist with the establishment of further resources and training in the Learning Support area. As we were being audited for the NCCD, Stage 1 & 2, this grant was certainly a blessing, giving our Co-ordinator much needed time to establish a professional approach.



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 2015 students assisted with two new projects: Mau Mau Adventist School's rebuild after being destroyed in Cyclone Pam – 6th March and the Nepal Earthquake victims in April. 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. Dream Scheme: In 2015 three students were involved in the new partnerships made available by the generosity of six companies. For one student this did not work out, however each week saw the other two students spend one day per week working in the community on a voluntary basis.

3. New Bus: The process was started (Board of Directors, School Council) to purchase a new bus at the start of 2016.

4. 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 families and staff.

5. 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. As a new initiative, the Outdoor Education class spent two days on a Snow Expedition on Cradle Mountain.



6. 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 Year 9 Try-a-Skill at the Burnie Civic Centre. As part of the Central Coast Council Youth Engaged Steering Committee our school captains, plus the others from neighbouring schools, put forward the suggestion that the 2016 Try-a-Skill include Year 10 also.
7. First visit to schools by Central Coast Council Youth Engaged Steering Committee was planned for North West Christian School, paving the way for the CC Counselors, leading employers of Ulverstone, Principals and students to rotate around the different schools in the municipality. Home Ec students prepared the morning tea which was much appreciated.
8. Operation Resilience Course (Boot Camp) for Years 4-10 students for one term. This is a new initiative which will be extended to Yrs 2-4 in the new year.
9. End of year Transition Camp - Years 6 to 10. This initiative, to foster friendships between the new Year 7's for 2016, and the existing students, was held during the final week of the school year. Students spent a wonderful time in the Walls of Jerusalem National Park getting to know each other and supporting each other in different activities.
10. The second production of 'The Road To Bethlehem' once again saw miracles happening, new cast members joined the existing cast members from 2014 and new artifacts added to the authenticity of the program. It was wonderful to see the crowds attending on both nights as the weather was really against us with windy gusts and rain. We thank God for the break in the weather each night as the program started.
11. Students entered the R2B competition – supplying posters for the businesses of Penguin.



