



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



2016 Annual Report to the School Community



North West Christian School

Kindy – Grade 10

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Welcome to the 2016 Annual Report of North West Christian School. In addition to reporting on the many facets of the school in 2016, 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.



Spiritual Emphasis Week

Principal's Report:

At the beginning of 2016, Mr Wayne Pepper took on the role as Acting Principal and Mr Barrie Bidmead ably took over my classes for First Term.

Often as a teacher you will hear students say, 'I can't do it', 'I don't understand' or 'I'm not good enough'. To a Christian teacher this is like a 'red rag to a bull' ! We don't see the student as a problem, we see them as an opportunity. We see what the child could be.

Eleven years ago I agreed to take the role of Principal for one year. Now as I retire from the this role and from full time teaching, I look back over the many students who have passed through North West Christian School – each one cared for, each having the opportunity to reach their potential, becoming a caring adult, finding a love of Jesus and that 'service to others really matters'.

2016 School year has been a memory packed 12 months.

- We have benefited from two Federal Government Grants: Curriculum writing and Primary Sports.
- The students and staff gained knowledge and skills from Service clubs, Musical groups, Child Safety representatives and the many visitors who spent time with us.
- Students participated in Operation Resilience, career opportunities, MESH Friday night activities, the Road to Bethlehem program and Transition Camp to name a few.
- The retirement of Mrs Cheryl Purton after 24 years of faithful service as part-time Secretary, having worked with five Principals, caring for stationery, uniforms and the production of Newsletters.
- This was followed by my retirement from the Principal role and full time teaching in December.



Once again the School Council members (Parents/Guardians/elected members) and Teachers were involved in meetings in revising policies & procedures, interviews and improvement strategies. 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 programs 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, five utilized sick and personal leave. The amalgamated days taken were equivalent to 15% of available leave. This is half of the previous year's. One teacher utilized compassionate leave.

One teacher continues with 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.

Staff Retention:

The year started with 100% retention of full time teaching staff. Full time staff numbers remained at seven with three 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. Six 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 further subjects of the Australian Curriculum being introduced, teaching staff members were involved in corporate professional development. Number of external hours of PD: 182 hours. Internal PD weekly Staff Meetings have been designated on a term timeline for Australian Curriculum, Disability Standards, Quality Adventist Schools Framework Units

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

Australian Curriculum	IST Meeting & Staff Meetings delegated throughout term.
Disability Standards for Education	On-line Units completed (Units 4-8) Canberra Uni
Quality Adventist Schools Improvement Framework	Four units completed towards Self-Improvement tally of 20 in five years
Senior First Aid	Whole day seminar
Health Careers	Attendance to Rural Medical School
Early Childhood Networking	IST run meetings
Safe Places - Child Protection	Burnie Police presentation to staff
Assessment & Reporting	Whole day In-service with Hilliard School & Staff Meetings
Government Grant – Curriculum – Developing a whole school approach	10 half days of In-service on site
Financial & Legal Responsibilities	Regular Board of Directors meetings
Personal Learning Plans development	Regular Staff Meetings per term
Art Development	Art Expo attendance and PD
Literacy & Numeracy – Primary & High School	IST Special Networking

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 (Indust. Tech & Design specialization) Cert IV Outdoor Rec. – Avondale Cert IV Training & Assessment/Fortress Training	12
Miss Elysia Beard	Full time	B Ed – University of Tasmania	9
Mrs Denise Kylie-Anne Bobongie	Full time	Dip. Teach - Avondale College (working towards Graduate Certificate of Early Childhood (UTas)	22
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 B Ed Primary Honours	7
Mrs Cheryl Walsh	Full Time	Accountancy Cert, Avondale College Teaching Cert., Hobart Teachers College	40
Mr Daniel Watson	Full Time	B Ed, BA – Avondale College	7

Part Time Support Staff as at 1st December:

Miss B Clayton	Teacher's Aide	Mrs D Nisbet	Bus Driver Relief Teacher's Aide
Mr F L Cox	Bus Driver Groundsman	Mrs C Purton (Retired mid-year)	Receptionist & Administration - Uniform Co-ordinator
Miss R Gilliam	Teacher's Aide Cleaner (3 terms)	Mrs J Sell	Teacher's Aide - Kindy
Mrs A Kemmerer	Receptionist & Administration (2 nd half of year)	Mrs C Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide Cleaner
Mrs F King	Teacher's Aide	Mrs N Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide /Media
Mrs K Marciniak-McKay	Cleaner (First Term) Teacher's Aide (Part year)	Pr K Winchcombe	Chaplain
Mrs W McKay	Receptionist & Administration - Bursar		

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 are involved in organizing and participating in local church productions when requested as well as organizing daily worship segments. Staff supported a new initiative started mid-year – MESH (Meet a friend, Eat good food, Sports & Games, Help others) Friday evening programs held monthly for school students and their friends aged 12 to 18 years old.

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 electronic testing and diagnosis program from ACER was used at the start and close of the school year. 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 once again attended. Year 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. Opportunities for Year 9/10 students to attend Health Careers Expos, Try a Skill and Try a Trade Expos all assist in furthering their knowledge in seeking a profession.

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. To close the year Years 6 to 10 students attended a Transition Camp for 3 days.

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
Shoebox packing



Completion of 55 boxes

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

- Clean Up Australia
- Mispah Adventist School, Tonga, 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 (Vegetables and Fruit to families)
- MS Read-a-thon & Tasmanian Premier's Reading Challenge
- Asian Aid & International Child Care sponsored students
- Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
- National Youth Week
- Try-a-Trade and Try-a-Skill
- Burnie 10 Fun Run and Burnie 321Go participation to name a few.

In 2016, the school staff and students were involved in the Community Project 'The Road to Bethlehem' production on the school's sports field for the third and final year. The program in 2017 will be operating in Hobart.

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.

The school participated in the Federal Sporting Schools Grant. Students were instructed by Devonport's Ten Pin Bowling staff in the rules and regulations of competition Ten Pin Bowling.

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



Morning Fruit Break, Kindy - 1

Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention

Student Enrolment:

The school enrolment at the commencement of Term 4 was 72.

Student Attendance:

A snapshot of attendance for the first Federal Government Data Collection, showed that on any given day the average attendance by each student being 77.62%, a considerable drop from 2016 when it was 87.67% of the total school days.

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 2016 leavers, 100% plan to continue tertiary education at Hellyer College, Burnie or Leighlands Christian School, Ulverstone

NATIONAL BENCHMARKS – 2016

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.

Positive Achievements:

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

- ☐ Eight (8) of the seventeen (17) students tested, achieved above average in one or more of the areas (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Numeracy). This is above previous years. 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.

Year 3 & 5 Test Results:

2016 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	66%	100%
Maths	66%	100%
Writing	100%	100%

Year 7 & 9 Test Results

2016 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	57%	83%
Maths	86%	33%
Writing	71%	83%

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. Eight student of the Seventeen participating in the NAPLAN testing, have a Personal Learning Plan.

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

- ☐ Year 3 Writing,
- ☐ Year 5,
- ☐ Year 7 Maths and Writing.

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
- Personal Learning Plans established for students
- Speech and hearing testing
- Tutoring out of school hours.



School gardens in full flower



Apple Blossom in front of Humanities Room

School Community Feedback & New Initiatives:

Stakeholder's satisfaction

During 2016 an annual survey was sent to school stakeholders as part of the Australia-wide survey collated by Adventist Schools Australia. Both Parents and students were invited to complete the on-line survey.

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
- ☐ The re-introduction of 'Options' classes offering different Life Skills classes benefited the Year 6 to 10 students in 2016
- ☐ 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 continuation of the 'Move Well, Eat Well' program, Outdoor Education, Boot Camp, sport and regular PE classes.

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 – School Improvement Framework.



Rock Climbing, Outdoor Ed. Students (Yrs 9/10)



Reading Corner, Yr 2-4 students

Value Added

Grants:

Over the past ten 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.

A Grant was received this year to assist with the establishment of further resources and training in the Learning Support area. Independent Schools Tasmania representatives assisted in our obtaining a Federal Grant for Curriculum Development. Primary staff members spent 10 half days developing a 'whole school' approach to Spelling.

Another Federal Grant obtained in 2016 was from Sporting Schools. Primary students benefited from sessions in Ten Pin Bowling over four weeks - three sessions at school and one at the Devonport Ten Pin Bowling complex.



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 2016 students assisted with three new projects:

- Tonga's Mispah Adventist School's repaint and renovation, with a dedicated group of north-west people (some of our staff) visiting the Island of Vava'u.
- Nepal's Three Angels Mission School – One of our parents visited Nepal and our sister school. A multi-coloured rug (made by a west coast friend), plus many 'wordless' books were taken to Nepal.

- BlazAid cooking. At the Central Coast Council's Youth Engaged Steering Committee (CCCYES) the schools of the Central Coast region were challenged to cook for the hundreds of volunteers tenting in the Ulverstone region, mending thousands of kms of fencing following the huge floods of May and June.

Other fundraising included the annual Walk-a-thon. This was the largest commitment for the two sponsored overseas students in Nepal and Thailand. Over \$1000 was raised in the annual Walk.

2. Dream Scheme: In 2016 one student was involved in the new partnerships made available by the generosity of local companies. Each week during fourth term saw the student spend one or two days per week working in the community on a voluntary basis.
3. 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. ADRA Ulverstone Shop and staff.
4. 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, orienteering.

School Captains on ANZAC Day: Ashlin Badger, Amy Archer



Yr 7 Students in Maths Class



5. 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 in 2015, our school captains, plus the others from neighbouring schools, put forward the suggestion that the 2016 Try-a-Skill include Year 10 also. This was implemented and the Yr 10 benefited from the Pathways experience.
6. Once again the 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): Years 4-10 students participated in this program for one term.
9. End of year Transition Camp - Years 6 to 10. This initiative, to foster friendships between the new Year 7's for 2017, and the existing students, was held during the final week of the school year. Students spent a wonderful time at Guildford Lodge, Waratah, getting to know each other and supporting each other in different activities.
10. The third and final production of 'The Road To Bethlehem' once again saw miracles happening, new cast members joined the existing cast members from 2014 & 2015 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. We thank God for the break in the weather each night as the program started.



Healthy Lunches



Cooking for BlazAid volunteers (Yr 9/10)

