



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017





2017 Annual Report



Kindergarten – 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 year, 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. During the year, proposals were developed to re-arrange class rooms before the commencement of 2018, which is listed below.

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:

As we reflect on 2017, we can be thankful for the blessings that the Lord has showered down on us.

2017 saw a significant staffing change in the appointment of David McNeill as the new principal. He was taking over from Mrs Cheryl Walsh after her retirement from that position at the end of 2016. This was the only staff change as staffing remained relatively stable.

The year started with less than expected enrolments which led to smaller, more intimate class sizes. This also had a negative impact on the overall budget.

Professional Learning

The first staff meeting for the year was spent reflecting on the Schools Registration Board's Audit of our sister school Hilliard Christian School in Hobart. We decided as a group to focus on a couple of things this year – Professional Learning (PL) and Curriculum. As the year progressed opportunities were sort out where teachers could participate in training and development in their specific field. This proved to be quite profitable for both the staff and the students. All staff participated in a First Aid course to refresh their qualifications (as they do every year).

Music

NWCS was blessed with the addition of an excellent violin tutor in second semester. Sarah offered private tutoring to students who wished to learn violin. A number of students took up the invitation, including some who were students at other schools. There were also a number of Home schooled students.

The music program was going so well that Sarah decided to start a Strings ensemble. All music students were invited to join the ensemble. Along with violinists, 3 cellists and a recorder player joined in. A few parents and pre-school musicians joined in as well. It was planned that the ensemble would perform on speech night and at some of the Adventist churches on the north-west coast. This program is continuing to grow.

ICT

It was noted that the ICT area was in need of an injection of new life. It was decided that over time the computer lab would be closed down and lap top computers would be purchased. This was expected to be a mid to long term project. Five MacBook Airs were purchased late in the year and added to the bank of computers. However, as the year was winding up the decision was made to make the transition sooner rather than later. By the end of 2017, a class set of lap tops was ordered to be delivered in time for the start of the 2018 school year. After school finished for the year, the computer room was gutted to make way for a dedicated Art room and the school went 'lap top'.

Also in 2017, with the growing needs in IT, it was felt that an audit of the ICT infrastructure was needed. The audit showed some significant needs in this area. A strategic plan was developed for the upgrade to take place. This also included 'service-to-the-premise' connection to the NBN.

Request for Capital Items

By later in the year, strategic plans were developed in a number of areas within the school. These areas included IT, Outdoor Education, Design Tech, refurbishments and teaching resources. A grant was applied for and received to fund some of the upgrades.

Also at this time a very generous benefactor made a donation to the school that allowed for much needed upgrades as well. This grant allowed for plans to be made for improvements to be implemented in 2018.

Finally, Thanks

I would like to thank the staff, students, families and broader community for the support for North West Christian School in 2017. You made my transition into leadership easy and smooth. It is a privilege to work in an environment where all stakeholders are supportive of the Christian ethos on which our school is founded.

Mr David McNeill
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 careers' leave.

Of the seven full time teaching staff members, 4 utilized sick and personal leave. The amalgamated days taken were equivalent to 33.34% of available leave. This is half of the previous year's. One teacher and one Teacher Aide utilized compassionate leave.

One teacher continues with further study to upgrade qualifications at the University of Tasmania.

Staff Retention:

The year started with Mr D. McNeill taking the position of Principal. There was a 85% retention of all full time teaching staff. 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	13
Miss Elysia Beard	Full time	B Ed – University of Tasmania	10
Mrs Denise Kylie-Anne Bobongie	Full time	Dip. Teach - Avondale College (working towards Graduate Certificate of Early Childhood (UTas)	23
Mr David McNeill	Full time Principal	DipEd & B Ed	
Mr Wayne Pepper	Full time	Dip Teach, BA, B Ed – Avondale College B Ed - South Australia M Ed, Advanced Dip in Design	36
Miss Jacqui Scott	Full time	B Ed – Avondale College B Ed Primary Honours	8
Mr Daniel Watson	Full Time	B Ed, BA – Avondale College	8

Part Time Support Staff as at 1st December:

Miss B Clayton	Teacher's Aide	Mr. Don Ackland Mr. Charlie Bobongie	Bus Drivers – Part time
Mr F L Cox	Bus Driver Groundsman	Pr Robbie	Chaplain
Miss R Gilliam	Teacher's Aide Cleaner (3 terms)	Mrs J Sell	Teacher's Aide - Kindy
Mrs A Kemmerer	Receptionist & Administration	Mrs C Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide Cleaner
Mrs F King	Teacher's Aide	Mrs N Winchcombe	Teacher's Aide /Media
Mrs W McKay	Receptionist & Finance Officer		

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.



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.

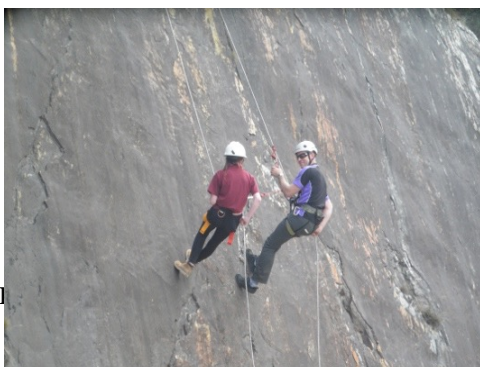
In 2016, the school staff and students were involved in the Community Project 'The Road to Bethlehem' production on the school's sports field for the third and final year. The program in 2017 will be operating in Hobart.

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.



Student Enrolment, Attendance & 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 – 2017

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. In a two year period, our students are progressing at 2.6 years.

Year 3 & 5 Test Results:

2017 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	75%	67%
Maths	75%	100%
Writing	100%	84%

Year 7 & 9 Test Results:

2017 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	56%	100%
Maths	45%	100%
Writing	78%	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.

Seven students of the twenty-two participating in the NAPLAN testing, have a Personal Learning Plan.

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

- Year 3 Maths & Writing,
- Year 5 Maths,
- Year 7 Reading,
- Year 9 Reading 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
- Personal Learning Plans established for students
- Speech and hearing testing
- Tutoring out of school hours.



School Community Feedback & New Initiatives:

Stakeholder's satisfaction

During 2017 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.

Due to the results not being available by the end of 2016, these will be included in the 2018 annual report.

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