

North West Christian School

2021 Annual Report



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School Overview

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.

Vision

Nurture for today

Learning for tomorrow

Character for eternity

Introduction

North West Christian School is a Kindy – Year 12, Co-educational school that has an enrolment policy that allows for people from a diverse range of social, cultural, religious and academic backgrounds.

It values educational excellence in each year level and aims to live by the seven values: including bravery, compassion, justice, service, respect, wisdom and temperance.

North West Christian School has continued to increase its enrolments over the last 5 years from 44 (2016) to now 98. This includes students of different cultures and faith.

The school has a range of ability levels throughout our students. NWCS has a aspiration that all students will endeavour to do their best and reach to their God given potential.

Child Safety

North West Christian School aims to create a culture of child safety. North West Christian School has satisfactorily met the requirements of implementation of the 'Child Safe Standards', following an audit by Independent Schools Tasmania. Thus, North West Christian School has all the necessary policies and practices that clearly outline the processes that will keep our children safe. All staff and volunteers at the College sign a code of conduct, are required to have a working with Vulnerable People card and complete a mandatory reporting training in order to recognise and report abuse if suspected.

A Message from the Principal

History

In the early 1970's, a dream of having a Christian School on the North West Coast started to become a reality. The plans were implemented for a school to be built at Penguin, servicing Devonport to Wynyard.



The school was first called Pengana Seventh-day Adventist School. In 1996 the school had a name change, now being called North West Christian School.

It is evident that God's hand has been over this project by the manner in which various issues came together within the appropriate time frame. Financial support came from parents and supporters.

1981 saw the establishment of the high school section, with the addition of a Science/Home Economics room. Over the year's extensions have included: - Science Room, Library, Computer Room, third Primary Room, Learning Support room, Kindergarten Playground, Fitness Track.

From 2006 to 2011, with the assistance of Federal funding, the following additions were made: completion of sunshade installation, establishment of a sports field, refurbishment of all original classrooms, new High School amenities, new Primary Library, upgrade of Technology – computers and Industrial.

The School Farm has formed an important part of the school. Over the years potatoes, peas, poppies and barley were planted and sold. A calf industry was established with many school families caring for the calves. A tree farm operated for a number of years. At present the land is being leased.

In 2005 a decision was taken to subdivide 20 acres of the northern section of the property. This development was completed in 2006, with 76 prime building blocks, with some having direct views across Bass Strait.

In 2007 the first Reunion was held. Past students travelled from Switzerland and various Australian states to spend the weekend of 7th July 2007 with local, past and present students.

The school continues to develop the close teacher-pupil bond, multi-grade classrooms, Christian ethos, academic excellence along with the development of practical life skills.

Curriculum

North West Christian School bases the delivery of Kindergarten to Year 10 on the Australian Curriculum through a combination of explicit teaching and guided investigation. The integration of Learning Areas is standard practice at the school, as this allows students to understand each area in relation to the others. North West Christian School is unique as it offers the students Outdoor Education throughout Kindergarten to Year 12.

The school also promote their new Year 11 and 12 programs, that allows students to successfully complete their schooling in one facility. This program is based on and registered with TASC. (Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification)

The Future

As a School, we believe that it is our duty to cater for our students in a holistic manner – academically, physically, socially and spiritually. This includes developing a sense of service to others and a love for others. We believe that all students should be given the opportunity to develop to the very best that they can be, and that this is best done through a strong partnership between home and school and a growing, cogent, relationship with Jesus Christ. We look forward to future growth from our school over the next few years with God’s blessing.

Our school is currently growing, and we are excited for the growth and potential of our school with the new classrooms and front exterior.

North West Christian School has a strong reputation for providing high-quality education with a focus on Christian values. NWCS will focus on adapting to changing trends in education, such as incorporating technology and offering more specialized programs.

Mr Brayden Morton

Principal

2021 Annual Report

North West Christian School has gone through steady growth over the last 4 years and the school continues to be blessed by God in every way. Part of this growth is our extension into year 11 and 12 which has given our students a steady whole schooling experience. This addition has been a successful one with our students achieving well in their subjects.

We will have our first graduates from our year 12 program in 2021 with one student heading to University and the other with a traineeship available for early childhood. With our year 11 and 12 program we have been able to offer a good range of subjects, that are tailored to our student's needs and interests. This allows them to learn and achieve to their best abilities.

Our building projects continue, our senior classrooms have now been completed and work has already begun on the performing arts centre and primary classrooms. The addition of 'Pepper's Wing', will enable more learning spaces for our students to develop further in their education. We are excited to have the new building in our secondary area and look forward to our new facilities in the Primary area, including our performing arts centre.

We have witnessed our music program go to a new level in 2021 with the introduction of the Nova Muse Festival and other programs throughout the year. Our students and strings players can enjoy being taught by some of the best tutors from around the country.

We look forward to the future of our school. Our growth has permitted not only the addition to facilities, but this has also permitted the addition to our staff. In 2022 NWCS welcome two new teachers in the high school and a new teacher in the primary school.

It is sad to say goodbye to some of our teachers from this year. We wish Miss Jacqui Scott all the best with her move to Sydney. The school had been blessed with Jacqui in our primary school for the past 10 years. She brings a calm, helpful and hardworking attitude to her classroom which the students have enjoyed throughout this time. Thank you, Jacqui.

We also farewell Mr Barrie Bidmead and Mr Vivian Hill. NWCS thanks them for their contributions to our school over 2021. Vivian Hill will continue in 2022 to be the chair of our school advisory council.

School Building Project

Senior Classrooms and Secondary Staffroom were completed early in 2021. This gave the students somewhere to learn and gave the school much needed learning spaces to use. NWCS has also developed plans to increase our Primary school and administration areas for future growth.

School Gardens

The Year 3 and 4's built and grew produce in our school gardens this year, these gardens can serve as valuable educational resources for students and can have a positive impact on their academic performance, health, and well-being.

The school gardens offer many benefits to students and the broader community. By providing hands-on learning opportunities, promoting healthy eating habits, and fostering a sense of community, school gardens can play an essential role in enhancing students' academic performance and overall well-being.

Graduation of Year 12.

2021 saw our first year 12 graduates of NWCS. This was exciting to see the hard work of many teachers and students to graduate our year 12 students. These students left NWCS with a plan of either having a traineeship lined up for them, or university entries. We are very proud of our graduates for 2021.

Exam Centre

During 2021, NWCS was named to be an exam centre for TASC exams. This allowed us to provide our students with a place to complete their exams on campus.

Student Attendance:

Student attendance across the year was above 90% and students were interested in attending school. Students continue to be excited about attending NWCS with fun and challenging activities throughout their learning experiences.

Nova Muse is a music program that is run from NWCS and has drawn mentors from around Australia. During the day, the Nova Muse Festival is a unique opportunity designed to inspire all ages and levels of string and piano playing, with workshops, activities and ensemble playing scheduled all day at North West Christian School. Develop your musical skills and form lasting friendships well beyond the festival.

Traineeships

NWCS was able to offer two school-based traineeships for students at the school. The school was able to support two other students with their traineeships at other locations in other service fields. These were TASC approved and were accepted through the learning platforms in Certificate 3's for students to increase their learning in the future.

Improvement in Visitor Sign In/Child Safety

Visitor sign-ins and child safety go hand-in-hand when it comes to protecting students and ensuring a safe learning environment. All visitors should be required to sign in at the front office, provide identification, and receive a visitor badge before entering the school. This process not only allows the school to track who is on campus but also ensures that all visitors have legitimate reasons for being there.

Middle School Camp

They will travel as a group down to Orford and be attending different educational facilities around Orford and Hobart throughout the week. Including Port Arthur, Hobart and surrounds. This time gave the students some bonding time together out of the school environment. The students spent time in team building activities and touring the local area to gain more knowledge of Hobart and the environment.

COVID-19 Response

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remained our top priority throughout the year. We implemented a range of COVID-19 safety protocols, including regular cleaning and sanitizing of our facilities, social distancing measures, and mask-wearing requirements.

We are pleased to report that we had no outbreaks of COVID-19 at our school, thanks to the cooperation and diligence of all of our students, staff, and families.

Professional Engagement

Staff Attendance

A typical school year has 190 days which students are legally required to attend. Of these days, there are five that can be allocated as student-free to allow teachers to complete reports and to attend the professional development program organized by Adventist Schools Tasmania Ltd and IST. Of these five days, only four were utilized, two for professional development and two for report writing.

Teaching staff allocation of sick leave is a maximum of 12 days. Of these days staff are able to use three for compassionate leave or carer's leave. These 12 days are to aid in teacher wellbeing. They accrue if not taken.

Of the ten teaching staff members, 5 utilized sick and/or personal leave. The amalgamated days taken were equivalent to 31% of available leave. Two teachers also utilized compassionate leave. One teacher has utilized Long Service Leave.

Staff Retention

2021 saw the year begin with a change in leadership at NWCS. The previous Principal moved on to another school, and NWCS was able to fill this position from within. This caused a flow on change throughout the staffing at school.

NWCS began with seven full-time and six-part time teachers in 2021, with two of the full-time teachers caring for the Curriculum and Learning Support.

NWCS has had some staff move on throughout the year. We have had one full time teacher leave on Maternity leave and one part time teacher move on for personal reasons. This allowed our Kindergarten teacher to become a full-time employee.

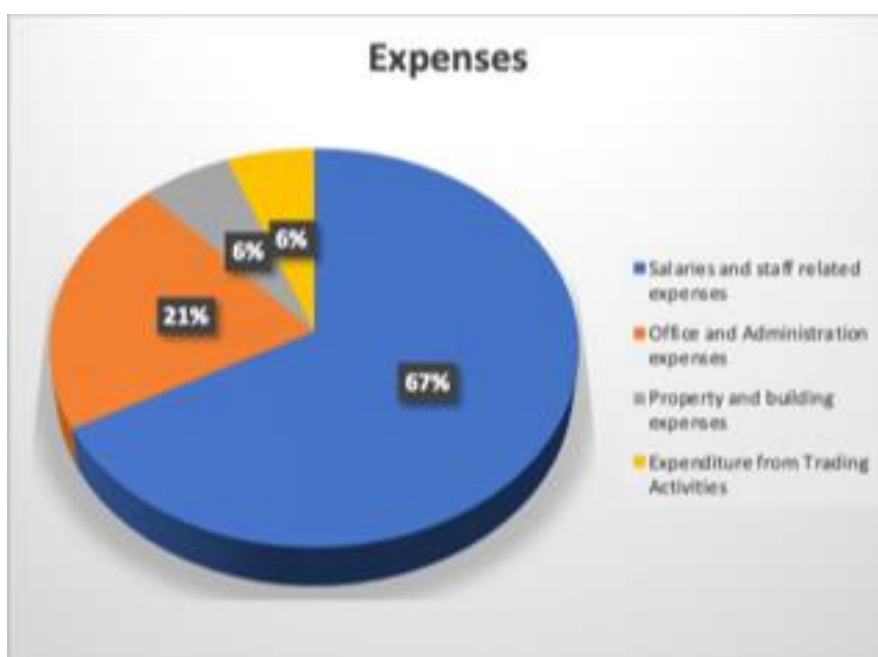
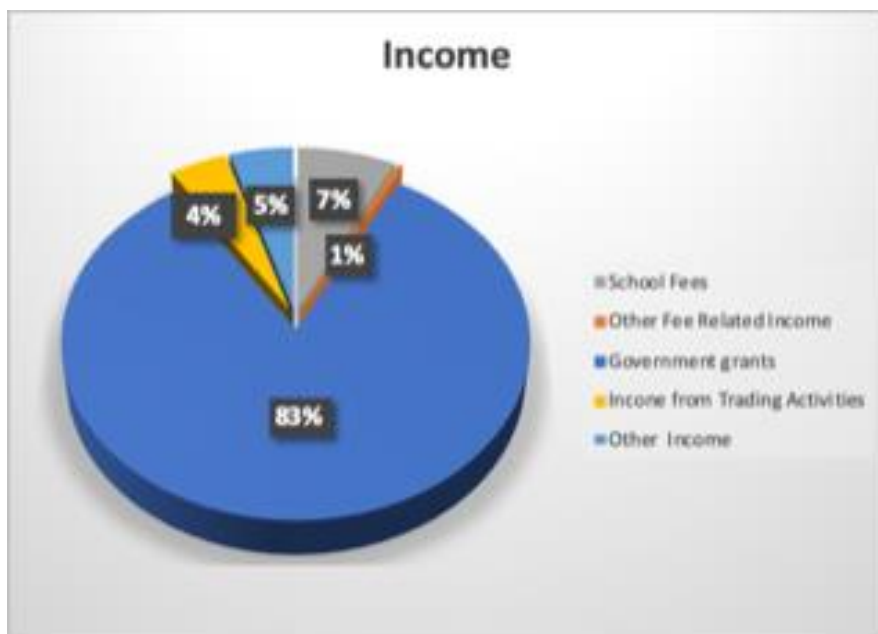
Teacher's Aides fill a vital role at North West Christian School. Three part time positions catered for Kindy and learning support in Literacy and Numeracy. Many children are blessed with this additional assistance.

Teacher Staff Full Time Teaching Entitlement

Our total teaching staff number in 2021 was 9.27. (FTE) with a total headcount of 12. (FTE =Full-time Equivalent)

School Financial Report

We are pleased to report that North West Christian School remains in a strong financial position. We ended the year with a good surplus that will ensure we continue to be able to offer a quality program well into the future. Thanks to the continued support of our parents, generous donors and supporters.



Professional Development and Learning

With the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, 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: 235 hours.

Teachers and Teachers' Aides were involved in training in:

- ACARA reviews
- Disability Standards for Education/NCCD
- Senior First Aid
- Safe Places – Child Protection
- Legal Responsibilities
- Moderation K-10
- Moderation Years 11-12
- Outdoor Education
- QASF
- Diverse IST PL Opportunities
- TASC programs and training
- Encounter
- Autism Awareness Program

Professional Development

The Campbell Town AST Professional Development day went ahead with restrictions in place. This day allowed us to concentrate on Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.

Senior Secondary Staff continued to be involved in Moderation Days for TASC, this was based online for the second half of the year and was productive for all teachers involved.

Name	Qualifications	Reg. Status	Professional Development
Belinda Ackland	B.Ed. (Primary) Grad Cert in Teaching (Early Childhood)	P	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST Early Years Curriculum, Early Year PD, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Joel Ackland	B.Ed (Industrial Tech and Design) Cert IV Outdoor Rec Cert IV Training and Assessment	F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Moderation 11/12, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Sheree Carter	B.Ed. (Secondary – home Ec/Design and Tech)	F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Moderation 11/12, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Keryn-Lee Kofeloa	B.Ed. (Primary)	F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Brayden Morton	B. Ed. (PDHPE)	F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST Implementing Australian Curriculum V9, Moderation 11/12, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Luisiana Morton	B. Ed. (Primary and Music)	P	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Wayne Pepper	Dip. Tech Secondary/BA Hum. B. Ed. Secondary History, Geography, economics and Religious Studies B.Ed. Secondary Asian Studies History, Religious Studies. Advanced Graduate Dip. In Design-Woodwork/Tech, Home Ec.	F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Moderation 11/12, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Barrie Bidmead		P	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Miriam Ennis		P	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Cheridan Wheedon		F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Vivian Hill		F	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Daniel Watson	B.Ed. Primary Visual Art Specialisation Taught Secondary Maths/Science/Art for the last 12 years.	P	Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Moderation 11/12, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.
Jacqui Scott			Autism Awareness, 2 PD Days with AST, Differentiation, Teaching children with Autism Strategies and Student Voice.

Looking to the Future:

As we look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year, we remain committed to providing a quality Christian education to all of our students. We are excited to welcome back our returning students and families, and to continue to welcome new families into our school community.

NWCS will also look to improve in the following areas:

1. **Improve Student Engagement:** NWCS will focus on improving student engagement, as engaged students tend to perform better. To achieve this, NWCS will introduce innovative teaching methods, such as interactive lessons, group projects, and real-life experiences.
2. **Personalized Learning:** Personalised learning is one of the most effective ways to improve student outcomes. By providing individualised learning opportunities, teachers can cater to the specific needs of each student and help them achieve their full potential.
3. **Professional Development for Teachers:** Ongoing professional development for teachers is critical to enhancing teaching quality. The school will offer regular training sessions for teachers, to ensure they stay up to date with the latest teaching methods and technologies.
4. **Parental Involvement:** The involvement of parents in their children's education is vital to their success. NWCS will encourage parental involvement by offering parent-teacher meetings, volunteer opportunities, and regular communication channels.
5. **Technological Integration:** Integrating technology in the classroom can help students learn more effectively and efficiently. The NWCS will provide appropriate technology resources, such as tablets or laptops, to enhance the learning experience.
6. **Building a Positive School Culture:** A positive school culture is critical to student success. NWCS will work towards fostering a culture of inclusiveness, respect, and support for all students, staff, and parents.
7. **Student Support Services:** NWCS will provide support services to help students who are struggling academically or socially. Such services can include tutoring, counselling, and mentoring programs.
8. **Continuous Improvement:** Finally, NWCS will adopt a continuous improvement mindset, always seeking feedback and implementing changes as necessary to improve student outcomes.

Thank you for your ongoing support of North West Christian School. Together, we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and in our community.