

# North West Christian School

## 2020 Annual Report



## North West Christian School

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## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>North West Christian School .....</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>School Overview .....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| Mission Statement .....   | 3         |
| Vision .....  | 3         |
| Introduction .....  | 3         |
| Child Safety .....  | 3         |
| <b>A Message from the Principal .....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| History.....  | 4         |
| Curriculum.....   | 5         |
| The Future .....  | 5         |
| <b>2020 Annual Report .....</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| Domain 1: Adventist Identity – Pastoral Care .....  | 6         |
| Domain 2: Teaching & Learning – Student Achievement.....  | 6         |
| Primary .....   | 6         |
| Secondary .....   | 6         |
| Domain 3: Leading School Improvement – Human Resources .....  | 6         |
| Domain 4: Community Partnerships – Professional Partnerships .....  | 6         |
| Service Programs .....  | 6         |
| Community Engagement .....  | 6         |
| Student Attendance: .....   | 7         |
| <b>Professional Engagement .....</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| Staff Attendance .....  | 8         |
| Staff Retention .....   | 8         |
| Teacher Staff Full Time Teaching Entitlement.....   | 8         |
| Our total teaching staff number in 2020 was 9.27. (FTE) with a total headcount of 12. (FTE =Full-time Equivalent) ..... | 8         |
| <b>School Finance Summary .....</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Staff Qualifications .....</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Professional Development and Learning .....</b>  | <b>11</b> |

# 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 an 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.

Mr Brayden Morton

Principal

## 2020 Annual Report

### **Enrolments on the rise**

2020 began with a 19.5% increase in enrolments from the previous year. This saw our enrolments for the commencement of 2020 stand at 80. This was an increase from across the school with some student growth coming organically and other growth as new connections.

### **TASC**

2020 started out well with the introduction of our senior year 11/12 program, the 2 students had stepped up well into the senior classwork. They performed well in their subjects and should give them a good platform to continue into next year.

### **TASC Exam Centre**

Our school was recognised as a temporary exam centre for TASC exams. Our students needed a little more attention and with restrictions around TASC elected to make NWCS an exam centre with our students being able to complete their exams in the Multi-Purpose room. This was very successful.

### **COVID-19**

COVID-19 hit in March and saw our daily attendance take a hit. The panic that saw many choose to keep their children home during this time was unprecedented. Tasmania saw a lock down that lasted 6 weeks in the North West Regional Area. After 6 weeks teachers were considered essential workers and were allowed to travel to and from work.

We had a minimal number of students for a 6-month period (Terms 2 and 3). Post Lock down

the students who were allowed to attend were children of essential workers or those that could not emotionally handle being at home during this time.

Teachers needed to adapt to educating students remotely. This included to NWCS work packs for students who did not have access to the internet. This also included video conferences for students who had internet access.

The school is very blessed to have staff that could adapt quickly and effectively to this new style of education for 2020.

### **Professional Development**

The Campbell Town AST Professional Development day went ahead with restrictions in place. This day allowed us to concentrate on Differentiation, Assessment strategies and an Update on the Tasmanian 9-12 Project.

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.

<https://www.northwestchristianschool.com.au/>

A member of the Adventist Schools Australia

### **Strings**

The school Strings program ran a memorisation concert for all the students that are taught at NWCS. This was located at a Chapel on the Foreshore of Penguin. This allowed for more seating under the appropriate restrictions.

NWCS continues to offer the students a chance to learn different musical instruments from Cello, Violin, Guitar and Piano. Many students are being very well tutored by our strings tutor Mrs Sarah Sheermeijer.

### **Athletics Carnival and Cross Country**

The school was able to run a successful athletics carnival and students had a fun day all around. Many students were able to be successful in their events. NWCS had a good participation rate from those who were involved in the day.



### **New Building**

Construction of the new senior demountable began in November of 2020 to give the senior students a space to learn in. This has been affected by resource availability and also waiting times for new connections.

### **Camp Orford**

Camp Orford was an enjoyable time for all students involved (5-11) The camp was postponed until later in the year after COVID restrictions had eased enough for us to travel around Tasmania. The student learned a lot through journeying around Orford, Maria Island, Hobart and the surrounding areas. They enjoyed time spent away after a year of lockdown and remote learning.



### **Student Attendance:**

Student attendance figures were affected through COVID-19. This saw our students learn remotely for around 3-4 months.

## 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.

### Staff Retention

2020 saw the year begin with an addition in teacher FTE for NWCS. This saw Mrs Keryn Kofeloa and Mr Brayden Morton come in full time for the school. Keryn as a middle School dedicated teacher. Mr Morton as an addition to our high school staff with knowledge of year 11 and 12. NWCS also employed Luisiana Morton on a 0.1 role for Music Teaching within the Primary and Middle School. This change saw a change in roles and responsibilities of staff.

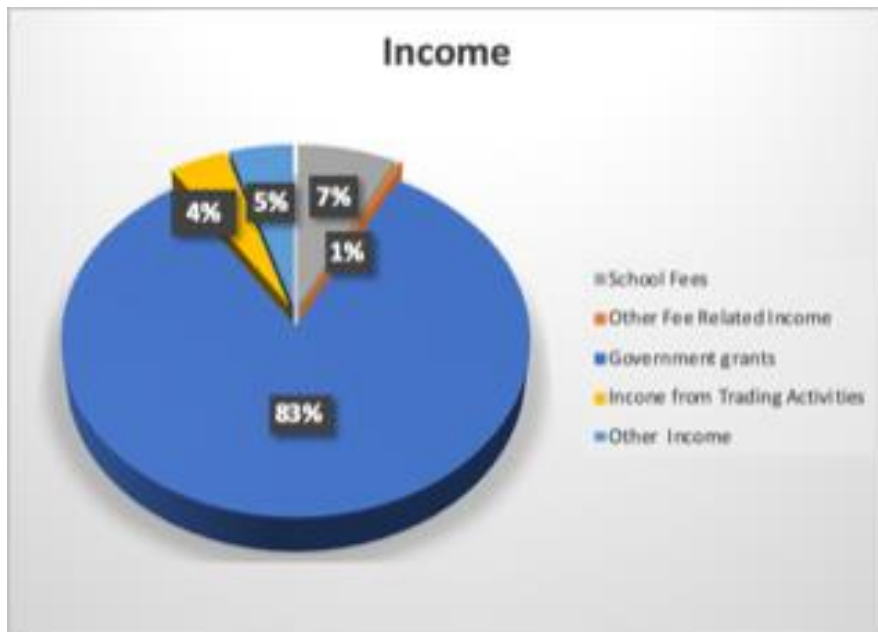
Unfortunately, one teacher resigned, this allowed for Mrs Cheridan Weedon to join the school after COVID. Mrs Weedon joined the school at the end of term 2.

### Teacher Staff Full Time Teaching Entitlement

Our total teaching staff number in 2020 was 8.5. (FTE) with a total headcount of 10. (FTE =Full-time Equivalent)



## School Finance Summary



## Volunteers

We acknowledge the support through 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, Library, gardening and much more. Our volunteer's hours added up approximately 25 hours a week.

## Staff Qualifications

| Name of Teacher       | Qualifications   | Yrs. of Experience | Role and FTE                         |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr V Joel Ackland     | B. Ed Ind. Tech and Design (Specialisation)<br>Cert. IV Outdoor Recreation<br>Cert. IV Training and Assessment (TAE40116)  | 17                 | Secondary Teacher – Full Time        |
| Mrs Sheree Carter     | Bachelor of Education (Secondary)  | 5                  | Secondary Teacher – Part Time        |
| Mrs Keryn-Lee Kofeloa | Bachelor of Education (Primary)  | 15                 | Middle School Teacher - Full Time    |
| Mr David McNeill      | DipEd & B Ed – Avondale College  | 39                 | Principal – Full Time                |
| Mr Brayden Morton     | Bachelor of Education: PDHPE   | 15                 | Secondary Teacher – Full Time<br>TLO |
| Mrs Luisiana Morton   | Bachelor of Education (Primary)<br>specialisation Music  | 5                  | Primary Music – Part Time            |
| Mr Wayne Pepper       | Diploma of Education (Secondary Specialization - Humanities) B.A.,(History, Economics) B.Ed.,(Asian Studies / Religious Studies) B.Ed., (History) M.Ed., Historical Study - Thesis (U.N.E.) Graduate Diploma in Design and Technology. | 40                 | Secondary Teacher – Full Time        |
| Miss Jacqui Scott     | Bachelor of Education (Primary) (Honours)  | 12                 | Primary Teacher – Full Time          |
| Mr Daniel Watson      | Bachelor of Education (Primary)<br>specialisation Visual Art   |                    | Secondary Teacher – Full Time        |
| Mrs Cheridan Weedon   | Bachelor of Education (Primary)<br>Masters of Education (Educational Leadership)   | 5                  | Primary Teacher - Full Time          |

## Professional Development and Learning

North West Christian School places a very high value on Professional Learning as a means to ensure that the pedagogies used are research based and up to date with best practice. 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