

Annual Report 2014



History of the School

Australia has had Lutheran schools ever since the first Lutheran settlers arrived in 1839. Even before the government became formally involved in education, Lutheran communities established their own schools because they were concerned about the future of their children. They wanted to provide for the growth of their children – spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically.

The Lutheran school system has now grown to be one of the largest networks of Protestant schools in Australia. Lutheran Education Australia currently operates:

- 86 Lutheran schools with a total enrolment of 38,289
- 50 primary schools
- 9 secondary schools
- 27 combined primary/secondary schools
- 59 Lutheran kindergartens and early childhood centres with an enrolment of 4000 (at December 2012)
- Teaching staff: 3300

During the early 1980s, members of the Alice Springs Lutheran congregation worked towards establishing a Lutheran school in Central Australia and in 1987 Living Waters was opened. The Northern Territory Government donated the land on Albrecht Drive to the church. The school became a fully double-streamed Transition to Year 6 school in 2000 with a current enrolment of 327 students.

Some points about the school are:

- About 15% of the students are Lutheran
- About 9.3% of the students are Indigenous Australians
- About 6.7% of the students are from India
- About 3.5% of the students are from Africa
- About 13% of the students are from the USA

Living Waters teaches the Christian faith to all who are enrolled, nurturing those from Christian families while reaching out with the Gospel to others.

Introduction

Living Waters Lutheran School is an independent coeducational Primary School currently catering for 327 students, with the capacity to cater for over 400 students from Transition level to Year 6, and is situated 6kms from the CBD of Alice Springs. The local community is made up of long term residents and new families who have moved to this area for the “tree change”. The school has a large stable population plus a small transient population. Students come from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles from varying socio-economic situations.

The school has exceptional support personnel who assist staff, students and their families in a broad range of ways. These range from a School Pastor, Student Counsellor, Coordinator Special Programmes (registered psychologist), Coordinator Spirituality – Pastoral Care and an Indigenous Liaison Officer all of whom are permanent employees of the school. The school also has access to a wide range of external professionals.

Mission Statement

Living Waters provides a Christ-centred education in a caring and diverse community that equips every child to develop their potential, so that they can shape and enrich their world.

Annual Report 2014

Core Values

Christ Centred

The message of the cross that Jesus died and rose again for us, is Good News to be shared with all people. Our response to this message is central to all our activities at Living Waters.

“For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Love

For Christians, the expression of love is a response to God’s love. It is a way of being that leads to inner peace. Love flows from the heart and shows itself in caring, kind and respectful thoughts, words and actions.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness releases us and others, creates new starts and another chance. Through forgiveness you can ‘let go’ of your sin and find hope and new life in Jesus Christ.

Compassion

Having compassion is being loving and attending to people’s needs. It is being open and responsive, being active in caring.

Service

Service involves selfless giving and making a difference in other people’s lives individually and collectively. Service does not seek recognition or reward.

Humility

Humility recognizes and values one’s own gifts and abilities and those of others equally. It is being thankful rather than boastful; being willing to respect and learn from the experience of others.

Respect

Respect means treating others fairly, honestly and keeping their dignity intact. Respect means using good manners and listening attentively.

Appreciation

Appreciation is recognising and valuing the gifts and blessings given to all. It is a positive attitude of thanks for learning, loving and life. Appreciation means responding in awe at the world God created and respecting its fragility and potential.

Diversity

Diversity affirms the value and uniqueness of each person. Diversity responds with sensitivity to self and others, respecting differences in background, culture, needs and abilities.

Endeavour

Endeavour means persevering, believing that through God’s strength the best outcomes can be achieved. Feedback is offered that encourages growth of each individual’s gifts and talents.

Living Waters Lutheran School is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment that values difference, develops leaders of the future and is responsive to community needs.

Annual Report 2014

Curriculum

Living Waters has implemented Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Australian Curriculum for students in Transition to Year 6 well ahead of the Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) implementation timelines.

Our aim is to adopt an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning wherever possible so as to increase intellectual engagement and foster deep understanding. At its core, inquiry is all about thinking – thinking in order to make meaning. We also strive to provide opportunities for both teachers and students to collaboratively build, test and reflect on their learning.

In addition to the core curriculum students participate in regular weekly Christian Studies, Music / Drama, Physical Education and Library lessons delivered by specialist teachers. ICT Learning Technologies, Christian Studies and Multi-Media Studies are delivered by class teachers. Our school's inclusive practice ensures that all students' individual needs are catered for through a differentiated curriculum.

Students have opportunities to participate in many academic competitions from Years 3-6, including ICAS. They have also participated in:

Internal Competitions

- Book Face Competition April 2012
- People Read in the Strangest Places August 2012
- Book Fair Competitions (colouring, guessing) May and October 2012 and May 2013
- Art and Craft Exhibition August 2013
- Jacqueline Harvey Competition 2013

External Competitions

- Australia's Greatest Reading Superhero August 2012
- Read More in May Scholastic Competitions May 2013
- Wakakiri Story Art and Story Writing Competitions June 2013
- Kidsmatter postcard design competition June 2013
- Eisteddfod
- NT Model Vehicle Solar Sunchase Challenge
- Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Award
- Community singing
- Chess competitions
- Australian Spelling Challenge
- Sunchase Solar car Challenge

Special Events

- Harmony Day showcases the students celebrating the 19 diverse nationalities at Living Waters and encourages them to live in harmony with each other in a multicultural society.
- NAIDOC Week services and celebrations are held annually in collaboration with Yirara College.
- Students across the school are encouraged to submit pieces of work in the local Alice Springs Show.
- Each Year the school is represented at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Alice Springs at Anzac Hill.
- Living Waters conducts a number of Free Dress Days and the Student Representative Council organise the fundraiser recipients. In addition students support charity days such as Crazy Hair Day for the Leukaemia Foundation, the CRMI fundraiser, and Jeans for Genes Day.

Annual Report 2014

Future Outlook

- Living Waters has made application this year to be considered as an IB PYP World School.
- It is the intention that the school will continue to commit to this additional support and changes to timetabling maintaining our focus on Literacy and Numeracy across the school.

Special Education Programme

Living Waters Lutheran School has a Special Education programme which provides support for:

- Children who have been identified with special needs, including children with disabilities
- Children whose academic performance may require support
- Children who have been selected for enrichment programmes e.g. English and Mathematics.

Special education staff members are experienced in delivering a range of programmes. Students participate in programmes individually or in small groups in withdrawal situations. Support is also provided to identify students whilst in class.

In addition, the well-being of students is a priority for staff at Living Waters. With parent permission, individual student counselling and therapeutic intervention are offered for students at risk or students who may need support. Specific programmes are offered to small groups of students in order to address identified needs around social skills, anxiety, grief and loss etc. The Special Programmes team consists of a Student Counsellor and Pastoral Care Officer, support staff who are experienced in delivering programmes and providing support to enhance student wellbeing. We operate the Rock and Water programme to upper Primary age students to build confidence and resiliency.

Identification of Gifted and Talented children is arranged through the Coordinator Special Programmes. Teachers are encouraged to consciously plan their programmes to take the needs of Gifted and Talented learners into account. Teaching and Learning strategies provided by Gardner (Multiple Intelligences) and Blooms (Bloom's Taxonomy) are encouraged. Support is also available from the Coordinator Teaching & Learning and the Coordinator Special Programmes.

Extra Curricula Activities

- T-6 students are involved in the Austswim: Swim and Survive Active Programme
- Year 6 students with an interest in Maths are invited to attend the TI Tree Maths 2 night Camp. They travel with a LWLS teacher on one of the Centralian Middle School buses to Ti Tree.
- Year 5-6 students are offered Friday afternoon electives such as Interschool Sport, visual art, paper making, sculpture, cooking, Spanish lessons, ICT and sculpture.
- Year 5 Rock and Water Programme is offered to particular students who need assistance in enhancing their self-esteem, self-control and self-confidence. Topics include intuition, body language, mental strength, empathetic feeling and positive feeling. Further discussion topics cover bullying, life goals and desires.
- Year 3- 6 school camps are an exciting and enjoyable part of the curriculum. Year level teachers plan and organise their camps around Australian Curriculum objectives, social and emotional goals and leadership development.
 - Year 3 Ross River in 2013
 - Year 4 Ross River in 2013
 - Year 5 Ormiston Gorge, Glenn Helen in 2013
 - Year 6 Hamilton Downs
- Year 3-6 students are able to participate in a variety of regular lunchtime clubs. For example:
 - Computer Club 2012, Double Helix Science Club 2012-2013 where students are involved in research projects, experiments and constructing solar car and boat kits (the latter as part of the NT Model Vehicle Solar Sunchase Challenge) and Chess Club 2012-2013.
- Year 4 create environmentally friendly 'no dig' vegetable and herb gardens
- Year 2 students participate in the 17km bike ride to Simpson's Gap.

Students across the school show a keen interest in the environment with teachers organising vegetable gardens for Year 4. The school has three sporting houses; Larapinta, Flynn and Albrecht. Students accumulate points through a number of ways; sports day, swimming carnival, cross country and behaviour. Sports activities are held at the school on the two sporting fields and in the school hall. Swimming is held at the local town pool. Students from Living Waters are often selected to represent the school, Alice Springs and the NT across a range of sports each year.

Annual Report 2014

Behaviour Support

It is important for all students to feel safe at school and to want to be here because they believe they will be treated fairly, that is our endeavour. We encourage mutual respect between peers and adults.

Our Behaviour Support Policy encourages fairness and consistency and parental involvement where appropriate. Teachers are responsible for negotiating reasonable, enforceable, explicit class rules with their students. These rules are designed to encourage self-discipline. Set playground rules apply to all children in the school.

We also find that the following 4 Tribes Agreements are useful for establishing the classroom culture; *Mutual Respect, Attentive Listening, Appreciation, Right to Pass.*

Living Waters has a designated Behaviour Support Coordinator who is responsible for dealing with more serious misdemeanours and situations and also in supplying appropriate and effective behaviour management strategies to teachers. Working in partnership with the Behaviour Support Coordinator is the Student Counsellor and the School Psychologist.

At Living Waters teachers reward students' positive behaviours verbally or through the Student of the Week award at the Whole School Assembly.

Student Spiritual Wellbeing

Student Spiritual Wellbeing is catered for through worship services, devotions and Christian Studies where the students learn about the saving grace of God and how they can serve Him in the school, local and international communities. The Life Long Qualities for Learning are values that are taught to the students that provide them with a sense that they are integrated individuals who have incorporated their belief system and everyday actions and behaviours so that there is integrity and consistency between their actions and their belief system.

Worship Programme

The school has a service each week and this involves the Coordinator of Spirituality or the School Pastor, the school choir, SRC members and individual classes. An Opening and Closing Service is held each term and focus areas interstate and overseas receive the offerings that are collected throughout the term.

Computers in the Classroom

The students have access to a variety of ICT equipment. Desktop computers, iPads, notebooks and laptops are all utilised throughout the school.

- All classrooms have interactive whiteboards
- T-6 have access to the ICT Room, a class set of 30 PCs
- Year 6 share a class set of Notebook computers
- Year 3-5 have a computer hub at each year level
- Year 1-2 have a number computers in the classroom

Transition to Year 6 share iPads across year levels

Many teachers at LWLS regularly use Edmodo as a social learning platform, to share information about using new apps such as Explain Everything and iMovie. Teachers are strongly encouraged to integrate information technology into teaching and learning programmes. Computers are used daily by staff and students for planning, assessment and reporting. Students are encouraged to make full use of the computers the school has on site for researching, designing and producing assessment work.

We have a school an ICT Technician and an ICT Team comprised of interested teachers who meet regularly to plan for the strategic implementation of iPad and other technological equipment across the school.

Annual Report 2014

Staff Professional Development 2013

\$27,064 was spent as part of the operational budget which included but not limited to the below training

- Anaphylaxis Awareness Conference
- Manual Handling Course
- Bill Rogers - Managing Challenging Behaviour
- Test n Tag Accredited Course
- St John's Ambulance Resuscitation Course
- First Aid Refresher Course
- Arid Lands Irrigation Course
- Australia Wide Taxation Payroll Update Seminar
- ACLE Conference
- Lutheran Education Conference
- PC School Training
- Pedal Prix
- Supporting Diverse Learners using Technologies
- Smart Teaching Workshop
- Leadership Coaching
- Flagship Professional Learning Program
- International Learning Offering
- IB PYP Workshops

Parents and Friends

The POTS (Parents Organising Terrific Stuff) group support our programmes, and organise fundraising activities to enhance the learning opportunities and resources for our students.

Activities include coordinating social, charity and fundraising activities. The group meets once a month. Being involved in P.O.T.S. provides a great opportunity for parents to get to know other parents within the school community. Money raised is used to benefit the students and selected charities.

The school operates an Open door Policy for all school and community members. Teachers make themselves available to parents and students before and after school. Parents and family members are encouraged to help in classroom with Reading, Mathematics and Creative Art sessions. Many parents make themselves readily available to assist on excursions, sporting trips and camps.

School Council

Living Waters has a School Council who meet monthly. Their role is to approve and have oversight of school policies, ensure that the school remains financially viable and to support the Principal in his/her role as the leader of the school.

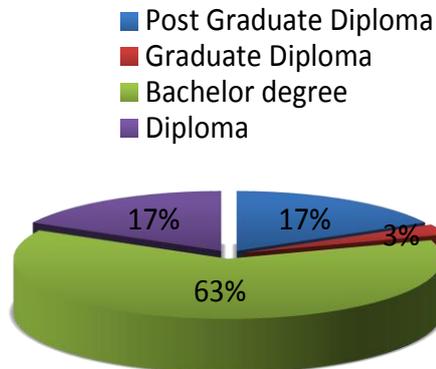
School Canteen

The School Canteen operates Wednesdays and Fridays and offers nutritious food at reasonable prices. The menu is set in line with the Department of Education Canteen Nutrition and Healthy Eating Policy, each term and distributed to families. The school employs a part time Canteen Manager to run the Canteen and parent volunteers are strongly encouraged to help out. The Canteen is reliant on volunteers to support the ongoing canteen operation. Volunteer support helps to keep the prices down and lunches made in a timely manner.

Annual Report 2014

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Post Graduate Diploma	6
Graduate Diploma	1
Bachelor degree	22
Diploma	6



The total funds budgeted on staff professional development in 2013 was \$40880

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96.5% in 2013.

Annual Report 2014

NAPLAN Results

Domain	Measures		Yr 3	Yr 5
Reading	Average score for the school		364	450
	Average score for NT		371.1	466.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2013	80%	78%
Writing	Average score for the school		380	439
	Average score for NT		391.8	468.9
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2013	82%	100%
Spelling	Average score for the school		353	463
	Average score for NT		366.7	462.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2013	91%	89%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school		357	461
	Average score for NT		370.4	476.6
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2013	82%	89%
Numeracy	Average score for the school		339	443
	Average score for NT		367.9	458.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2013	80%	100%

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