

# Annual Report 2019



## 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:

- 80 Lutheran schools with a total enrolment of 40,291
- 37 primary schools
- 5 secondary schools
- 38 combined primary/secondary schools
- 59 Lutheran kindergartens and early childhood centres with an enrolment of over 4000 (at December 2018)
- Teaching staff of over: 4000

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 Foundation to Year 6 school in 2000 with a current enrolment of 323 (2019) students.

Some points about the school are:

- About 8.5% of the students are Lutheran
- About 12.8% of the students are Indigenous Australians
- About 15.4% of the students are from India
- About 13.4% of the students are from Africa
- About 8.5% 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 323 (2019) students, with the capacity to cater for 374 students from Foundation to Year 6. The School is situated 6 kms west of 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 a “tree change”, or for work. The school has a large stable population plus a small transient population. Students come from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, lifestyles and socio-economic situations.

The school has exceptional support personnel who assist staff, students and their families in a variety of ways. These include a Deputy Principal, Student Counsellor, Coordinator Special Needs, Coordinator Teaching & Learning and two Indigenous Liaison Officers all of whom are permanent employees of the school. Every employee of Living Waters has a role to play in the Pastoral Care and Wellbeing of our students. The school also has access to a wide range of external professionals.

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## Mission Statement

To empower lifelong learners with Christ as our foundation, while developing intercultural understanding and respect to shape and enrich our world.

## Vision

Living Waters Lutheran School seeks to ensure that all students, regardless of ability, have the opportunity to confidently reach their personal best. It seeks to instil four School Values – **Service**, **Love**, **Endeavour** and **Courage**, and encourages all its students to go on a journey with God and experience his grace.

## Lutheran Core Values

The School acknowledges the Lutheran Core Values and our focus is on all activities being **Christ Centred**.

The message of the cross is 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.*

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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. Our curriculum is designed to provide all students with the opportunity to explore, discover, imagine, develop, share and grow.

## Curriculum

Living Waters Lutheran School follows the National Curriculum, ACARA for all students from Foundation – Year 6. Within this framework, students engage with the mandated curriculum requirements and a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. Our inclusive curriculum is differentiated to ensure that students' individual needs are catered for.

Our predominant methodology is inquiry-based and conceptually driven authentic learning for our Year 3 – 6 classes. This involves a commitment to structured, purposeful inquiry that engages students actively in their own learning. Teachers support students in constructing meaning and continue to teach explicit skill lessons where and when required. We believe that this is the way in which students learn best.

Learning within our four in-depth units of inquiry; People, Places, Environment and Science and Technology allows students to go beyond subject boundaries and explore contemporary and historical issues of local, national and global relevance. Inquiry is a constructivist approach where the overall goal is for students to make meaning of their learning. Inquiry based learning is an umbrella term that incorporates many current learning approaches including project based learning, design thinking and visible learning.

During the inquiry learning process of each unit there is;

- an equal emphasis on the process
- a genuine curiosity, wonderment and questioning
- the students' voice is evident
- the prior knowledge of students is ascertained and built upon
- the learning leads to action.

Finally assessment is ongoing throughout the process rather than just at the end.

In the Junior section of the school; Foundation, Year 1 and 2 the predominant methodology is min-units. This again, involves a commitment of structured, purposeful activity / project-based learning. Explicit teaching of skills is required to support student learning. The School has a strong commitment to Literacy and Numeracy in the Junior section of the school.

All classes across the School participate in weekly specialist lessons with specialist teachers. These lessons align with the inquiry and project-based themes where possible. Creative processes through Music, Drama and Visual Arts compliment student learning experiences. The School has a commitment to STEAM.

The weekly Music programme also promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of music. The classroom music programme offers an opportunity for all students to learn through active participation in singing, playing, movement, aural awareness and composition. Instrumental Music is offered to students in Year 2-6 by visiting Music Teachers.

Drama is taught by a specialist teacher and offers students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through; role play, public speaking and team building activities. Bi-annual Musical performances display our students' talents.

Visual Arts allows students opportunities to explore elements and principles of art and design, visual arts in society and reflection and appreciation across F-6.

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Chinese Mandarin is taught to Foundation – Year 6 classes and students learn about the culture, special celebrations, food and living and learn to speak the language.

Students in Foundation – Year 4 participate in weekly specialist Library lessons. Students are taught research, inquiry and higher order thinking skills.

## Internal Competitions

- Book Fair Competitions (colouring, guessing) May and October 2019
- Swimming Carnival
- Athletics Carnival
- Book Week Competitions

## External Competitions

- ICAS; English, Maths, Digital Technology and Science
- Read More in May Scholastic Competition May 2019
- Desert Storm Cluster intra and inter-school sport competitions, gala days and selection trials, training and development for representative teams

## Special Events

- Harmony Day showcases the students celebrating the 26 diverse nationalities at Living Waters and encourages them to live in harmony with each other in a multicultural society, celebrating through Multicultural dances, food and experiences.
- Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week are also high on our special events agenda.
- NAIDOC Week and Remembrance Day Services are sometimes held in collaboration with Yirara College.
- Students across the school are encouraged to submit pieces of work in the local Alice Springs Show; Artwork, Photos and other crafts.
- Each Year the school is represented at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Anzac Hill in Alice Springs by our Student Leaders and members of our Student Representative Council.
- Living Waters conducts a number of Free Dress Days and the Student Representative Council organise the fund raiser recipients. In addition, students support charity days such as Crazy Hair Day for the Leukaemia Foundation, ALWS, The Royal Flying Doctors. Countries and their people who are less fortunate than ourselves; Cambodia, Nepal, Southern Sudan, Lutheran Community Care Christmas Hamper Appeal and the Alice Springs Animal Shelter.

## Community Events

Living Waters regularly holds and participates in community events to help showcase the School. Welcoming new families BBQ. Book Week Lunch with the students and their families.

## Future Outlook

- The School is committed to a seven (7) year maintenance programme across the whole school.
- Living Waters is continuing along the path to be a recognised as *a school for everyone*.
- It is the intention that the School will continue to commit to additional support and changes to timetabling maintaining our strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy across the school.
- In January 2016 the School commenced a Special Programme for students with Autism in the early years of schooling. The programme named "STRETCH" allows for the enrolment of up to 10 students across Years F-3. The facilities have been specifically designed and refurbished to accommodate the needs of individual students.

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The aim of the programme is to assist students to grow in confidence, capacity to manage and cope with changes to the daily routine. The aim of the programme is to equip students to cope better in the mainstream, preparing them for a high school setting after Year 6.

Activities include; Fine Motor, Sensory, Circuit time, Social Skills and Emotional Regulation. Each student has an EAP which identifies their strengths and interests and is reflective of the students' specialist's reports, the EAPs are reviewed and modified every six months. Through increased awareness of the programme in the wider Alice Springs community, the School looks at maintaining our current enrolment numbers of eight. The programme will continue to be available as the students' progress through the years of Primary schooling.

## Special Needs Programme

Living Waters Lutheran School has a Special Needs 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 with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Special needs 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 identified 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" is 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 for example. The Special Programmes team consists of; a Coordinator Wellbeing and support staff who are experienced in delivering programmes and providing support to enhance student wellbeing and resiliency. We operate the Rock and Water programme to upper primary age students to build confidence and resiliency this is delivered by the trained Phys Ed teacher. The Coordinator Wellbeing delivers the Kimochis programme to the junior section of the school, this programme works through puppetry and explores feelings and emotions and how we react or respond to them.

Identification of Gifted and Talented children is arranged through the Coordinator Special Needs. Teachers are encouraged to consciously plan their programmes to take the needs of G & T learners into account. Teaching and Learning strategies provided by Gardner (Multiple Intelligences) and Blooms (Bloom's Taxonomy) are encouraged along with high setting expectations in their area of excellence. Support is also available from the Coordinator Teaching & Learning and the Coordinator Special Programmes.

## Extra Curricula Activities

- Maths Camp
- Homework Centre for Indigenous students twice a week
- Chess Club
- School Choir
- Netball Teams
- Soccer Teams
- Interschool Sport
- Year 5-6 Electives – Friday afternoon; a range of activities are offered each term

### Social and Emotional

- Rock & Water programme
- Kimochis programme
- Life Skills and Bounce Back programmes.

Students across the school show a keen interest in the environment with teachers organising vegetable gardens, recycling and Trash Free Days each week.

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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 for positive 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 Aquatic Centre. Students from Living Waters are often selected to represent the school, Alice Springs and the NT across a range of sports each year.

## 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. Playground rules apply to all children in the school.

The school also has "Bucket Fillers" in each classroom and students are encouraged to fill other's buckets with kind thoughts, thank you and well done for example.

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 are the staff and the Senior Management. In 2019 we are working on the School Values forming the "pillars" on which the Behaviour Management is modelled. The School has a focus of one of the four school values each term; Service, Love, Endeavour and Courage and an explanation of each is on display .

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, the local community and international communities.

The Life Long Qualities for Learning are values that are taught to students 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 teachers and students, the School Choir and SRC. An Opening and Closing Service is held each term with focus areas; locally, interstate and overseas who then 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. The school is equipped with Wi Fi.

- All classrooms have interactive whiteboards
- T-6 have access to the ICT Room, a class set of 30PCs
- Year 6 share a class set of Lap Top computers
- Year 3-5 have a computer hub at each year level with approximately 4 – 6 computers
- Year 1-2 have 4 desktop computers in each classroom

All children have their own Individual iPads across Years Foundation to Year 6.

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Many teachers at Living Waters 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 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.

## Parents and Friends

The P.O.T.S. (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 try to meet as often as possible. 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

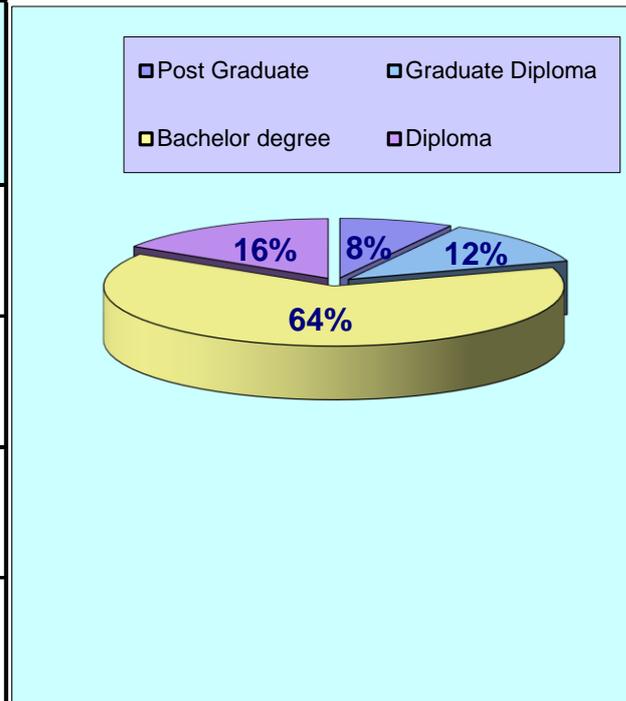
Living Waters has a School Council who meet monthly. Their role is to have oversight and approve school policies, ensure that the school remains financially viable and to support the Principal in his/her role as the leader of the school.

## 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. Volunteer support helps to keep the prices down and lunches made in a timely manner.

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Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Post Graduate	2
Graduate Diploma	3
Bachelor degree	16
Diploma	4



The total funds budgeted on staff professional development in 2018 was \$ 5000

Professional development Courses attended by staff included but was not limited to

- Rock and Water programme
- Robotic Course
- Growing Deep
- Valuing Safe Communities
- Mandatory Reporting
- Integrating Inquiry
- Autism Awareness
- Mentoring Program
- Growing Deep
- Robotic Course
- Encouraging Maths Engagement

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For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97.7% in 2018.

## NAPLAN Results 2019

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5
Reading	Average score for the school	438	523
	Average score for NT	350	427
Writing	Average score for the school	407	474
	Average score for NT	337	395
Spelling	Average score for the school	426	490
	Average score for NT	324	421
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	434	512
	Average score for NT	340	406
Numeracy	Average score for the school	395	485
	Average score for NT	336	433