



Australian Christian College - Tasmania Annual Report 2017



**AUSTRALIAN
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**
SINGLETON

Helping Students **Thrive**

Introduction

2017 was the year when Australian Christian College welcomed Seabrook Christian School into the Australian Christian College (ACC) community. The desire and opportunity to see the continuation of Christian education offered to families in Launceston, Burnie and Hobart on the current premises meant the Board of Seabrook and of ACC confirmed unanimously for the baton to be passed to ACC in 2017. This historic moment has delivered hope and security of education to continuing and new families, that their children will be able to learn and grow at our schools into the future.

The work and sacrifice of so many staff and Board members of Seabrook are remembered and revered in our community. We are grateful for the testimony of these crucial teachers and leaders of our school and for their contribution to the Seabrook and now Australian Christian College family. In particular we remember and thank those staff members who taught in our schools over the past decades and for whom the children and staff who were part of the Seabrook Christian School community are deeply grateful.

As we look back on the past 12 months and lean forward to the next, we pause to give thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow, and we commit the future of this school into his hands

for him to continue to guide and bless us as we seek to know, love and teach our students to the glory of God.

At our presentation nights across the three schools, we were reminded in a powerful way, of the real value of our school. To hear students share a part of their journey and how they believe their lives have been transformed by what has happened here in our school was very moving. Yes, they have all worked to achieve academically, but, over and above that, was the recognition that they had grown as a whole person...in every area of their lives. It is on these occasions that all of our staff feel honoured for having the privilege of having taught in our school during 2017.

2017 was a momentous year of change and highlights including the curricular and co-curricular activities at the schools. The activities that occur in socialising, building pathways to future employment and engaging students in real life and learning are crucial to the development and well-being of the whole child. We thank the staff at ACC Tasmania for their continued efforts and sacrificial work above and beyond the regular teaching and work loads.

Interschool Convention

A highlight for each year is the gathering of schools in a weeklong camp which allows students of all ages from Years 3 to 10 were able to show their talents in many areas. Whether it be academic, artistically or physical, all students participate for the fun, growth and competitiveness of school spirit. In 2017 the Interschool Convention was held at Camp Clayton during the last week of Term 3 where students from Australian Christian College, Geneva Christian College and Christian Home Education Support Service (CHESS) attended.

Performing Arts

Hobart campus practiced and performed their first end of year musical with all students from Years 3 -10 involved. "The Old Testament Fast Forward" was an overview/timeline of the old testament and was a wonderful success for this very first performance. Burnie students travelled to Hobart to watch the dress rehearsal. Congratulations to all staff and students involved in this project!

Sports

Cross Country - Once again all our students had the opportunity to represent their school in the annual cross country event held at Geneva Christian College at Latrobe. The course is unique and a true cross country course with the streams, bush, hills and other obstacles. Our students all participated at a level at which they were comfortable and did their best. The change of clothes were once again well needed with the tracks in a typical Winter fashion.

Swimming Carnival - Our annual swimming carnival was held at the Launceston Aquatic Centre in Term 1. Our students pushed themselves through the many events all with satisfying results and participation rates.

Excursions

Students at each campus had many opportunities in 2017 involving various co-curricular experiences including:

- Investigating local farming methods
- Reporting on a local helicopter business
- Observing the natural beauty and man-made attractions at Cataract Gorge
- Cultural and historical visits to QV Museum and City Park, QV Art Gallery and Seaport looking at how local Aboriginal People lived
- Ice Skating, social and sporting event
- Natural Science investigation at Zoodoo Richmond and Seahorse World
- Visit to capital of Tasmania

Parent and Community Involvement

Working Bees - Parents of each school community supported the school in volunteering their time at our working bees. Those areas that always needed a little attention, were addressed by our parents (and students) who donned their work clothes and made a playgrounds safer, walkways firmer and gardens cleaner amongst the other necessary cleaning jobs.

ANZAC March - Some of the students and staff of ACC Tasmania took part in the Anzac March, supporting and encouraging the sacrifices made in part conflicts/wars for our country to remain a free democracy. Many from the local community commented on the smart uniforms and excellent behaviour and attitude of our students.

School Fair - The Hobart campus held a school fete complete with a petting zoo; fairy floss; sausages; jumping castle; trash or treasure sales and a car boot sale but minus the car!



Mission and Service

Operation Christmas Child - Students from Years 3 - 6 at ACC Tasmania were able to take part in taking their own boxes and helping pack these for this charity organisation. These students were the first at this age level to be allowed to go to warehouse in Mornington and assist. Congratulations on the investment in time and helping others as Christ would have us serve.

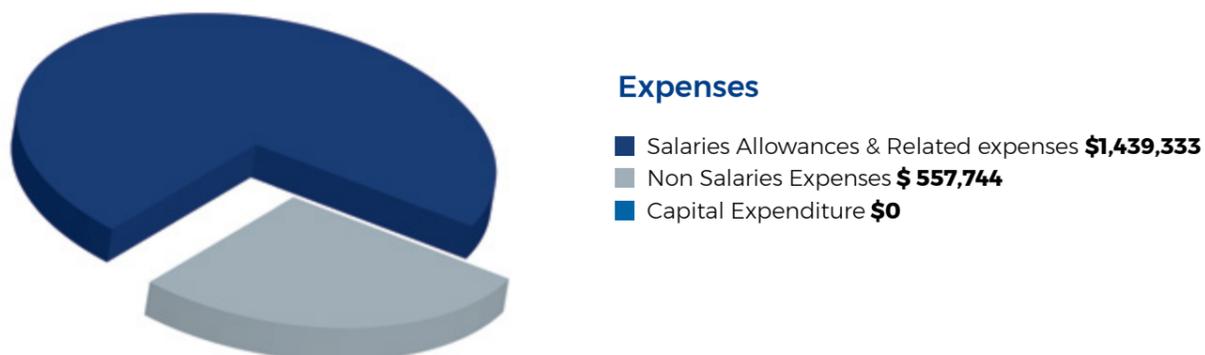
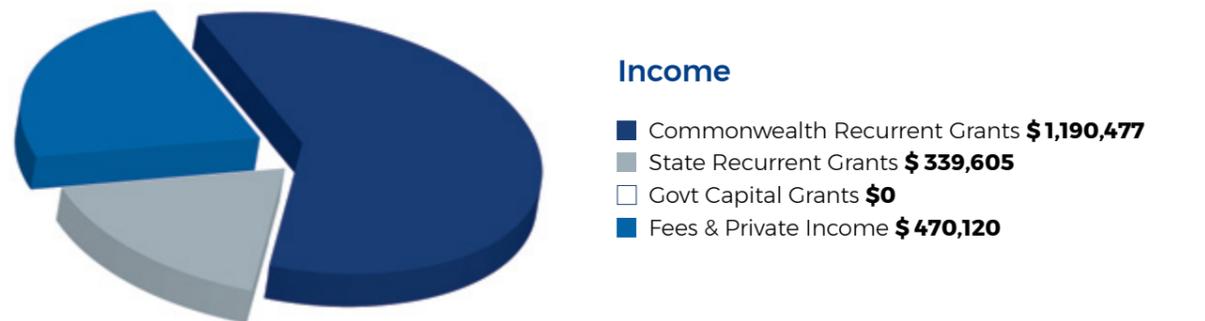
Staffing

We believe that the greatest asset a school can have in this new learning environment is the teacher. John Hattie, a Professor of Education who has spent a lot of time researching what makes for effective schools recently stated, "what makes a difference is well-trained teachers, giving high-quality feedback, and really engaging with students who have the capacity to learn, and who want to learn". The Australian, September 10, 2011. In this same article another Principal Will Turner stated, "It's all about the teacher, by which I mean, it's about the integrity, the quality and calibre of the teacher in the class. If you can get that right, you can pretty much teach in a tent."

These quotes are important as they also remind us that there is no quick fix to better education. New buildings, new learning zones and the latest in digital technology do not automatically ensure good results. That is why we are so pleased with the quality of teachers being attracted to our College. All our teachers are committed to change and to continually look for ways to improve their teaching practices and so we wish to publicly applaud and affirm them in the wonderful job they are doing. In saying this we also want to praise our teachers for "going the extra mile" with students, because at the heart of Australian Christian College is a desire to be a place of safety for all our students, where students know that they are known. Thus whether students are in Kindy or Year 10 we love the fact that our teachers seek to connect at the heart level with their students hence our saying, "well known, well loved, well taught".

Financial Summary

The following data is presented in compliance with the guidelines for the Annual Report.



Final Words

The following was written in The Australian Newspaper (Greg Sheridan) on October 28, 2017 and is a fitting summary of why ACC Tasmania exists - its raison d'être.

"...Knowing and believing in God has always been entirely rational. It is not only rational, of course. To know much more about God than merely that he exists requires faith. But faith is not, as it is frequently represented, the enemy of reason. Rather, faith is the basis of reason. Almost all of rational life is based on faith. Most often faith is not a question of what you believe but who you believe. I have faith that I am the son of my parents. I have no real empirical evidence for it. It makes the most sense as an explanation of my life, it is the proposition that best fits with everything I know. But the main reason I believe it... is faith, my regular, normal faith in my parents. So this is a faith-based belief, entirely rational, confirmed by experience, but certainly not rationally proven."

Most of our lives are lived in this way. I have faith that my car will work when I turn the key in the ignition, but I have absolutely no idea why or how. Nonetheless I am convinced that my faith is consistent with rationality, that my faith itself is rational.

Part of the crisis of belief in our society is a crisis of knowledge. Because the high points in our elite and popular culture have been colonised by a militant and intolerant atheism, our young people have been denied the fruits of thousands of years of intellectual effort on matters of faith and belief by the best minds humanity has produced. This is wickedly unfair to children."

The whole article is well worth reading and it reminds us of the wonderful opportunity we have at our schools... to allow our students to see faith in action so that they can see for themselves the incredible invitation which God offers us - to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and discover the wonder of the purpose of life.

The future is bright for ACC Tasmania. Looking forward to 2018, we pause and give thanks to the CEO, Mr. David Fyfe, whose plan to invest and grow the work in Tasmania has breathed a hope and future for our wonderful schools. We also wish to acknowledge the vital role our Board plays in the governance of our college. Our Board members work hard for our schools and give up a lot of their own time and we appreciate the personal support they are able to provide.

As each of the ACC Tasmania schools now has a Principal - Marty Howell (Launceston), David Noble (Hobart) and Terry Harding (Burnie), our prayer is that God may continue to bless and uphold the work of Christian Education. May our schools be faithful Jesus Christ as we educate children to know, love and serve Jesus.

Martin Howell
Principal ACC Launceston

David Noble
Principal ACC Hobart

Terry Harding
Acting Principal ACC Burnie



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