

# Annual School Report 2023



New Hope  
Christian School

The following report is prepared according to the School's Annual Reporting Policy and the NSW Government's Education Act. It provides general information to the community about the School's ethos and character and its performance in Academic and Financial terms. More specific information can be obtained by contacting the school directly.

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# Theme 1: Our Context

## From the Campus Director: Mrs Dianne Dowson



My heart is filled with gratitude as I reflect on the journey we have embarked on together throughout 2023. It is a privilege to be able to reflect on the growth, accomplishments, and shared experiences that have shaped our school family. We have witnessed countless moments of triumph by our incredible students. Each step forward, every achievement, and every obstacle overcome is a testament to the unwavering support of our devoted community.

At our school, the threads of love, patience, and understanding are woven into the fabric of every interaction. It is through the lens of compassion that we approach each unique challenge and celebrate the individual victories of our students. In their journey, we see not only the remarkable progress they have made but also the light of God's love shining through each one of them.

The support and partnership that we have with parents and carers has been invaluable throughout this year. I am thankful for this support as we together aim for the best outcomes for each student at our school.

This year we celebrated the final year for three Year 12 students. We congratulate them on their efforts, growth, and many achievements during their time at New Hope Christian School. A graduation dinner was held which was a wonderful occasion to celebrate these students with their families. We also honoured each of them at our end of year Certificate Assembly.

## From the Principal: Dr E J Boyce



New Hope Christian School is a Christian community that demonstrates teaching, learning, and serving excellence. This School shows me regularly many examples of kindness, in the way they welcome myself and others to their place in our community. One of the special characteristics that I expect to see continuing and currently at a high level, is the grace of God shown to us within the people of New Hope Christian School.

The staff continue to flourish and provide excellent service to the students and the families. The school population continues to grow, and we look forward to further growth in 2024. During the year we had a wonderful official opening of the school buildings which included the participation of the Federal Member for Berowra, Mr Julian Leeser and the State Member for Hornsby, Mr Matt Kean as well as the attendance of many other special guests. Several other special functions occurred during the year including an evening event, Waves of Hope, that included a presentation by a blind world champion surfer, Derek Rabelo, who shared his testimony of God at work in his life.

The relationship between New Hope Christian School and Pacific Hills Christian School continues to flourish including at the staff level with common involvement in conferences, devotional times and in fellowship. During 2023 the governance of the school was changed from being operated as a local entity at Dural to being part of the Pacific Group of Christian Schools. I would like to express thankfulness for God's faithfulness which is evident at New Hope Christian School.

## From the Board Chair: Mr Mark McCrindle

New Hope is not primarily a school, a campus or an educational facility but a community. Like any flourishing community, it is not one thing but many– it is multifaceted, like a precious gemstone: whatever angle you observe it from, you see something different.

At the end of a school year we recognise the achievements and development of each individual student yet we realise that it is the dedicated work and service of our staff, and of course, the parents and families of this school community that make the student results possible.

Like all schools, we of course track and celebrate academic development but as a school community our focus is broader than this and so we also focus on growth in the areas of social skills, arts and music, sport, Christian service, and community contributions. Indeed our priority is beyond just achievements to the holistic development of our students. Our school is dedicated to teaching, learning and importantly, serving excellence. We are committed to supporting parents in shaping children holistically to develop their character, social formation, faith foundations and life skills.

And so it is not just educational outcomes or indeed employment opportunities that drive our focus. It would be a poor situation to provide our students with more post-school options than ever, but no purpose and coherent worldview. I'm thankful that amidst the transformations in our society, the staff here educate from a foundation of timeless truth and unchanging priorities, while still responding and adapting to change. As Psalm 127:3 reminds us: "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him."





## About our School

New Hope Christian School (NHCS) is a transdenominational Christian School that commenced operation in January 2015. It is an independent, co-educational, special school, registered and accredited (Years 1 to 12) by the NSW Education and Standards Authority.

The vision and purpose of New Hope Christian School is to be a Christian Educational Community which provides quality individualised and meaningful education in a caring and supportive learning environment for students with special needs, founded on Biblically based beliefs, values and behaviour. The school pursues the vision from a Biblical base by aiming: to be authentically Christian; to provide quality education and to practice Christian community that is rigorous, authentic and collaborative. The school strives to make a difference in the learning and in the life of every student so that they have optimal opportunity to grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.

New Hope Christian School caters for students with an Intellectual Disability (mild to moderate) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. The school is located on the grounds of Pacific Hills Christian School (PHCS) and seeks to maintain strong links between the schools. PHCS provides support through resources, facilities and staffing and integration opportunities are available for students.

The staff at New Hope, no matter their role, are committed to the work of Christian Education in teaching, learning, serving and growing Christian character in the community founded on Biblical beliefs, values and behaviours. Our culture is one of strong connection and love for one another in Christ, a culture that informs all that we do in His service.

## Characteristics of our student body

New Hope Christian School caters for students with an Intellectual Disability (mild to moderate) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. The school caters for students in Years 1 to 12 with application submitted and approved by NESA to add Kindergarten in 2024. The students NCCD categories are either Cognitive or Social/Emotional and their NCCD Level of Adjustment is Substantial or Extensive.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Total students</b>                  | <b>29</b> |
| Boys enrolled                          | 25        |
| Girls enrolled                         | 4         |
| Indigenous students                    | 0         |
| Language Background other than English | 32%       |



## Priority Areas for School Improvement

The following were identified as goals for 2023 and were included in the schools Strategic Management Plan and Annual Action Plan.

| Strategic Goals  | Activities to Support Goals   | End of Year Review   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Develop a culture of respect while demonstrating a passion for teaching and pastoral care.</b>  | <p>Positive Behaviour Support.</p> <p>Staff devotions in meetings and daily with all staff.</p> <p>Explore student devotional times.</p> <p>Assemblies.</p> <p>School Counsellor Support.</p>   | <p>Introduced reflections during assemblies.</p> <p>Functions of behaviour-Staff Training – achieved &amp; ongoing.</p> <p>PBS Information included in Parent and Staff handbooks.</p> <p>Student devotions occurs.</p>  |
| <b>Develop quality teaching programs in response to curriculum reform with Christian perspectives and literacy as priority areas.</b>                  | <p>Training and implementing new curriculum.</p> <p>Training in Transformation by Design (TbD).</p> <p>Supporting documentation for implementation of new curriculum and TbD.</p> <p>Staffing support for implementation of new curriculum.</p>   | <p>Staff completed NESAs courses on new curriculum.</p> <p>Staff training on TbD in school based PD sessions.</p> <p>Pacific Group staff supported the familiarisation and implementation of new curriculum.</p>   |
| <b>Develop and implement a schoolwide parent communication strategy that uses The Alpha School System (TASS) and associated software applications.</b> | <p>Implement and train staff in the use of TASS.</p> <p>Introduce the use of SWAY newsletters.</p> <p>Introduce TASS reporting.</p>   | <p>TASS was implemented and staff and parents were trained in its use.</p> <p>A gradual increase in the use of Parent Lounge by parents was noticed with more parents using this platform to notify school of student absences.</p> <p>TASS was utilised for report writing.</p>   |
| <b>Further develop the Christian character of each member of the community as an act that glorifies God.</b>   | <p>Provide opportunities for the students and staff to serve in the community.</p> <p>Staff devotions.</p> <p>Devotion included in regular parent newsletters.</p> <p>Engagement in Pacific Group of Christian Schools events.</p> <p>Implement innovative strategies that encourages respect and responsibility.</p> | <p>Students participated in formal and informal work experience opportunities.</p> <p>Staff devotions each day and at the beginning of staff meetings. Prayer roster and social events included for staff.</p> <p>Devotions included in Parent SWAY newsletters.</p> <p>PGofCS Hope Conference – engaged in community and developed spiritual formation.</p> |



## Our Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

New Hope Christian School is committed to promoting respect, care and responsibility amongst the students and the broader community. These values flow from our Biblical understandings and love for God and are reflected in our Vision and Mission statements. The Positive Behaviour Support program addresses and encourages Respectful, Responsible and Caring attitudes, behaviours and values. Students are taught about appropriate behaviour and expectations through a common vision and language and with a Biblical foundation.

Student wellbeing is a high priority at New Hope Christian School. Teachers deliver programs that address the individual needs of each student. Each student has an Individual Education Plan that is developed in consultation with parents, teachers and other professionals when appropriate. Goals relating to social skills are included in these individual plans. Respect and responsibility are explicitly taught as part of the Personal Development and Health programs and encouraged through many opportunities in the life of the school.

Features of the school program include:

- Intensive individualised and small group instruction
- Program adjustment based on student progress
- Visuals and specific instructional processes are utilised to address the individual needs of students
- Close monitoring of student progress through a variety of assessment procedures

Initiatives to promote respect and responsibility include:

- ANZAC Day activities
- Acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land at assemblies
- Acknowledging and celebrating significant dates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the year
- Contributing to the Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child program
- Sponsoring a child through Compassion
- Fundraising events
- Work Experience
- NAIDOC week activities
- Mother's Day and Father's Day activities
- Integration opportunities at Pacific Hills Christian School including school camps, lessons, assemblies and other special activities.

## Theme 2: Our Outcomes and Results

### Student outcomes in standardised national literacy and numeracy testing

In 2023, at the time of the NAPLAN assessments in March, there were two Year 3 students, two Year 5 students, two Year 7 students and three Year 9 students enrolled at New Hope Christian School. One Year 3 student participated in the Numeracy assessment, one Year 5 student participated in all assessments, and one Year 9 student participated in all assessments. All other students were exempt from completing the NAPLAN assessments under the provision of students with a disability. Due to the small participation rate, it is not appropriate to publish their results.

### The granting of Records of Student Achievement (RoSA)

The NSW Record of School Achievement is a record of achievement for students who leave prior to receiving their HSC and is available for students after Year 10, 11 and 12. Courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content that are satisfactorily completed are reported on the RoSA with the notation 'Refer to Profile of Student Achievement'. All Year 10 students progressed to Year 11 and all Year 11 students to Year 12.



### Results of the Higher School Certificate

The school offered six Stage 6 Life Skills NESA-developed courses. The Profile of Student Achievement is a record of the Life Skills outcomes students have achieved, either independently or with support. All Stage 6 students were successful in achieving the requirements of the life skills courses undertaken.

## Theme 3: Our Staffing

### Accreditation status

All teachers at New Hope Christian School have accreditation with the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA).

| Level of Accreditation                | Number |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Conditional                           | 1      |
| Provisional                           | 1      |
| Proficient                            | 6      |
| Highly Accomplished (voluntary level) | 0      |

Additionally, one Teacher Assistant has Provisional Accreditation, and one Teacher Assistant has Conditional Accreditation.

### Workforce composition

The staff of New Hope Christian School represent an appropriate spread of age and experience giving a balance of energy and innovation with maturity and discernment. National backgrounds include Anglo, Asian, European, and South African. We have one Aboriginal Advisor who is employed by the Pacific Group of Christian Schools and supports our school. Administration, technical assistance and maintenance support is also provided by staff from Pacific Hills Christian School.

|   | Number    | Full-time Equivalent |
|---|-----------|----------------------|
| Teachers (including Leadership positions) | 8         | 6.2                  |
| Teacher Assistants                        | 8         | 5                    |
| Speech and Occupational Therapists        | 2         | 0.6                  |
| Counsellor & Chaplain                     | 2         | 0.5                  |
| Administration                            | 1         | 1                    |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>21</b> | <b>14.3</b>          |

# Theme 4: Our Student Attendance

## Student attendance rates per year level and whole school

| Year Group   | Students * | Attendance % |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1            | 1          | 74.90        |
| 2            | 2          | 85.55        |
| 3            | 2          | 80.06        |
| 4            | 2          | 90.88        |
| 5            | 2          | 89.82        |
| 6            | 1          | 97.79        |
| 7            | 2          | 92.52        |
| 8            | 4          | 94.88        |
| 9            | 3          | 85.07        |
| 10           | 5          | 89.75        |
| 11           | 2          | 82.54        |
| 12           | 3          | 93.37        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>88.00</b> |

\* Students at August Census

## Description of how school manages student non-attendance

The School adopts an attitude of close liaison with families in managing student attendance. Absences are noted and followed up by written correspondence. Unexplained absences are processed under the Schools Student Attendance policy (available in full, from the School). Strategies are in place that can be implemented to improve unsatisfactory student attendance.

## Retention of Year 10 to Year 12

In 2021 there were two students attending Year 10 at New Hope Christian School. One student left after completing Year 11 preliminary course and the other student graduated. Thus, an individual student retention rate of 50% for Year 10 to Year 12 students based on these 2 students.

## Theme 5: Our School Policies

The following policies can be accessed from our website at:  
[www.newhope.nsw.edu.au/about/policies-publications](http://www.newhope.nsw.edu.au/about/policies-publications)

- Enrolment policy
- Child protection Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Discipline policy
- Complaints policy



## Theme 6: Our Community Satisfaction

### Parent satisfaction

New Hope Christian School places a high priority on the relationship between the School and its parent body. An emphasis is placed on the partnership that parents and the School play in the education process. Parents are involved in their child's learning through the collaborative planning process where each student's individual needs are identified and goals are set for the semester. Parents are kept informed of school activities through the weekly school newsletter and individual communication is also provided through email or phone calls where necessary. Teachers welcome communication from parents and meetings can be scheduled at any time throughout the year.

Parents indicate on many occasions about how appreciative they are of the School and their belief that their children's lives have been enhanced in many ways at New Hope Christian School. They believe that staff are receptive to their concerns. The following is representative of some of the communications from parents:

*I just wanted to write and tell you how blessed we were with the way [Teacher Name] has handled [student name] this year. He has changed so much and came a long way since the beginning of the year. The biggest one which my whole family is really appreciative of, is the camp. He has never stayed away alone from home till now and the ease with which [Teacher Name] handled him at the camp, ... is also another example of a recognition that I think shouldn't go unnoticed. She is a brilliant teacher who has a passion to deal with special needs kids.*

*It has been an excellent year for [student name]. He is loved, stretched and cared for at New Hope. Thank you for all you have done for him.*

*Thank you for all the kindness, compassion and understanding you have shown our family as well as our son this year. No request was too much for you and you've always made us feel so very welcome. We feel like we are part of the school and we are so grateful for everything you've done for us.*

*NHCS has always exceeded expectations regarding the overall school experience. Whether this be the sense of community and care for the students, the exceptional teaching staff who continue to encourage the students to learn and grow or the continuing support for families, we are always impressed by the way in which they operate (2023 McCrindle survey).*

A snapshot of Parent feedback from the 2023 Stakeholder insights study (McCrindle):

- **91%** strongly or somewhat agree that New Hope caters to the individual needs and differences of its students.
- **94%** strongly or somewhat agree that New Hope is characterised by hard-working and committed staff.
- **88%** strongly or somewhat agree that teachers motivate students to learn.
- **81%** strongly or somewhat agree that New Hope is innovative in its approach to educating students.
- **81%** believe that the school is extremely or very effective in supporting students to engage in their spiritual development.
- Most parents find communication from the School to be helpful across the various platforms for example, newsletters and parent workshops.



### Student satisfaction

New Hope Christian School is a safe, supportive and caring environment. There is a positive feeling amongst the students at New Hope Christian School. Students interact well with their teachers and have a happy disposition. Classrooms and playgrounds are places of positive interaction and happy engagement with each other and with staff. Some of the students have come from mainstream settings where they have found various challenges often related to social/emotional reasons or support for their learning needs. For these students, New Hope Christian School has provided the care and support that has enabled an improvement in behaviour, anxiety and academic achievement.

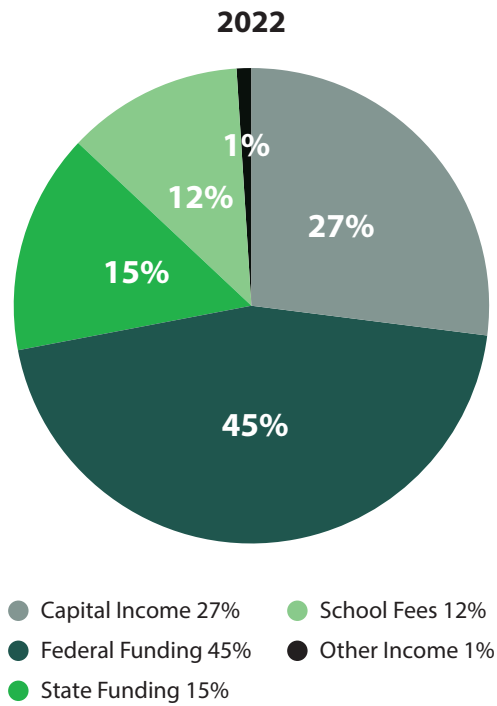
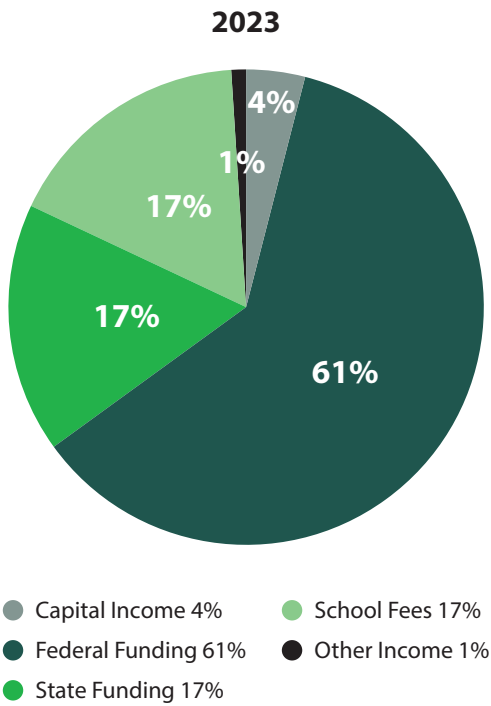


### Teacher satisfaction

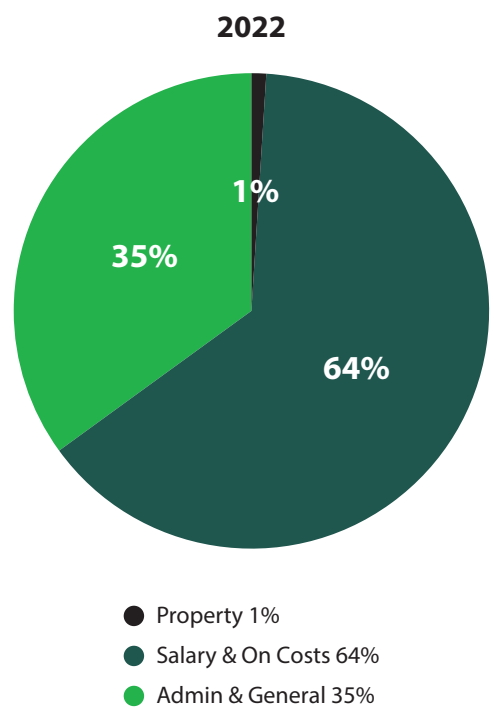
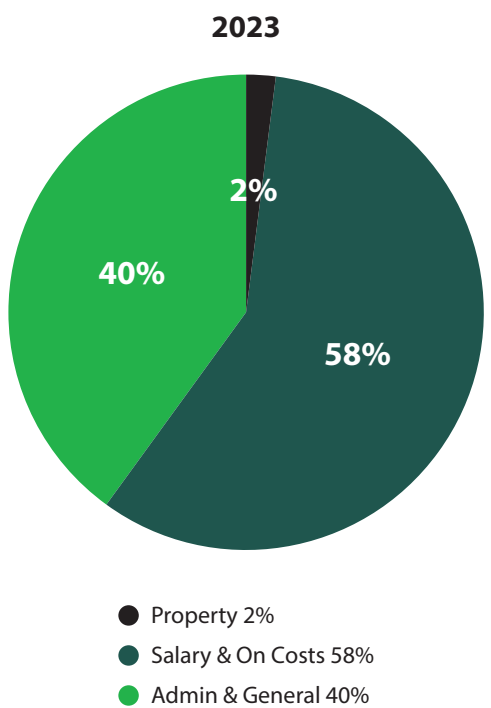
New Hope Christian School staff diligently apply themselves to developing the best learning experiences for the students. The teachers find great satisfaction from supporting the students and catering for their diverse needs. They enjoy rich and productive professional relationships which are overlaid and undergirded by personal friendship and Christian fellowship. Teachers work closely with school leaders and with each other to create challenging and appropriate learning opportunities for students. Within the pressures of a demanding role staff satisfaction is high. New Hope staff believe in the worth of their work and the quality of the effect they have on the students and each other. Feedback from the 2023 McCrindle Survey showed that staff believe the nurturing environment (100%) and the sense of community (100%) are key strengths of the School.

# Theme 7: Summary of our Financial Information

## Recurrent/Capital Income



## Recurrent/Capital Expenditure





New Hope  
Christian School

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New Hope Christian School is an independent school trading under the  
Pacific Group of Christian Schools ABN 11 001 832 828