



Nhill Lutheran School

School Number: 1754

2020 Annual Report

Our Mission Statement: To provide a quality education in a caring Christian environment.

School Sector: Independent

Address: 2 Mackay Street, Nhill, Victoria, 3418

Website: www.nhills.vic.edu.au

Introduction – Contextual Information About The School

Nhill Lutheran School first opened its doors in 1977 in the Nhill Congregation's Gladigau Hall on MacPherson Street with an enrolment of 31 students. New school buildings were officially opened and dedicated in July 1977, on land that was offered to the Parish.

In 1979 secondary schooling was offered and operated at Nhill Lutheran School until the end of 1990, when the school reverted to providing only primary school education.

The original section of the school building was opened in 1977, additional classrooms were added again in 1980 and 1985 as the school expanded. A new library, computer room and multi-purpose hall were opened in 2011 as a result of the Federal Government's Building Education Revolution (BER). The school is blessed with impressive outdoor facilities including an oval with cricket pitch and football goal posts; a large playground including a rock water feature; four hardcourts comprising of two tennis courts, a netball court and basketball court; a farm yard and more.

The school is located at 2 Mackay Street, Nhill, a rural town in western Victoria halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne. The town is located on main transport routes for road and rail.

Nhill Lutheran School is an integral part of the ministry of the Nhill Lutheran Parish. It is an agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and receives support and guidance from the LCA through Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW, Tasmania (LEVNT).

Nhill Lutheran School is a Foundation to Year 6 primary school. The school provides a positive and safe learning environment, where students develop respect for others, self-discipline, and prepare for responsible living and service in society. Students are encouraged to use their God given gifts, and develop a feeling of self-worth through the delivery of Christian education.

The Victorian Curriculum is used for all key learning areas, with the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework used for Christian Studies. Karen language is taught to all students. A strong focus is cultivating a love of learning and develop the skills and understandings needed for lifelong learning. Nhill Lutheran School has three house groups providing opportunities for students to lead and participate in activities such as swimming, athletics – all supported through the Physical Education program. A program of excursions, incursions, sleepovers and camps is rolled out throughout the school, providing opportunities for relational and independent learning skills to develop. A specialist teacher delivers a comprehensive Arts program which includes music, visual and performing arts.

The student enrolment was 66 at the Census in August 2020, which consisted of 34 female and 32 male students. At this point in time we do not have any students who identify as indigenous.

Students who require extra support have Individual Learning Plans to assist with their specific needs. Some students are supported by specialists, such as OTs and Speech Therapists, who visit the school.

Staff Details

Staff Qualifications: 5 teachers with Bachelor Degree, 1 with Masters Degree. All teachers held appropriate tertiary qualifications, and were registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. There were no indigenous employees. At the conclusion of the 2020 school year, the workforce composition consisted of 1 Principal, 4 full time teachers, 1 part time teacher, 4 non teaching staff.

In addition to core teaching competency in English and Mathematics, the teaching staff at Nhill Lutheran School have specialist teaching skills in areas including Music, Visual Art, Library, Technology, Drama, Christian Studies, Science, Physical Education and Karen. A member of the Karen community assisted with teaching the Karen language.

All members of staff are trained in First Aid (including Anaphylaxis, Asthma and CPR), Mandatory Reporting, and the Lutheran Church of Australia's Valuing Safe Communities Policies and Procedures. Staff also completed Evacuation and Emergency Procedures, and Workplace, Health and Safety requirements, which are regularly revised throughout the year during staff meetings. Nhill Lutheran School staff, Council members and Direct Contact Volunteers receive child protection training when they first commence their role at the School, and complete ongoing training on child protection issues at least annually.

During 2020, Professional Development focused on numerous areas, depending on staff need and goals identified in professional learning plans. With significant impact

of Covid 19, much professional learning shifted to digital or online delivery. All teachers and integration aides completed their Connect theological training, a requirement for staff in Lutheran schools, with one teacher commencing Equip required by teachers of Christian Studies. All staff completed an online workshop, Developing Resilient Learners.

Student Attendance

Student attendance in 2020 was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, and the flow-on effects it had for schools. During the year schools the Victorian government instructed schools to close for some student free days, and then implement a remote learning model. Our F-2 students experienced 13 weeks of remote learning, and our 3-6 students 15 weeks. Student attendance was still recorded during this time.

Of a possible 181 student days, the average student attendance rate was 92.0%. Total school days were lower than originally planned for the year due to Covid related school closure days. Absences from school include illness, precautionary health measures due to Covid 19, medical or specialist appointments and holidays taken outside of school holidays. The school is to be informed of absences either directly, via phone, email or app. Holidays during school term time is discouraged, however the school recognises that on particular occasions this is unavoidable.

The following table shows average student absences per year level during 2020:

Year Level	Average absences per student	% Attendance
F	11	95.8%
1	12.8	94.5%
2	14.3	91.5%
3	31.8	84.7%
4	14.3	91.0%
5	18	92.3%
6	10.8	94.3%
School	13.9	92.0%

Management of Non Attendance

The school has a School Attendance Policy which outlines how student absenteeism is recorded. Each time a student is absent from school, the teacher records that the child is absent using a code which explains the reason for the child's absence. The policy states that the Principal is notified if any child demonstrates a pattern of absenteeism. The Principal is then responsible for following up the concerns of absenteeism with the child's parent/s.

NAPLAN Testing Report 2020 - Years 3 & 5

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy tests, were not administered. NAPLAN assesses student achievement in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. NAPLAN

reports show the result of each child's performance compared to other Australian students in their year level, and the average score on the NAPLAN tests. These tests form just a part of a range of assessment tools and procedures to inform of each child's performance and achievement, and the school uses many other assessment means to determine strengths and areas of growth for each student.

Our school continues to support students through Individual Learning Plans, when extra assistance is needed in particularly English and Mathematics. Students are identified through our comprehensive diagnostic assessment program or teacher referral. Literacy support in phonics and reading is closely aligned to our whole school approach of using THRASS and SMART spelling program. In 2020, students identified as needing extra assistance in reading participated in the Reading Tutor Program and Minilit, delivered by trained Integration Aides.

Extra- Curricular Activities

There were a number of opportunities for students to be involved in activities beyond the classroom in 2020, despite the restrictions that were in place during 2020 because of Covid. Students have participated in:

- Environmental activities including vegetable gardening
- Mini farm and animal care – caring for animals including chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, budgies, green tree frogs, a bearded dragon, fish and rabbit.
- Interschool competitions
- Swimming program
- Sporting clinics including Hockey
- Camping programs
- Student leadership responsibilities and programs
- Buddy Program throughout the school for students
- School Choir
- A variety of incursions and excursions, including Wimmera Field Days, performances
- Remembrance Day
- Year 6 Formal Graduation dinner
- Cooking
- Chapel participation
- Student Representative Council
- Service learning
- PMP program
- Get 'em going playgroup program
- Pre-Foundation program

Integrated Pastoral Care Program

The values for Australian schooling, and those identified by Lutheran Education Australia, are at the core of pastoral care in our school.

Our class teachers continued to be the main pastoral carers for each student and lead daily class devotions. Chapel services were held every Friday and were led by the Principal, staff, students and sometimes a visiting Pastor. Staff participated in Bible studies that were led by the Principal every month. Our Parents and Friends Association served the school community in a number of ways by providing meals to families in need. Our Buddy system offered support and welcomed new students and families to our school community.

The students continued to support the Maw Per Koh orphanage school in Myanmar, and raised money throughout the year to buy clothes, resources, food, building materials and school books. All Chapel offerings were sent to Maw Per Koh. Students practised their Karen language by writing, language immersion and singing.

Students also continued their relationship with Australian Lutheran World Service, learning about the organisation and the support they provide. Students raised funds for ALWS through the Gifts of Grace initiative, with the Student Representative Council deciding which 'gifts' to purchase.

Opinion Surveys

During 2020, Nhill Lutheran School was to participate in the Quality Schools Survey, however this did not happen owing to Covid. This will be re-visited in 2021.

Post School Destinations

At the end of 2020, four Year 6 students enrolled at Nhill College for Year 7, and two enrolled at Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham.

STATEMENT OF INCOME

For Year Ended 31st December 2020

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income sources – 2020

Net Tuition Fees and Student Charges	\$89,316	7.24%
Operating Grants	\$1,107,926	89.77%
Capital Grants	\$0	0.00%
Donations – Capital and Other	\$4,342	0.35%
Interest and Other Income	\$32,616	2.64%
Interest from Related Entities	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL	\$1,234,200	100.00%

