



## **Nhill Lutheran School**

**School Number: 1754**

**2023 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](http://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. In 2023 the school successfully attained a Victorian Government grant for \$1.1 million through the Victorian Government Non-Government Schools Capital Fund. A building program transforming the school will happen in early 2024.

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. In 2022 Auslan was introduced as the language 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 58 at the Census in August 2023, which consisted of 35 female and 23 male students, with one student identifying 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: 6 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 2023 school year, the workforce composition consisted of 1 Principal, 3 full time teachers, 2 part time teachers, and 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 Auslan.

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, Board 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 2023, Professional Development focused on numerous areas, depending on staff need and goals identified in professional learning plans. Staff were involved in a Learning Tour of educational institutions in Bendigo and Ballarat, expanding their understanding of contemporary learning.

### **Student Attendance**

There were 192 student days in 2023. 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 2023:

Year Level	% Attendance
F	89.4%
1	93.0%
2	92.8%
3	94.8%
4	94.3%
5	88.9%
6	91.5%

### **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 2023 - Years 3 & 5**

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.

2023 NAPLAN results:

	Year 3 (8 students)	Year 5 (3 student)
Reading	5 Strong 3 Developing	3 Strong
Writing	7 Strong	1 Strong

	1 Developing	2 Developing
Spelling	4 Strong 4 Developing	1 Exceeding 1 Strong 1 Developing
Grammar & Punctuation	1 Exceeding 2 Strong 4 Developing 1 NAS	1 Strong 2 Developing
Numeracy	1 Exceeding 5 Strong 1 Developing 1 NAS	3 Strong

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 2023, 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 2023:

- 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
- 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

### Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

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. 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 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.

A Wellbeing Officer was employed in Term Three through the Australian Government Wellbeing Boost program. This role will continue into 2024 with additional funding from the National Student Wellbeing Program.

The Get 'Em Going playgroup ran weekly during term time, providing a time and place for pre-school aged children and their parents.

### Post School Destinations

At the end of 2023, eight Year 6 students enrolled at Nhill College for Year 7.

### Statement of Income

For Year 31st December 2023

#### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Net tuition fees and student charges	\$99,186	6.91%
Operating grants	\$1,273,057	88.69%
Capital grants	\$29,965	2.09%
Donations – Capital and other	-	0.00%
Interest and other income	\$33,122	2.31%
Interest from related entities	-	0.00%
TOTAL	\$1,435,330	100.00%