



**2014**

# **ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT**



## **Principal's Report**

It is Annual Report time again, which we compile each year as a Commonwealth Government requirement. All educational facilities publish information to their school families and the wider community on how they are travelling and performing. This information continues to assist management in making informed decisions about improvement in weaker areas and building on the school's strengths. This particular report represents last year, 2014. As you read it, I trust that you will be both blessed and encouraged.

### **Contextual Information about our school, including the characteristics of the student body**

Geneva Christian College was founded in 1967 and celebrates 50 years next year in the Latrobe community.

It has a well-established and fully accredited co-educational program for grades Kinder to Year 12. The school is located on the outskirts of Latrobe, ideally situated on 50 hectares of farm and bush land. Our students come from the local community and further afield, including Golden Valley, Deloraine, Sheffield, Claude Road, Ulverstone, Port Sorell, Sassafras, Shearwater, Squeaking Point, Hawley, Devonport and East Devonport.

As a Christian school, personal character, self-discipline and responsibility are considered equally as important outcomes as academic learning. The aim is for students to live by Biblical standards and make worthwhile contributions to society and the wider community. These standards, traditional family values, manners and moral principles are integrated into the school's educational framework.

Geneva Christian College aims for

- a distinctively Christian environment
- a high level in academics
- a dedicated, qualified, and committed staff
- family-affordable fees
- smaller class sizes providing quality teacher - student interaction

A key reason for the existence of Christian education is to establish an environment that will develop a sound Biblical worldview. The School has developed a program to minister to the complete student. This is accomplished through four areas of emphasis.

The first and strongest emphasis is the spiritual growth of the child and family. The clear teaching of the Bible is the best foundation for learning. The Bible is not only taught, but also permeates every subject. We endeavour to introduce each child to Jesus and to direct children and families to thoroughly know and live the Bible.

The second emphasis is on academics. We provide a sound academic climate and promote academic excellence to best prepare students of all abilities to fulfil their path in life.

The third and fourth areas of emphasis are positive social, physical and mental development. The school participates in local and national programs, encouraging our students to practise and use their God-given talents, abilities and skills through sport, communication & leadership forums and health and well-being programmes.

As part of a child's schooling we offer an individualised Christian education pathway. Our teaching materials are based on the Christian ethos that reflects Biblical principles, truths and values. We seek to work with those families who share our commitment to these Christian standards.

We have integrated the Australian Curriculum throughout the school and across subject areas. Our overall teaching materials provide:

- equitable and inclusive learning
- opportunities to maximize learning
- opportunities to gain knowledge, understanding and skills
- discipline-based and interdisciplinary learning
- opportunities to promote learning within local cultural contexts
- individual pathways to support successful learning
- individual educational programs with the opportunity to close the gap between advantaged and disadvantaged children

During 2014, we offered as part of our extra curricula experiences, many exciting and rewarding subjects. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Programme has continued, now including Grade 1 – Grade 8 & Hospitality was offered to year 10+.



Our health and PE students were involved in zumba, aerobics and boot camp and general sporting activities, including swimming carnival, cross country and the school's athletics carnival.





In art and music our students had the opportunity to share and show their creative talents within the school and at local Eisteddfods and Student Convention.



Our Year 10, 11 and 12 students, were involved in work experience sessions during our final term. The Year 10's participated in a Driver Awareness Programme run by the Rotary Club of Australia and most of the Year 10, 11 and 12's participated in a visit from the Armed Forces, UTAS and Latitude - World Vision for career pathway advice and had 2 day classes on preparing for the workforce.

### **Outdoor Education Centre: Interlaken**

All the high school students were involved in camps to Interlaken and day trips for end of term privileges. Interlaken consists of a 12 bedroom guest house, built in approximately 1902, with two lounges, 2 bathrooms/toilets, a dining room and a communal room which acts as a lounge/ kitchen for the moment. Outside the main building there is a bunkhouse (8 beds), bathroom/toilet and storage. There are also outbuildings / sheds. The main building is continuously being upgraded. Land size is approximately 11 acres situated on the shores of Lake Sorell and adjacent to Lake Crescent, 27kms from Tunbridge/Oatlands and 33 kms from Bothwell. The main purpose for this centre, involves small and large groups of students regularly participating in fishing, canoeing, boating, camping, hiking and bush crafts.



A small group of Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the Red Cross Blood Donation appeal. The Grade 6 class were involved in a 1 day Leadership Programme run by Devonport Chaplaincy and we had students from across the school representing us at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

A film group in Drama entered a National competition with the focus being on a persons' ability instead of their disability. To their delight and ours, they won first prize, which included \$15,000 worth of SMEG appliances. These items will be installed in the Primary kitchen as part of its renovation.

The majority of our students participated in the annual Student Convention, which involves entries in all areas of learning. Across the school our students enjoyed many varied activities including a dress up & open day for literacy week, casual clothes days to raise funds for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Box outreach the Premier's Reading Challenge, a Bike Safety course, visits to local nursing homes, Aussie Outback BBQ, Christmas Carols at Churches, plus end of term excursions. We had visits to the school from Bravehearts, Creation Science, Harding University & Ballarat Christian School.

School-based traineeships involved students from Years 10 to 12. These enabled the students to continue their schoolwork, but also allowed them to go out to work. An employer takes a student on in a particular field and trains them in either Certificate I or II of their chosen field. At the end of the traineeship, they come out with a qualification, which not only goes towards their final certificate, but also gives them scope for future employment opportunities. We had 2 school-based trainees in 2014, one in Certificate II Automotive Diesel and one in Certificate II Plastering.

During 2014 many of our staff continued their 'learning' by enrolling in courses at TAFE and UTAS. We had 3 staff completing their Certificate III in Educational Support, 3 completing their Certificate III in Bus Operations and 4 continuing their Bachelor of Education degrees.

Professional Development for staff was covered in the following areas: WH&S, Disability Support training, Social Recovery, Literacy & Numeracy, Mental Health and Food Handling.

### **Building Project: New Classroom & Arts Centre**

During 2014 we commenced a new classroom and arts centre project with partial funding from the Commonwealth Government. Construction was completed at the end of the year and we were able to start using the facility in Term1 of 2015.





## New Buses

We are thankful to God for the provision of 3 new King Long (39 seats) buses, which went onto runs in Term 2 of 2014. This has enabled us to cope with the increased enrolments across the school.



## Teacher Standards / Qualifications

All our teachers are registered by the Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania and are trained to implement the Accelerated Christian Education and the Australian Curriculum. Our teaching staff, during 2014, included 7 full-time and 7 part-time teachers, comprising 4 males and 10 females. Collectively they had the following qualifications:

Ass. Diploma of Arts/Cert of Drawing	Cert. V Solo Acting
Bachelor of Education (9 Teachers)	Cert. VIII Speech & Drama
Bachelor of Education with Honours	Certificate III IT
Bachelor of Engineering	Certificate Print Making
Bachelor of Librarianship	Diploma of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Science	Diploma of Teaching
Basic Japanese 1&2	Excellence in Art
Cert IV Business Management	Graduate Certificate in Education
Cert IV Workplace Training & Assessment	Graduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies
Cert. III Bus Operations	Graduate Diploma of Divinity
Cert. III Children's Services	Master of Defence Studies
Cert. III Fitness	

<b>WORKFORCE COMPOSITION</b>	<b>TEACHING STAFF</b>	<b>TEACHING STAFF FTE</b>	<b>NON- TEACHING STAFF</b>	<b>NON- TEACHING STAFF FTE</b>	<b>NOTIFIED INDIGENOUS STAFF</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>0</b>



## Student Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximize their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. Parents and guardians are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, explaining the absences of their children each day and if away from school longer than 3 days, a medical certificate is required. School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. They maintain accurate records of student attendance, follow up unexplained absences through written and verbal communication, implement programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise, and provide clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance. The Administrator/Deputy Principal may grant permission for late arrival at school or early departure from school, leave, or exemption from attendance only in individual cases, on written request from parents and guardians. The Administrator/Deputy Principal will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents promptly if an unexplained absence occurs. If truancy is suspected, the Administrator/Deputy Principal will contact the parents/guardians to ascertain the reason for the absence.

Students are required by law to attend school on every day of the school year (39 weeks). If a student is sick, the school requires the parent/guardian to contact the school before 9.00am each school day. The school also requires that the bus driver also be contacted to inform them that the child will not be traveling on the bus that day.

In 2014 the rates of attendance are shown as a percentage of the designated number of school days per year.

KINDER	PREP	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
88.01%	87.78%	80.21%	91.59%	89.90%	89.92%	82.03%
GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
91.91%	83.31%	84.29%	83.26%	88.76%	85.22%	78.21%



## Senior Secondary Outcomes

Geneva offers a Year 12 Vocational Certificate, Year 12 General Certificate, Year 12 Intermediate Certificate and a Year 12 Academic Certificate, each requiring different academic standards and credits. The Year 12 Vocational Certificate caters for the less academic students and provides a more practical educational pathway or work

placement. The General & Intermediate are suitable for entry to TAFE and further education. The Year 12 Academic Certificate is for those students wishing to continue on to University. This certificate is recognized by UTAS as an entry requirement. Many of our students who have completed a Year 12 Academic Certificate have been successful at Universities nationally.

## Post School Destinations

In 2014, Geneva Christian College had 7 Graduates, 6 from Year 12 and 1 from Year 11. The following are their destinations:

1 student went on to further studies at TAFE

2 students entered the workforce

3 students entered University to study Nursing and Business Management

1 student took an apprenticeship to become a Chef

Percentage of Year 12 students who have undertaken vocational training: 40%

Percentage of Year 12 students who have undertaken trade training: 20%

Percentage of Year 12 students who have undertaken tertiary education: 40%

Percentage of Year 12 students who have attained a Year 12 Certificate or equivalent VET qualification: 100%



## NAPLAN

The Federal Government has established a national testing system for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy for Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9. This is designed to measure improvement in a student's benchmark performance as a result of the school's attention to their educational need. By comparing 2012 grade three, grade five and grade seven results with those of 2014 grade five, grade seven and grade nine results we will be comparing some of the same students in their progression through the school. It is not a totally accurate comparison as it will include new students and omit students who have left the school in that time frame. The results below indicate those grades where students were a percentage at or above the National Minimum Standard in 2014.

2014 NAPLAN RESULTS	Geneva Christian College				Australia			
	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	100.0%	94.1%	94.7%	80.0%	93.5%	92.9%	94.9%	92.1%
Persuasive Writing	83.3%	81.3%	89.5%	50.0%	93.8%	90.2%	88.5%	81.8%
Spelling	83.3%	87.5%	94.7%	90.0%	92.7%	92.7%	92.4%	89.8%
Grammar & Punctuation	100.0%	87.5%	89.5%	80.0%	93.6%	92.8%	93.0%	89.6%
Numeracy	83.3%	94.1%	94.7%	90.0%	94.6%	93.5%	95.1%	94.1%
Australia values sourced from					<a href="http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/TimeSeries">http://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/TimeSeries</a>			



In our Learning Centres, students below the benchmark in numeracy and literacy are diagnosed (like all students) and placed at their current academic level. Upon successful completion at that level and with time and effort, improvement appears in their competency in both numeracy and literacy. We supplement their teaching materials to assist and expand those students who are of a lower academic level than their peers. Our Special Needs Coordinator works with and gives additional assistance to selected students with extra needs. Throughout the primary school we used the computerized *Mathletics* programme with success. Also in the primary area, students participated in Reading Eggs and MULTILIT, with very pleasing results.

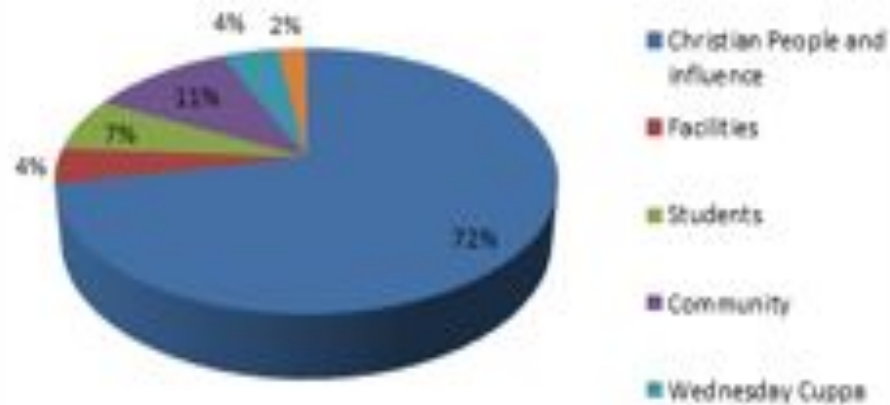


### **Satisfaction Survey Results summary**

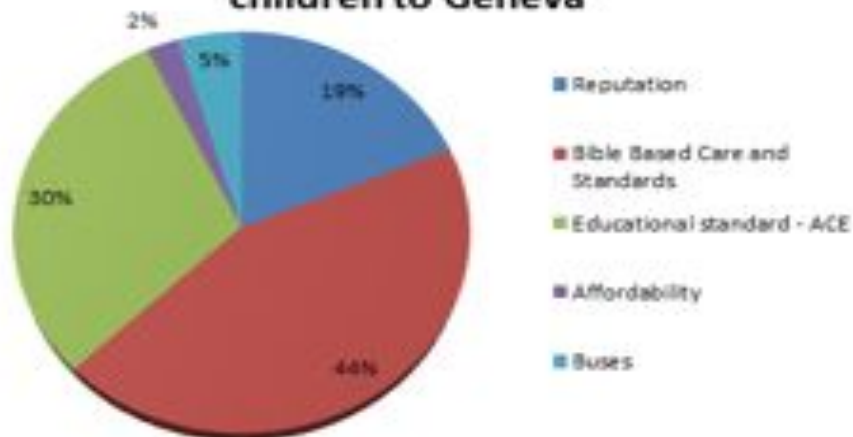
We are dependent for our existence on student, parent and teacher satisfaction with the school. The 5 Year Strategic Plan that the School Board reviewed in 2013 for the period 2014-2018 has been continuing with many and varied changes inside and outside the school. We have had positive comments from you as parents & families and also the wider community.

Parents, students and staff were surveyed to ascertain their satisfaction with the School, and to give opportunity to comment on any areas of the School. The Questionnaires received from parents, students and staff indicated good overall support of the School.

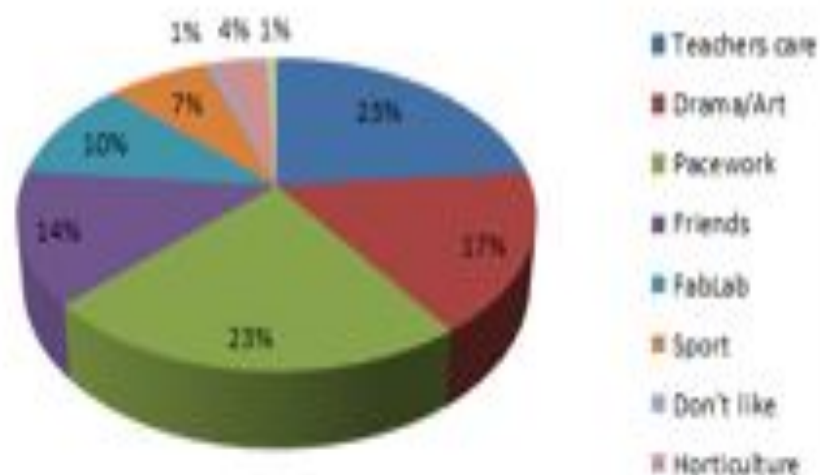
## What the Teachers like best about Geneva



## Why parents choose to send their children to Geneva



## What Students like best about Geneva



## School Income

<b>STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	\$400,522
<b>COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT</b>	\$1,378,000
<b>SCHOOL FEES</b>	\$267,000

The Geneva Parents & Friends are a great group of people. They faithfully raise funds for many and varied projects around the school. During 2014 the P&F held pie drives, lamington drives and the very successful, Time & Talent Auction. The P&F meet monthly and we encourage you to attend those meetings when you can. Your involvement, as parents in school events, such as Parent-Teacher interviews, school activities, P&F meetings, fundraisers and working bees is a strong indication of your effort and support for your children and the school and we thank you!

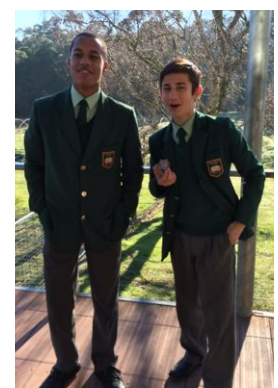
Thank you parents for supporting us in training, correcting, nurturing and guiding your children through their school life. We have been blessed with a great staff, including teachers, teachers' aides, a chaplain, specialist staff, a WHS Coordinator, bus drivers, grounds and maintenance crew, and administration staff. We thank God for their collective efforts and encourage you as family, to pray for us, as we seek to equip your children for what lies ahead in this life and the next.

We are thankful to God for a successful year of achievements, celebrations and accomplishments and for His continued guidance and safety throughout 2014.

Sincerely,

Mr David Lincolne  
Principal





This report can be found on our website [www.geneva.tas.edu.au](http://www.geneva.tas.edu.au)

If you would like a hard copy of this report, please contact the school office.