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# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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## WELCOME

The Annual report is an opportunity for the school to reflect on the achievement and challenges we faced in 2021. Covid presented the opportunity for students to expand their learning through further embracing IT as a means of both individual and collaborative acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Many students have benefitted from online learning. It allows them to learn at their own pace and revise work when needed. Research relating to last year in NSW indicated many students did better than the expected norms. The teachers did a fantastic job teaching and supporting students with their learning and well being. Covid regulations in 2021 mandated all staff in our school were required to be fully vaccinated. As a result a couple of staff chose to leave the school.

HopePoint Christian School and HopePoint Preschool are ministries of HopePoint Church. Our school caters for Kindergarten to Year 6 and is registered by NSW Education Standards Authority. It is a member of Christian School Australia.

In 2021 at the August Census date we had 143 students, consisting of seven classes K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. We had seven classroom teachers and three part time RFF teachers. We also had five part time teachers' aides.

The school provides additional literacy and numeracy support for students struggling with their learning as a result of Covid related loss of learning opportunities, socio economic factors and EALD matters.

As a Christian school we seek to support and develop the whole person including spiritual, social, emotional, academic and physical. We seek to work closely with parents as Christian education is a partnership between home, church and school.

**Gary Brummell**  
**Interim Principal**

## SCHOOL OVERVIEW INFORMATION

### About Our School

HopePoint Christian School (formerly known as Calvary Chapel Christian School) was established in 1980 at Greenacre. It moved to Georges Hall in 1989 where we enjoy sharing five acres with HopePoint Church and HopePoint Preschool. Our school caters for students from Kindergarten to Year Six, following the Board of Studies Syllabi.

Together we are educating the students to have an excellent and well-rounded Christian education.

### Chairmans Report

2021, whilst being difficult at times, was a positive year. The School Board was able to function online, meaning they were able to guide the school through the challenging time. They also continued to provide spiritual and pastoral support to the school.

This year our Board underwent some changes. We farewelled Geoff Allen and Marina Smith Thorne and welcomed Lester Salanoa onto our school board. We are very grateful for their service to our school board and community.

Towards the end of 2021, our Principal Miss Linda Spence, experienced some significant health challenges. Mr Joe Britton was employed by the board as the Interim Principal in Term 4. We were very grateful for his time in the role.

Towards the end of last year we also had the difficult responsibility of ensuring that all staff could provide evidence of vaccination. Those who couldn't were required to cease employment at HopePoint (as well as any other educational institution). This was a very difficult time where staff who have been part of our school family were forced to leave the community.

We were able to upgrade our facilities this year, including furnishings and furniture for our classrooms. We received delivery of our Chromebooks and iPads. New blinds in classrooms, verandah resurfacing and painting of our buildings all happened in 2021.

We ended the year with a negative financial result. The additional labour cost of covering for those staff we were forced to let go and the Board decision to give our families fee relief were the main contributors to this negative result. The school cash position is very strong, so it is in a good position to meet the challenges going forward.

Looking to 2022, we are looking at different ways to improve our buildings and facilities once again. We have almost concluded an addition to our school playground area with some new equipment.

The Board continually faces new challenges. We're confident in the direction the school is headed and look forward to seeing more results in the coming years.

Excluding changes to Government legislations and funding arrangements, the Board remains confident about the outlook and underlying results for 2022.

**Cristian Tobar**  
**Board Chairman**

### **Community Reports**

2021 was a difficult year in terms of seeking to build school community. With parents not being allowed on site we were unable to conduct many family friendly events. 2022 brings optimism that our sense of community can be reignited.

The plans that were in place last year to build a new canteen over the Christmas holidays were eventually shelved due to the unexpectedly doubling of costs which meant it was not financially justifiable.

*Our school encourages parents, students and staff to speak freely about any concerns, so they can be addressed early and resolved quickly.*

### **Snack Shop**

After receiving quotes the school board deemed the new Canteen project too expensive. Due to Covid and other factors the quotes ended up being twice the expected cost. The plan is to consider what other options are available to utilize the space. Further options will be considered that are more flexible as well as being inexpensive.

### **Excursions**

The second half of 2021 saw no excursions due to the reintroduction of online learning. *In the first half of the year excursions were also minimal due various restrictions.*

### **Special Events**

*At HopePoint Christian School, we like to provide our students with opportunities to participate in special events and to showcase their progress and talents to the school community. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, many of our special events could not be run.*

*Some events that could be run included Open Day and in school Carnivals.*

### **Fundraising**

The school raised \$7,166 in 2021. The money is not allocated to a specific project and will be added to the existing fundraising account.

### **School Sport**

COVID impacted the sporting opportunities we could provide our students with in 2021. There were many activities that were cancelled, particularly in the second half of the year. In saying that, students did get some opportunities to represent the school and enjoyed .

The swimming carnival took place on the 17th of February. It was a successful day enjoyed by both staff and students. As well as having our usual competitive races we enjoyed some kickboard races for our novelty swimmers. There were 10 students who managed to make the requisite qualifying times for the zone swimming carnival. These students all represented the school with distinction.

On February the 8th, Mr Kelly and Mr Britton took a team of cricketers to Penrith to participate in the CSSA Cricket Gala day. We picked the team in November last year and spent significant time training and playing at lunchtimes. Whilst none of the students had ever played cricket before they did a wonderful job in representing

the school and were by no means embarrassed. On the contrary, the improvement throughout the day was great to see and we just missed out on winning a few games.

Results:

- Pacific Hills 72- HopePoint 31
- Toongabbie 48- HopePoint 25
- Wycliffe 42- HopePoint 39
- Coast 39- HopePoint 37

Our Cross Country was once again a success and ran well at school.

In Term 2, For the first time we fielded a 3/4 girls soccer team which competed at the Gala Day in Penrith. Our girls did very well and represented the school with distinction.

Due to the lockdown there were few other opportunities for our students to compete in, in the second half of the year. In Term 3, there was an Esports competition, where our students participated in teams in the online game "rocket league". Out of more than 60 teams. Both our teams made the final. There was some commentary throughout the day, with CSSA commentary commenting on how amazing it is that such a small school managed to get both teams in the final. Congratulations to all involved.

### **Parent and Teacher Satisfaction**

In accordance with the Federal Government requirement for this year, our school surveyed parents and teachers on their levels of satisfaction with our school.

#### **Parent Survey**

Parents were surveyed and results found that they felt welcomed and their school takes their concerns seriously.

Parents agreed or strongly agreed to the following statements:

- I feel my child receives a quality education
- The school values my help and interest
- Students are the school's main focus
- I am pleased my child attends this school
- I am happy with the upgraded technology devices throughout the school
- I am happy with the amount of Christian teaching happening within the school
- I can see the Christian elements being taught are displayed within the staff and the way they care for my child.
- I can see Christian characteristics amongst the students at the school

Areas of growth for the school according to parents include: the rewarding of students; regular communication of student progress; looking for ways to improve what the school does; integration of technology in student's learning; newsletters; communication of ideas and opportunities for input from the parent community.

Parents were extremely positive regarding the school's response to Covid 19 restrictions and the provision of online learning.

Parents overwhelmingly agreed that the culture of the school respects the spiritual, moral, social, physical health and the wellbeing of students.

### Teacher Survey

Teachers in 2021 were surveyed on areas of professional development, personal growth and relationships with staff, parents and students. They were asked about school resources and facilities as well as working collaboratively with other teachers to share resources as a staff.

Teachers all agreed that the school's educational practices were consistent with the vision and values of the school.

Teachers believed that the school would do well to invest in classroom phones and better reading group resources for classrooms.

Overall our staff enjoy teaching at HopePoint Christian School.

## **SCHOOL STRATEGIES**

### Achievements for 2021

- Explicit teaching of comprehension of texts using direct and inferential responses
- Incorporation of use of ICT skills K-6
- Improved online learning skills to ensure effective engagement with the online classroom
- Using AIS numeracy screeners from K-6 to improve learning

### Goals for 2022

- Review and implement targeted explicit instruction in both literacy and numeracy using LNAP and Covid literacy and numeracy funding
- Review adjustments for students identified as requiring additional support.
- Review risk assessment policy and protocols
- Review effectiveness of semester reports
- Review consistency of K-6 teaching programs
- Staff development in regard to the new English and Maths syllabus commencing 2023.
- Commence a review of school facilities and future needs

## STAFF INFORMATION

All staff are committed to the ethos, beliefs and vision of the school. All of them are active Christians. They are supportive of HopePoint Church as the sponsoring church.

2021 was challenging as the government mandated only vaccinated staff could work in schools. As a result a few of our staff elected to leave the school. This also created a difficulty sourcing casual teachers due to the shortage of available staff.

The average staff attendance rate was 95%.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

### Management of Student Non-Attendance

HopePoint Christian School has an attendance policy which sets out the processes and responsibilities of Parents, Principals and Teachers in regard to student attendance and non-attendance. Included in this policy are the following instructions to Principals specifically relating to student non-attendance:

- Principals must provide clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.
- Principals must advise parents promptly when their children are absent from school without explanation.
- Principals are responsible for ensuring that accurate records of student attendance are maintained in an approved format.
- Principals must ensure that all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented.

In addition, specific instructions are given for staff to manage student non-attendance as follows:

- Rolls are to be marked daily with absences recorded including partial absences.
- Absences must be identified and recorded in the attendance register.
- Unexplained absences need to be followed up and parents and/or guardians notified regarding poor attendance.
- Transfer unsatisfactory attendance information to student files after notifying their supervisor.

As a general rule, on a practical level, if a child is going to be absent or is absent from school for three or more days, the parents are required to contact the school and inform us of the reason for the absence. If a student is absent for 3 days and we have had no contact with the parent, the school will contact them seeking an explanation. This contact is recorded in the class attendance roll. When students return from an absence of any time, they are required to return with a note of explanation signed by their parent. If this is not forthcoming within one week, the parent is sent home a reminder slip.

### Enrolment Policy (full text)

HopePoint Christian School aims to provide a biblically-based, Christ-centred education primarily, to children from Christian families. Accordingly, our enrolment priorities are as follows:

1. Children who already have an older brother or sister enrolled in the school.
2. Children of families where at least one parent is a Christian who have been on the waiting list. These are processed in order of receipt.

- Where families don't meet the above criteria, they must be able to support the ethos of the school as detailed in the School Handbook. These are also processed in order of receipt.

#### Prerequisites for Continuing Enrolment

HopePoint Christian School reserves the right to discontinue enrolment for any student if the following outcomes aren't met after: Failure to comply with the HPCS Fee Policy steps for payment or failure to comply with our Behavioural Policy.

#### Kindergarten Enrolment

Students must turn five (5) before the 30th June of the year enrolling. Students must be enrolled before they turn six (6).

#### Early School Entry

Many factors need to be considered for a child to be entered into school life before the prescribed entry date. At HopePoint Christian School any parent wishing to enrol their child early is required to have an interview with the Principal. Some of the areas to be discussed could include the child's social ability, preschool recommendations, the results of a psychometric assessment, the child's behaviour and attitude to learning.

#### Fees

An enrolment bond is to be paid in full prior to a child beginning at HopePoint Christian School. This bond is returned to the parents after the youngest child of the family leaves in Year Six or one term's notice is given of the termination of enrolment AND all outstanding fees have been paid.

Term fees are to be paid by the end of the second week of each term unless other specific arrangements have been made in writing, with the School Bursar or Principal. Other arrangements could include periodic direct debit (e.g. fortnightly payments), fortnightly or weekly cash or cheque payments. Payments can be made using credit card or Pay Pal through our school website [www.hpcs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.hpcs.nsw.edu.au) both of which will incur an additional 2.5% fee.

Outstanding fees, after reminders, could result in your child's enrolment being terminated.

Our school does offer the opportunity for both a family rebate and a hardship rebate if needed and if approved by the School Board. Application forms are available upon request from the front school office.

Please note that the Fee Policy was updated in 2019.

Note: All enrolments will be at the School Boards' discretion.

#### Other Policies

HopePoint Christian School ensures that students are provided with a safe and supportive environment.

#### Pastoral Care Policy

All procedures that pertain to the emotional, physical and social safety and well-being of our students are included within our Pastoral Care Policy.

These include, but are not limited to matters relating to bullying, discipline, *Student Welfare*, WH&S and Child Protection. All procedures set in place are motivated by the understanding that we are accountable to God, parents and the Government for how we disciple and care for our students. They identify issues relating to security, supervision, as well as staff and student codes of conduct. As such, our rationale and procedures

demonstrate the high value we place upon our students and how we can prepare resilient young people, who will confidently take their place in Australian society.

Our Pastoral Care Policy is concerned with providing children the modelling, training and practising of skills that will assist them to lead effective and Godly lives. To this end, at the beginning of the year, all classes participate in our personal development program: *The Chosen Generation*. This program provides children with a Biblical perspective on how we should treat one another and resolve conflicts. In the third term, all classes participate in *Protective Behaviours*, a program that provides children with strategies to keep themselves safe.

### Our School Vision

“HopePoint Christian School: Building, Growing, Empowering” and Core Values: Integrity, Unity and Compassion, have had an impact on our school in 2019.

Our vision encompasses every area of a child’s development at school. We desire to partner with parents in building, growing and empowering their children through:

- Building a solid foundation for our students, both educationally and spiritually.
- Growing - encouraging students to be continually growing in their knowledge, experiences and skills as well as in the ways of the Lord.
- Empowering them as they go on through their lives to be witnesses and living examples of Jesus in their environment and be prepared for any task or vocational area they choose.

The core values are to be at the centre of everything that is planned, decided, implemented and communicated. Our pastoral care to students is reliant on these being demonstrated by all those in the school community. They remind students, staff and parents of the standard of character and quality of relationships that should exist in our school. Throughout the year, students, staff and parents will be reminded of these values and how they would be manifested in various situations.

The full text of our Pastoral Care Policy is detailed within the School Handbook and is also available from the school office. The most recent update was completed in 2019.

### Discipline Policy

Our school Discipline Policy is a document encouraging positive behaviours. The processes of receiving merit awards, Bravo Awards, Class Awards and any extra incentives that are attached to these are identified in the policy.

There will be times when student behaviour requires corrective discipline, but this is administered in a manner that is procedurally fair and does not include corporal punishment. We currently have levelled discipline steps that the students are placed on when intervention is needed. The students are often informed of these steps and the important elements of the Discipline Policy during the year as it is a working policy that influences the school on a daily basis. The full text of the Discipline Policy is printed in the School Handbook and is available from the school office. This policy was updated throughout 2019.

### Antibullying Policy

HopePoint Christian School does not tolerate bullying of any kind. Our school has a number of strategies in place to encourage antibullying. These include: Whole school strategies, classroom strategies and procedures for dealing with bullying. Certain behaviours are not tolerated and lead to suspension. These would be in line with the School Discipline Policy, including any physical abuse that causes serious injury to another person. If a student persists in displaying inappropriate behaviour, intervention occurs. This may include counselling or being placed on a daily social skills program. Parents and caregivers are always consulted throughout the different strategies.

The full text version of our *Antibullying Policy* can be found in hard copy form and kept at the front desk of the office for full viewing. It was last updated in 2019.

### Complaints and Grievances Policy

When a member of our school community has an issue with another person, we recommend that the principles outlined by Matthew 18 be employed. The person with the complaint or grievance should approach the person who is in the best placed to rectify the situation (usually the classroom teacher). If the matter cannot be resolved, then both individuals should meet with the school principal. If this does not achieve resolution then these individuals should put their complaint in writing, addressing it to the Board Chairman. If, after this, the matter has not been resolved, then Christian Schools Australia is available to provide mediation. Whatever the dispute, we endeavour to work it through from a perspective that demonstrates respect for each other, honours God and maintains the unity of the Holy Spirit. This policy is detailed within the School Handbook and is also available from the school office. It was last updated in 2019.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

### Profile

In 2021 there were 143 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 at the school, drawn from a wide range of cultural backgrounds including two indigenous students. The cultural mix provides a rich and creative population that work harmoniously together and the school is proud of its diverse heritage.

### Attendance

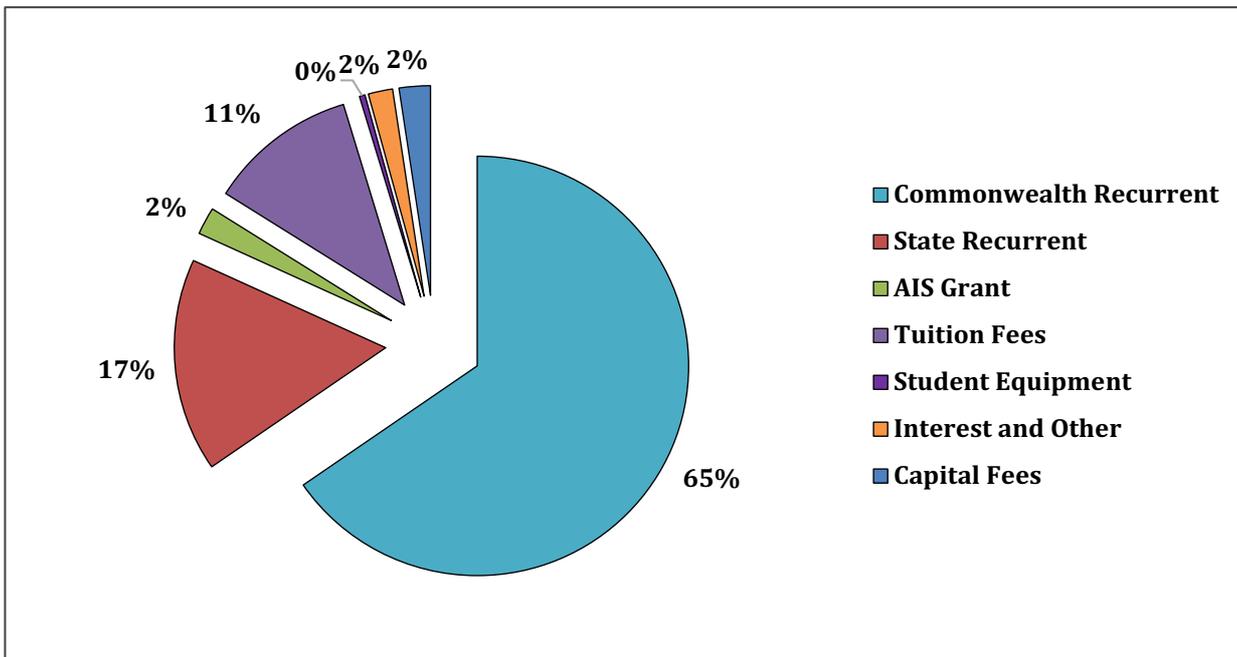
This is a table showing our school attendance percentage data for 2021.

Grade	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Average Attend. %
<b>K</b>	94%	91%	96%	89%	93%
<b>1</b>	95%	95%	100%	97%	97%
<b>2</b>	95%	92%	99%	94%	95%
<b>3</b>	91%	88%	94%	87%	90%
<b>4</b>	92%	92%	97%	93%	94%
<b>5</b>	89%	90%	94%	93%	92%
<b>6</b>	92%	90%	90%	88%	90%

Our average whole school student attendance rate for 2021 was 93%

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Income



### Expenses

