

Knowledge and Wisdom through Christ

HOPE

Annual School Report 2006

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Introduction

In late 2004 God spoke into the hearts of a number of parents, teachers and pastors from within the Macarthur district, prompting them to start a new school. One by one they were led together to join with the vision of building a Christ centred, low-cost Christian School for the fastest growing region in Sydney.

The former Macarthur Anglican School site was found to be most suitable to become our home for a short time until we venture into building an environmentally sustainable school on a new site over the coming years. Our current site is situated in the heart of Narellan and is surrounded with historical buildings and landmarks.

On Monday 30th January 2006, our inaugural 'Day of Hope' had arrived and Hope Christian School commenced delivering educational programs. Thirty-eight Kindergarten to Year Six students; numerous State and Federal politicians and many families joined with us in this celebration. Within a week we welcomed a further eight students to the school.

By the end of May 2006 we commenced a preparatory class, the aim of which is to provide a smooth transition from pre-school to kindergarten.

Hope's vision is to continue growing toward a comprehensive; Christian based; Preparatory to Year 12 program by the year 2012.

Hope Christian School Inc. (Hope) is registered and accredited with the New South Wales Board of Studies. The school is a member of the Christian Parent Controlled Schools Ltd.

A Message from the Board Chair

Hope Christian School opened it's doors for the first time in late January, 2006 with 38 students on day one. As a Board we greatly appreciate the fantastic team of teachers and administration staff God has given us, as well as the many great families who have become a part of the family that is Hope Christian School.

Currently we operate from the former Macarthur Anglican School site in Narellan, which we lease from developers, and we are currently in the process of seeking a permanent site of our own. Our Board is made up of a number of parents from the school community as well as two local ministers from the area, including myself. It is really exciting to be a part of this new school and to experience the positive momentum that is building. We are extremely grateful to all who have been a part of the journey so far and are looking forward to what lay ahead.

Pastor Mick Agius

Enrolment

We began the year with close to 40 students from Kindergarten to Year Six and within the week enrolments had increased to 45 students. Our numbers steadily increased through out the year to almost 60 students. In addition, our preparatory class numbers grew to 20 students.

In the first semester we began with a combined Kindergarten and Stage One class of 21 students as well as a combined Stages Two and Three class of 27 students. As our numbers increased steadily throughout the year our class structure changed, with Stages Two and Three in separate classes for four days a week and combined for the fifth day from Term Three. From Term four, Stages Two (now 19 students) and Three (now 16 students) were completely separated into their own classes.

Hope is a Christian, co-educational school founded by Christian parents and other Christian members of the local area, to serve Christian families and the wider community. We seek to honour God in welcoming enrolment applications from all families who desire the educational programs we provide and who are willing to actively support the school's Christian framework.

Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate was 93%.

External Testing Results

Our school's results were very encouraging overall; especially for our first attempt at the Basic Skills Test.

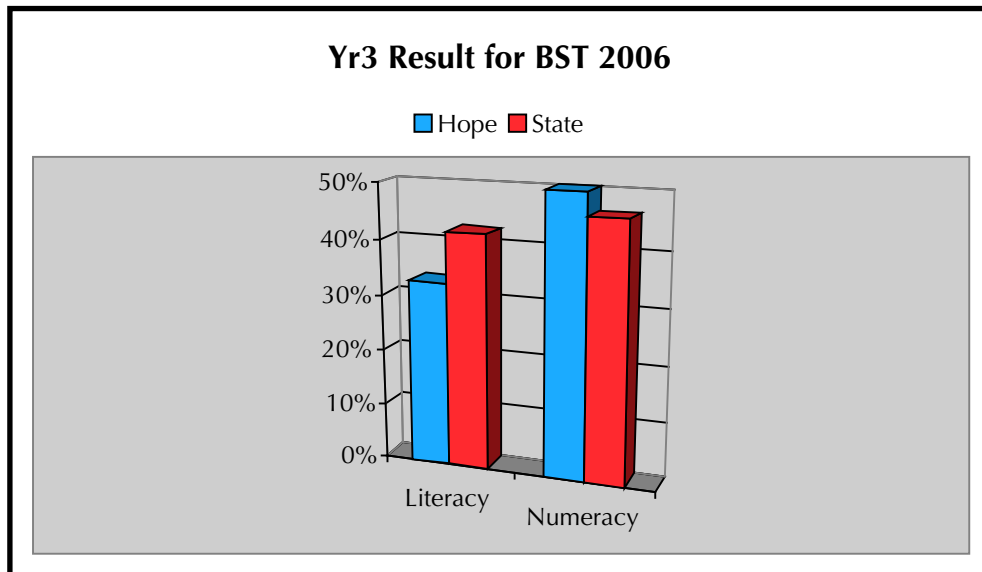
As a Christian school we focus on the whole child, believing in the importance of developing knowledge and skills together with the character of the student by providing real life experiences. These results form only a part of what we aim to achieve at Hope Christian school.

Year 3 Basic Skills & Primary Writing Assessment

In 2006 six students sat for the Basic Skills test.

Literacy	Numeracy
33% of our students scored in the top two bands compared with 42% state wide. *	50% of our students scored in the top two bands compared with 46% state wide. * (There are 5 achievement bands in this test)

*The small number of students qualifies these figures.

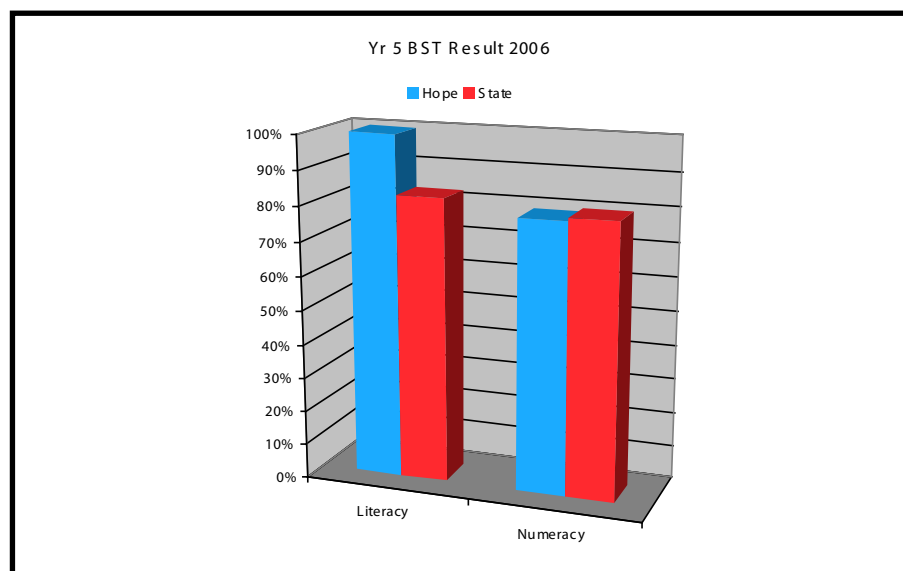


Year 5 Basic Skills & Primary Writing Assessment

In 2006 six students sat for the Basic Skills test.

Literacy	Numeracy
100 % of our students scored in the top three bands compared with 79% state wide. *	83% of our students scored in the top two bands compared with 80% state wide. *
	(There are 6 achievement bands in this test)

*The small number of students qualifies these figures.



Teaching Staff

As 2006 was our foundation year of operation we saw our student numbers grow continually throughout the year, as did the number of teaching staff. During the first three terms our school had two full-time teaching staff and two part-time teaching staff. From the beginning of term three we employed a trainee in our Preparatory department and by term four we grew to three full-time and two part-time teaching staff.

Of these teaching staff, three had teaching qualifications from a higher education institution and one had qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution, working towards the completion of a teaching degree. In the Preparatory Class one part-time staff member was working towards the completion of a Certificate Three in Early Childhood from a higher education institution.

In 2006 we had nine staff development days in which the following areas were addressed:

- Christian perspective in education
- Compliance
- School structures
- Curriculum development / KLA Scope & Sequence
- Lesson programming
- Classroom management
- Student Welfare / Discipline
- Emergency Procedures
- Managing Anaphylaxis
- Reporting to parents
- Pedagogy / best practice
- Perspectives in teaching of literacy

Teacher Attendance Rates

(N.B. HCS was a K-6 school in 2006)

Our average teacher attendance rate was 98%.

No record of teacher retention rate due to our first year in operation.

Discipline Policy

At Hope we believe that all good things are affirmed through Christ's resurrection and thus discipline is a means used by God for our growth. He uses discipline to help us grow in grace and in Christ-likeness. Therefore Hope aims to encourage Christ-likeness in our students. Hope's discipline includes fairness; time for students to be heard; opportunities for them to reflect and to achieve restoration.

Our Student Discipline Policy has a number of levels.

When things are going Right

(with a spirit of celebration)

Level 0 – A Happy, Obedient, Persevering, Enthusiastic Student.

Student who:

- Recognises God's Order
God, Teacher/Parent, Student

And so they:

- Cherish
Themselves
Their Abilities
The Opportunities given to them
Each Other
The Whole School as a community

By being:

- Respectful: God
Self
Others
- Encouraging
- Excellent / Diligent

When things are going Wrong

Level 1 – Remind

On the runTeacher

Level 2 – Reprimand

On the spot or after classTeacher

Level 3 – Recompense

Treating the students with dignity –as if they should have known better .Teacher
Parents

Level 4 – Reform

Teacher may send student to Head of DepartmentTeacher
Head of Department
Parents
Professionals

Level 5 – Refer

Teacher informs Head of DepartmentTeacher
Head of Department takes responsibility for the student.Head of Department
Parents
Board Chair

Some modifications were made to the discipline policy during 2006. The Level 0 language was changed from Relax and Rejoice to 'What a Hope Student Looks Like'. A RACE Sheet (Recognise Accept Conviction Entering the new) replaced the "D.E.A.L. with a discipline problem" proforma, to

better enable students to work through the reflection and restoration process . The RACE proforma scaffolded children through the process and provided a broader coverage of all levels of the discipline policy.

Copies of the Discipline Policies and all associated proformas are available to members of the school community from the administrative office.

Complaints and Grievances Policy

The Leadership of Hope openly receives any complaints and/or grievances held by members of the school community. Complainants should first approach the appropriate staff member through the recommended communication procedures (pre-organised interview or phone conference). In the event that the issue is not resolved at this level, complainants should then organise a formal interview with a member of Hope leadership. Should the issue escalate beyond this level, complaints are taken to the Board of Hope Christian School.

All complaints should be made using due process and will then be treated with respect and procedural fairness.

2006 Goals (Foundation Year)

1. Establish Before / After School Care program

- Active care program to be designed and appropriate staff employed
- Allocate room and resources
- Rooms to be cleaned and prepared for operation
- Booking procedures to be organised and administered
- Operation procedures to be presented to staff and parents

2. Establish Preparatory Class

- Staff employed
- Teaching and learning program to be written
- Clean, paint and lay flooring in allocated room
- Purchase and set up of furnishings
- Purchase and set up of classroom resources

3. Establish new classrooms to cater for increase in enrolments

- Allocate appropriate classrooms
- Working bees organised to clean, paint and carpet allocated rooms
- Purchase and set up furnishings
- Purchase and set up classroom resources

4. Establish Library

- Purchase of teaching and learning resources
- Accept donations of resources for library
- Purchase resources for library

5. Set up Canteen

- Establish canteen policy
- Establish healthy eating policy
- Establish volunteer staffing arrangements

2007 Improvement Targets

1. Secure a school site for building a new environmentally sustainable school
2. Establish Middle School Structure (Years 5 – 8)
3. Establish classrooms for specialist subjects (Science Lab, Music Lab)
4. Continue set up of Library facilities

Promote Respect And Responsibility

As Hope is a Christian school; all school activities are based on biblical principles. In accordance with these principles; we encourage and expect our students to learn, question and behave in a manner which reflects God's grace. At Hope we aim to provide a safe and happy school environment which honours God. In order to promote respect amongst our students; Hope's discipline policy holds high expectations in regard to student behaviour and this policy is freely available in written form for the school community to read.

To establish a strong foundation of unity, kindness, goodness and compassion amongst our student body, specific friendship units were taught early in 2006. These units focused on equipping the students with skills, knowledge and tools to make and keep good friendships.

The use of our local library facilities each week has provided a great opportunity for students to be taught actively, the values of respect and responsibility. This public facility had recently undergone refurbishment and provides a clean modern environment for our students to enjoy. Sharing books and public space helped teach our students to respect property and the people around them. Borrowing books from a community wide facility has allowed students to learn to take care and responsibility for community property by returning the books on time and in good condition.

Opportunities for students to participate with their local community helps to foster a sense of ownership; which leads to respect and honour for others. As such, a number of students from both Stages Two and Three, represented Hope in the Camden ANZAC Day ceremony.

The local Lions Club also invited students from Stage Three to participate in an international Art competition which promotes peace. Students researched global issues relating to war and then produced artworks representing scenes, symbols and images of peace.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

Hope's first presentation day was well attended by parents and grandparents, who came to share in the joy and satisfaction of our student's achievements. This high attendance was a true indicator of the great success we achieved in our first year of operation. The presentation day was a great time to reflect on all that we had achieved as a whole school community and together, to look forward to the addition of a middle school to our current K- 6 (Junior School) structure.

Students starting a new school often feel both excitement and apprehension about making new friends; getting to know their teacher and how they will fit in.. It is exciting to report on the overwhelming number of students who liked their new teachers, friends, studies and the overall school environment.

As a Christian school in its foundation year, an overwhelming number of parents agreed that Hope provided quality Christ-centred education in a caring and family environment. The staff are devoted to the vision of the school and provide a caring and encouraging environment in which children can thrive. The staff agree that high standards were set for both students and teachers and that the school's policy framework is effective and consistent with its vision and values.

Introducing opportunities for students to participate in inter-school sporting events and specialist music programs will be made possible as our student population grows. Our current small numbers make this aspect of school life difficult to administer at this time.

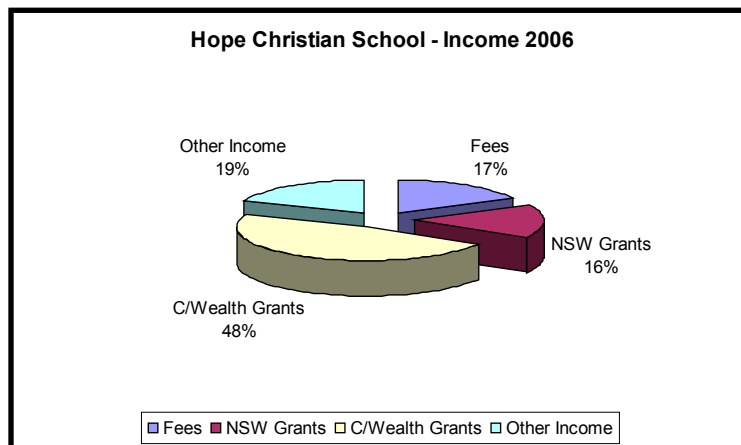
Thank you to the parent body of the school for your dedication and commitment in partnering with the school in building Hope Christian School. Your quality contribution in so many ways is considered as an investment into the future of our students.

Financial Statement - 2006

Hope CS Income 2006

School Fees	\$78,606.00
State Gov't Grants	\$71,299.00
Commonwealth Grants	\$214,893.00
Other Income	\$84,455.00

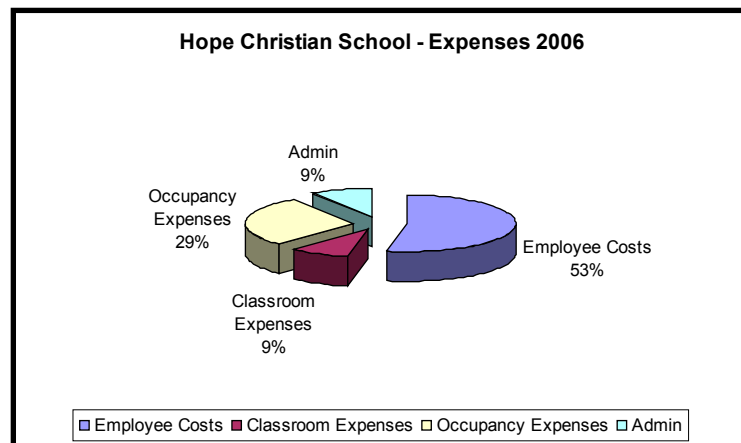
Total Income:	\$449,253.00

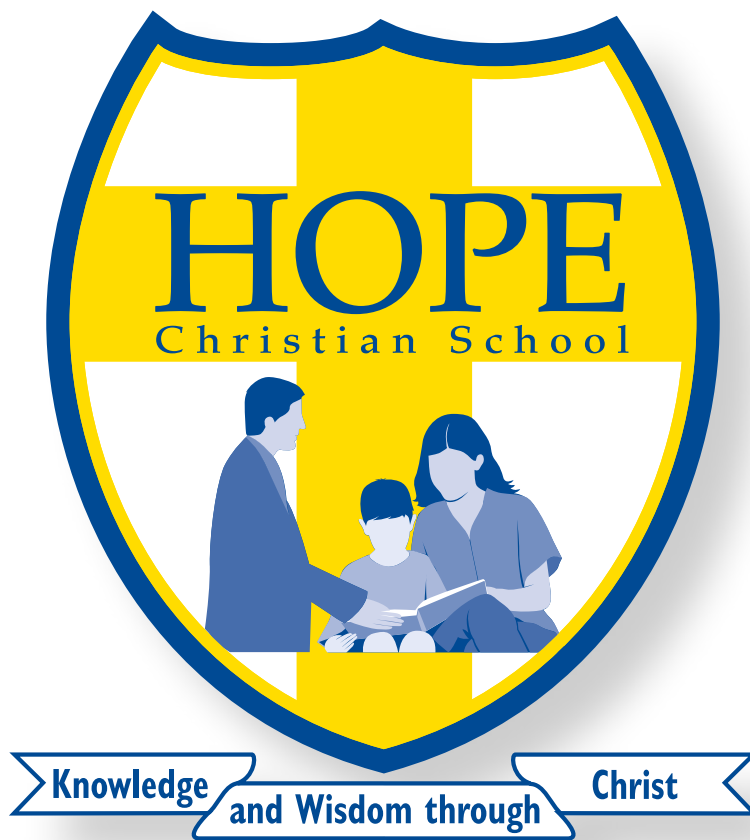


Hope CS Expenses 2006

Employee Costs:	\$246,984.00
Classroom Expenses:	\$41,397.00
Occupancy Expenses:	\$134,626.00
Administration:	\$42,916.00

Total Expenses:	\$465,923.00





The report is a legislative requirement under The Education Amendment (Non-Government Schools Registration) Act 2004.

Copies of this report will be available at the school office or on-line at www.hope.nsw.edu.au