



CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS TASMANIA

Annual Report

2021



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‘And now these three remain: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. But the greatest of these is LOVE.’

– 1 Corinthians 13:13

2021 was another challenging year for our schools in the shadow of a global pandemic. However, by God’s grace, not only did we navigate through this, but emerged as an organisation stronger than before.

Our schools have continued to record strong enrolment growth with a total of almost 1,100 enrolments across Calvin, Channel, Emmanuel and Northern. This is well above population growth and well above the internal goals we set several years ago.

Our total staff numbers have also increased to more than 200, with CST now employing over 100 qualified Christian teachers. None of this has happened by accident and we are grateful to God for His provision.

My thanks must go to our hardworking leaders, teachers and support staff across all our schools and the CST central office.

Our main priority in 2021 was to ensure our schools were safe and fit for purpose, with the necessary buildings and services in place to provide our students with access to contemporary teaching and learning spaces.

Emmanuel’s Primary classroom upgrade was completed. Rooms are now significantly larger and brighter, with additional modern storage and furniture.

We have also refurbished secondary classrooms, refreshed the Secondary Art Room and updated the inside of the Library, which now incorporates a ‘Curiosity Centre’ for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lessons.

At Calvin, a significant renovation to the Primary Multi Purpose Hall was undertaken, which included the addition of a state-of-the-art Music Room to the main building and improving the facilities as well as allowing better utilisation of space. Work also began on a new drop-off and pick-up zone and parking area along lower Maranoa Road.

The Calvin Primary and Secondary administration areas have been renovated to make entry to the school modern and welcoming. The renovations include additional spaces for parent meetings and updated amenities and staff facilities.

At Northern, we formally opened our new Kinder Precinct and Performing Arts Centre (PAC) and hosted the 2021 Gold Members Lunch in the new PAC. We also updated the school’s signage and messaging.



This included key elements of our new Vision, Mission and Values as well as a focus on a new motto, *Building Brighter Futures*. This serves to highlight the transformative difference that Christian Education has on students and the community.

Channel has continued to experience strong enrolment growth, with student numbers at Census 2021 being 13% higher than 2020, an almost doubling of students in three years, prior to Margaret Louw taking over as Principal in 2018. This has facilitated the need for new general learning classrooms, in addition to the planned new Multi Purpose Hall, Music Room and playground facilities. It is also exciting to see that a significant number of Christian families are now choosing Channel because of their excellent teaching and learning programs, underpinned by a strong Christian Worldview.

We thank God for the work that He is doing in our schools and through us, as we acknowledge and are grateful that 'we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (Ephesians 2:10) We ask for His wisdom and His grace as we continue His work.

We also thank God for our staff, who are all committed to partnering with us as we put Christ at the centre of everything we do. In particular I extend my gratitude to Him for Sarah, Dermot, Trevor, Will, Neesha-Marie, Anthony, Chris, Yvonne and Rik, together with David, Brian, Scott, Scott, Margaret and Bethany for their leadership of our organisation in 2021.

I also ask for your support and prayers as we continue our journey together.

Scott Parnham
Christian Schools Tasmania
Board Chair



'I look forward with hope and in faith, for a brighter future for each student and family who call our schools home.'

What an incredible and transformative year we had in our schools in 2021!

One of the key goals in our organisation in 2021 was to create new Vision and Mission statements and Core Values that aligned with our Statement of Faith.

To that end, we created our new VISION, which is: *'To be a transformational Christian learning community'*.

Our new MISSION is: *'To provide the highest quality Christ-centred education that prepares and equips students for life'*

Our overarching CORE VALUES are taken straight out of 1 Corinthians: *'FAITH, HOPE and LOVE...but the greatest of these is LOVE'*.

In 2021, once again students continued to benefit from modern teaching and learning approaches, dedicated staff and contemporary facilities to set the foundation for their continuing transformational learning and wellbeing.

These opportunities and experiences give our students the tools to believe in a better life, reimagine their future and to not only have their own lives transformed, but to positively impact and transform those around them. This, of course, is all done in partnership with our amazing parent communities.

Infrastructure developments and capital works programs progressed well during the year despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

During the Term 1 break, the Board and members of CST's Executive met for a Strategic Planning Day.

During this day, we looked at the needs of each of our schools from a capital works or infrastructure perspective, identifying what additional capital works each school needed in order to bring it up to a fit for purpose standard.

We also considered what direction would be best for the organisation to take over the next five to ten years, looking at both growth and consolidation strategies. During this day, I was reminded of the verse in Psalm 127 that says: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.' CST has been faithfully building this 'house'—our schools and our organisation—for the past 60 years and I believe that we haven't laboured in vain, because the Lord has been in this from the first day.



From the very start, God has been the one (and continues to be the one) building our 'house'.

In addition to the above, I am very pleased to announce that in 2021 Christian Schools Tasmania achieved certification from the Australian Childhood Foundation in relation to Safeguarding Children.

This certification demonstrates that in each of our schools we have robust policies, procedures and practices in relation to the protection of children and young people in our care.

I want to thank and congratulate all of our wonderful staff, who I see going above and beyond every day to give each child the best possible opportunity to engage and grow in their learning and character.

I also thank our faithful Association members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Vision and Mission of our organisation.

David Gillman

Christian Schools Tasmania
CEO

The Board

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Scott Parnham
Chair



Sarah Cann
Director (resigned in 2021)



Dermot Cottuli
Director



Trevor de Kievit
Director



William Downie
Director



Neesha-Marie Hartog
Director



Anthony Laning
Director



Chris Rayner
Director (resigned in 2021)



Yvonne Sypkes
Director



Rik Van Der Kley
Director

*Faith
Hope
Love*





‘And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.’

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

We rarely have the opportunity of standing still. The nature of busy lives and ever-changing environments means that we are constantly changing and adapting, whether we are fully aware of it or not.

2021 has been a year of change at Calvin Christian School. We have seen exciting physical changes to our school environments with a beautiful renewed Multi Purpose Hall, updated administration and staff areas on the two campuses, room refurbishments, and the commencement of the new Primary carpark, with more changes due in 2022. We have also experienced changes in relationships and connections as we farewell beloved colleagues and friends and welcome new members to our community.

We are a growing school, and the development of our facilities this year and full classes is just the outward sign of a vibrant school community. This was nowhere more evident than at our Oliebollen Festival. Organised at a challenging time, the effort of our School Council, Oliebollen Committee and school community in ensuring that this event ran, and ran well, was a great reflection of the heart and strength of our community.

The big obvious changes are often the things that we focus on, but education and our spiritual lives are, more often, about the deeper, internal changes that can go unnoticed by those around us. As parents, the growth and change in our children often catch us ‘unawares’.

2021 has been a year of change for our students as they have grown in wisdom, knowledge, and socially in their connections with their peers. Our prayer is that they are also growing in their relationship with God.

Our new Vision speaks of a transformational Christian learning community, a place where lives are not merely changed but are transformed.

The work of God in our community and in the lives of the individuals and families that are a part of it reflects this transformation.

God bless,

Scott Ambrose
Principal





'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

– Joshua 1:9

Emmanuel Christian School has been blessed this year as we have tried to live up to the honour of our name – 'God with us!' God has certainly been with us.

Our fully re-developed Kinder to Year 6 classrooms look fantastic. I have had leaders in other schools around the state come and look at what we have accomplished. I am grateful to the Federal Government for its financial support of this redevelopment.

Christian Schools Tasmania (CST) has also supported Emmanuel with the refurbishment of four Secondary classrooms, which has been wonderful.

Although I was incredibly proud of our community during 2020's distance and hybrid learning, it has been great to keep our educational programs running at school this year.

Our friends in many schools on the Mainland have not had things go so well.

Speaking of being proud of our school community, the Endeavour Community Health Audit results were very pleasing. Although students, families and staff made it clear we have areas to work on, the overwhelming sentiment was positive and constructive. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the paperwork that went into the preparation of the extensive report.

The Primary Production—*What We Value!*—was a great celebration of how the Bible is relevant to all of us. Students brought the Bible stories to life. With more students in the school this year across our Kinder to Year 10 spectrum, we have shared the Bible with more young people than ever.

The Bible continues to be foundational for what we do as a school.

God bless,

Scott Winkler
Principal





'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.'

— 2 Peter 3:18

If I needed to summarise the year 2021 into one word, it would be 'Growth'. We have seen God's faithfulness in so many ways this year as we stand in awe of how He has blessed us with growth in so many areas.

Growth in numbers: This is the most visible, but not the most important. It is very exciting to welcome new families into our community.

Growth in physical resources: We have an exciting Masterplan, and with God's blessing, will commence our Multi Purpose Hall in 2022, new playground and more new classrooms in the near future.

Growth in staffing: God continually blesses us with new staff who are highly professional and passionate about working in Christian education.

Growth in student learning: Staff worked extremely hard on documenting a whole school approach to teaching and learning, responding to best practices and evidence-based research in areas of the curriculum and teaching practice. With the blessing of a Learning Support Team, our students have seen huge growth in their academic outcomes, especially reading. Many students have received the professional support needed to help understand and support their unique way of learning.

Growth in identity: I have been most excited about this area of growth. Digging deep into our Vision, Mission and Values has been a journey we have taken together. Unpacking our Values and articulating what they are in our Channel context, made us clearer and more united in purpose.

With this growth we also are experiencing growing pains. How do we manage such an increased number of enrolments in Kinder? Where do we house Learning Support and After School Care as we need our one spare classroom? Where will Music go when we commence our new build? Will we find the right staff for 2022 and beyond?

Throughout this season of growth, we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus, knowing that any growth is a blessing from Him. We, therefore, ought to respond in faith, hope and love. As we remember 2021 and move forward to 2022, we stand firm on God's promises, faithfulness and trust in His goodness.

God bless,

Margaret Louw
Principal





‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.’

– Lamentations 3:22-23

As 2021 drew to a close, it was wonderful opportunity to reflect and thank God for the year we had.

Members of our school community will remember that we started the year in thankfulness.

At the first Line-Up for 2021 with all the students and staff, I highlighted that we were to be thankful to God in all circumstances and moments. I spoke to them about the inevitability of having some difficult moments at some point in the year and encouraged them to look to God for guidance and continue to rejoice and be thankful. I shared with them the following scripture:

‘Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.’

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

In 2021, we were relatively protected from COVID-19 compared to other states and territories, but we were still not able to enjoy a lot of interstate travel to see families and friends or plan our biennial Years 5 and 6 Camp to Canberra. However, it was a year where we were able to meet face-to-face as a whole school community to celebrate different events. We had challenges along the way, but God continued to be so good and faithful to us all, and His steadfast love never ceased.

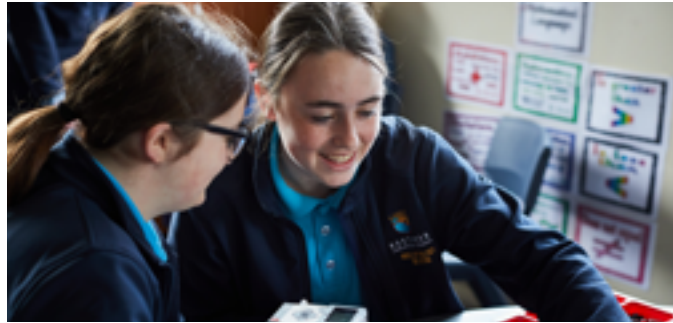
These are just a few of the things for which I was thankful to God in 2021:

- For our students: all unique, creative and made in God’s image.
- For the progress that our students made in so many areas.
- For our supportive parents and families who partnered with us.

- For dedicated and exceptional staff, who worked to provide a learning environment that delivered quality and engaging teaching programs for our students.
- For our beautiful grounds and bushland at Northern.
- For our new Vision, Mission and Values, which tell the story and express our deep hope for our school.
- For the new state of the art Performing Arts Centre and Kinder Precinct, and the opportunities that these new spaces provide.

God bless,

Bethany Armstrong
Principal



A young woman with brown hair, wearing a white lab coat, is looking through a microscope. Her hands are resting on the microscope's frame. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a laboratory setting.

Our Vision, Mission and Values

In 2021, we were extremely pleased to announce the new Vision, Mission and Values statements, endorsed by the Christian Schools Tasmania Board, that will be shared and embraced across our four schools.

OUR VISION

To be a transformational Christian learning community.

OUR MISSION

To provide the highest quality Christ-centred education that prepares and equips students for life.

OUR CORE VALUES

*FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. But the greatest of these is LOVE.
– 1 Corinthians 13:13*

Our prayer is that these statements will be lived out in our school communities and have a deep and significant impact on our culture and the way we deliver teaching and learning programs to our students.

Most importantly, it is our prayer that we allow God to continue the transformational work He is doing in each of our lives so that we might have the mind, heart and life of Christ, and be used by Him according to our skills, gifting and abilities, for the benefit of others.

'With thankfulness to God, who guided our hands and hearts, we may now look back with satisfaction to many days of hard work and steady progress. But today is not just the end of a period, it is to mark a new beginning that we have assembled here.'
— School Opening 1962



1960 | Sealing the time capsule to be opened after 50 years

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Calvin Christian School was established with the philosophy that placed parents, rather than the Government or the Church, as primarily responsible for the type of education their children received. This clear vision led to the sacrificial giving and hard work of our founding families, many of whom literally built the school with their bare hands on weekends, holidays and in their spare time.

It was always the vision of the founders to offer a Christian education to all those in the community who desired it and those others who value such an education. For this reason, Calvin's heritage strongly reflects both the diversity visible today in the school community and the unity that is found in shared Christian beliefs.

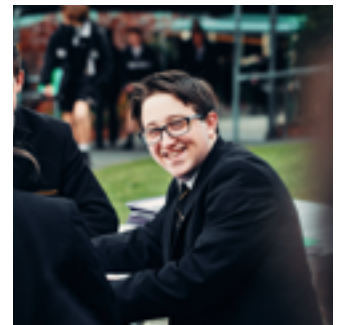
Our founders could never have imagined it at the time, but the opening of Calvin was the beginning of a movement that has gone on to establish more than eighty independent Christian schools across the country. This includes the other schools in the Christian Schools Tasmania family: Emmanuel Christian School, Channel Christian School and Northern Christian School.



CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

It is now 60 years since those first classes opened and we, as a school community, continue to acknowledge God's imprint on our past. Today, Calvin is a growing school with almost 600 students enrolled across the Primary and Secondary Campuses. This has strategically positioned the school to be able to refurbish existing classrooms, create contemporary new play spaces and ensure the delivery of quality Christ-centred education for our students and their families.

This has come as part of a renewed focus on the school's Vision, keeping it aligned with our founders' vision for education. This vision aligns with our Mission Statement to provide the highest quality Christ-centred education and is underpinned by Godly values, beliefs and behaviours. This in turn, allows for the transformational Christian growth of the school and the wider community.



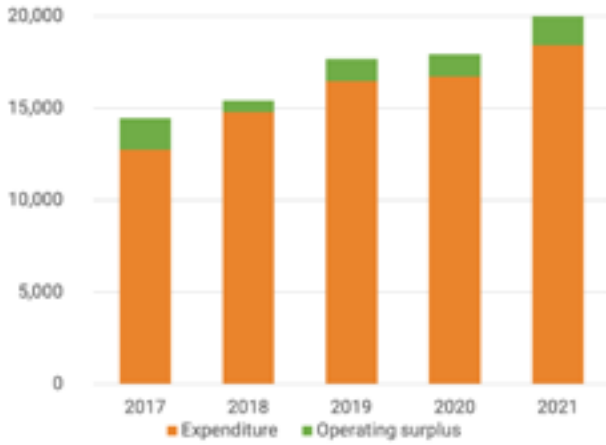
LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

The founding school families knew that God was not going to stop at the point of having established the School. The idea of a 'new beginning' was and is something to be celebrated—it speaks of hope for our children and their futures. As we look forward, we will continue to be faithful to the founding vision. This will not be without its challenges, especially the challenge to continue to maintain our distinctive Christian ethos in spite of society's changing values. We also face the task of raising significant funds for the necessary addition of new facilities and the refurbishment of the old.

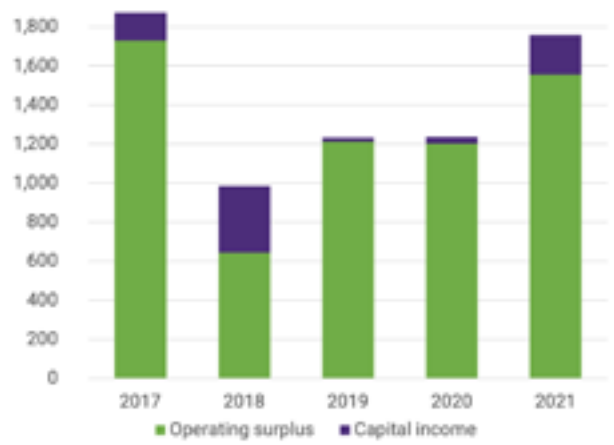
We are reminded that our community has faced many challenges over the last 60 years. During that time, God has been faithful in His provision for our school. We are also continuing to look forward with hope to the new beginning promised through Jesus, believing that He is interested in all aspects of our lives and has the power to transform our community and us as individuals. In that sense, we continue proclaiming that there is 'one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all, and in all' — Ephesians 4:6.



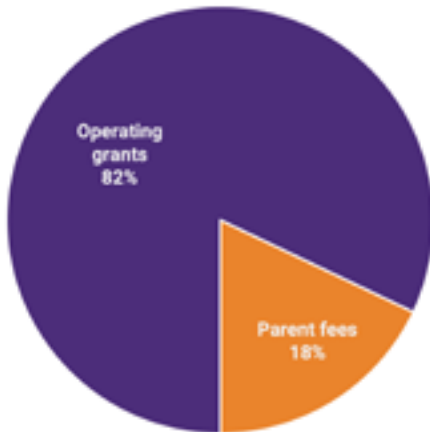
Operating income (\$'000)



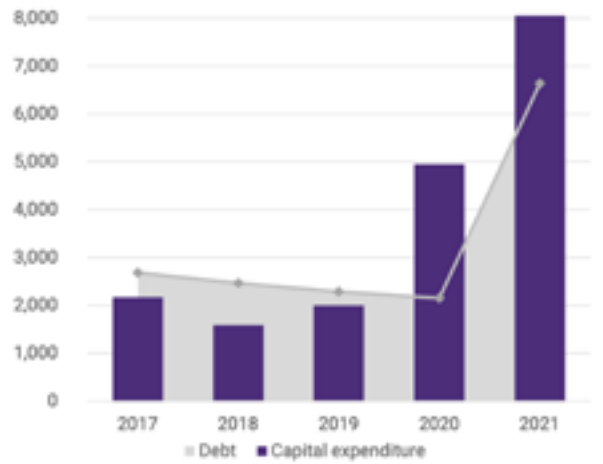
Surplus (\$'000)



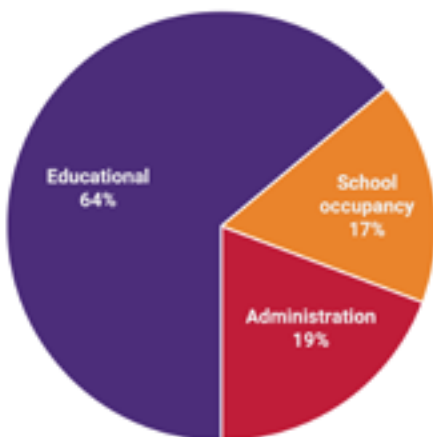
Operating income



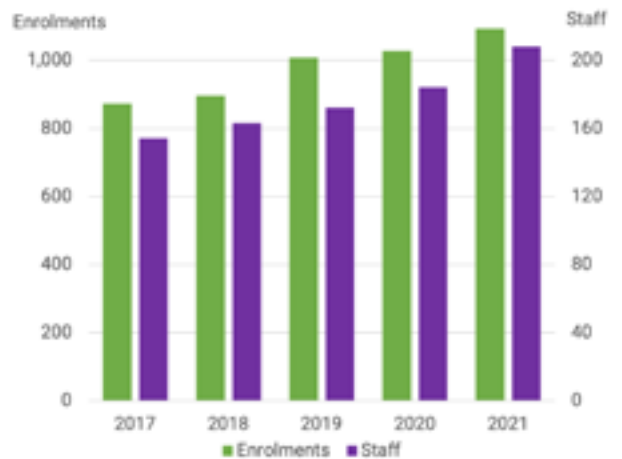
Capital expenditure and debt (\$'000)



Operating expenditure



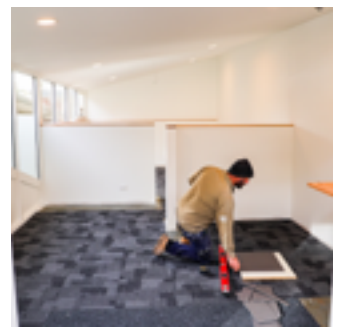
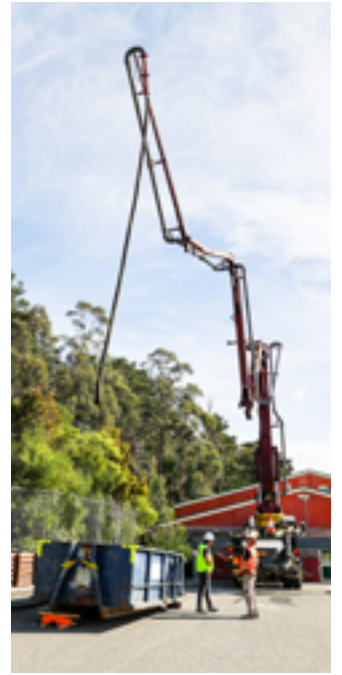
Enrolments and staff



Improving our Facilities

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2021

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Transformational Christian Learning Communities