

Annual Report for 2017

2017 was a year of continuous improvement for Little Yarra Steiner School. The new Primary Faculty building was officially opened and occupied, and work with the strategic plan focused on playgrounds and improving the outdoor areas of the school.

Parent satisfaction remains high with parents surveyed in November 2017 rated 7.8 out of 10 for satisfaction with the school overall and the level of support offered to their child, and 8.6 out of 10 satisfied with the quality of teaching. 9 out of 10 respondents would recommend the school to other parents.

Consultation and feedback from staff during 2017 demonstrated continued overall levels of satisfaction with the school.

Additionally, feedback from student exits in 2017 indicated that parental satisfaction with Little Yarra Steiner School was high with most exits due to relocation or financial considerations.

Curriculum

2017 also saw the ongoing development and implementation of the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework in the existing areas of English; History; Mathematics; and Science. Further, the learning areas of The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Technologies were recognised by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority in September 2017.

NAPLAN participation through the withdrawal of student participation by their parents was low and therefore we were provided with insufficient data to provide comparative value.

Attendance

In 2017, average student attendance for classes 1 to 10 were reported as follows:

Class 1	86.7%
Class 2	90.4%
Class 3	84.8%
Class 4	90.9%
Class 5	92.3%
Class 6	87.9%
Class 7	88.4%
Class 8	88.4%
Class 9	89.4%
Class 10	87.9%

Student numbers were stable overall in both the Primary school and Upper School for 2017. Class 12 was a relatively bigger class of 20 students in 2017 compared to 15 students in 2016. There were 24 students in class 10 and 15 students in class 11 choosing to stay at Little Yarra for the completion of their schooling.

Our class of 2017 represented our 15th year of providing the VCE with the majority of students supplementing this by undertaking and successfully completing a Class 12 Independent Project. We had two students elect to receive an ATAR and one student chose to receive a study score in English; with a median study score of 31 for the cohort. Of our graduates from 2017 100% successfully completed and received a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). All students who elected to go on to tertiary education were able to access flexible pathways and support to gain university entrance to commence in 2018.



There were few staffing changes in 2017. We said farewell to our long time kinder teacher, Jenni Smith and welcomed new assistants Tania Bittle and Ingrid Collett. Music teacher Katya Selmer also bid us farewell in 2017.

In 2017 our staff consisted of 66 individuals in 40.6 Full Time Equivalent roles holding the following qualifications:

PhD	1
Masters Degree	5
Bachelor Degree	48
With Honors	6
Graduate Diplomas	30
Diplomas	37
Certificate III	2
Certificate IV	15

These include 20 staff holding qualifications in Steiner Education.

Financially, 2017 was also a year of consistency with expenditure and income within budget and gains in fee collection rates contributing to a healthy ongoing cashflow. The summary results from our Audited Financial Statement follow:

Revenue:	
Government Recurrent Grants	\$3,652,056
Fee Revenue	\$2,035,511
Other Income	\$273,974
Total	\$5,962,296
Recurrent Expenditure (Inc. Provisions):	\$5,665,985
Capital Expenditure:	\$862,904
Operating Result	\$296,311
Cash Result	\$816,764



Overall 2017 increased our enrolments whilst maintaining fiscal responsibility. Our bus fleet comprises a camp bus and 4 route buses with regular drivers servicing four routes to Mount Evelyn, Belgrave, Warburton and Healesville.

The Capital Development and Maintenance programs have been further developed in 2017: The Primary Faculty building was completed on time and on budget, planning continued for new preschool facilities and extending our upper school facilities to accommodate future needs of the upper school students.

In summary, the school continues to work conscientiously to maintain a supportive and safe learning and work environment for our students and staff, and to provide a high quality independent K-12 Steiner education for families and their children in the Yarra Ranges and surrounds.

