



Little Yarra  
STEINER SCHOOL

## Annual Report 2021

2021 continued to be a year of challenges dealing with lockdowns and constraints due to government mandates and the response required to meet pandemic restrictions. These restrictions impacted on staff, students, and the wider community with limited ability to undertake the more traditional and normal aspects of Steiner education. This meant some innovative and divergent responses to the challenges presented with alternative modes of delivery of lessons and classroom activities. Remote schooling presented in own challenges in terms of delivery by staff and attendance by students. Whilst certain aspects of the program couldn't be delivered in a standard manner, alternative activities were undertaken to ensure the variety of opportunities for learning were presented.

Our Year 12 students continued to have the choice to undertake a year-long Independent Project or ATAR scored exams. Tertiary pathways for our non-ATAR students have been established and are available for our graduates.

In 2021 regular correspondence with parents included offers of support for those who had lost income, jobs and contact with families. The school received many letters of thanks and gratitude and more importantly maintained its enrolments over the year (as measured via the annual census) with the measured and conscious approach to student and family-supportive remote learning.

Staff welfare was also a priority in 2021 with working from home arrangements remaining in place, regular check-ins and offers of support. The school employed a part-time psychologist to offer mental health support to parents, staff and students throughout the year. Student support staffing was increased and investment in outdoor classroom staff were also put into place to offer healthy activities and extra support services when students were able



to be onsite.

## **Curriculum**

In 2021 the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework (ASCF) continued to be used throughout the school. The ASCF is recognised by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority in the areas of English, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Health and PE and Technologies.

NAPLAN participation through the withdrawal of student participation by their parents was minimal. Results obtained by this method are therefore statistically insignificant with insufficient data to provide comparative value.

## **Attendance**

In 2021, average student attendance for classes 1 to 10 were as follows:

Class 1	91.8%
Class 2	90.5%
Class 3	93.8%
Class 4	93.9%
Class 5	94.3%
Class 6	93.5%
Class 7	92.9%
Class 8	92.4%
Class 9	93.7%
Class 10	87.3%

## **Student numbers and VCE results**

Student numbers in 2021 were 146 Primary and 115 Secondary students totaling 261. Our senior students comprised 15 students in Class 12 and 11 students in Class 11.



Our class of 2021 represented our 19<sup>th</sup> year of providing the VCE with most students supplementing this by undertaking and successfully completing a Class 12 Independent Project. There were 3 students among the cohort who elected to receive an ATAR with an average ATAR of 75 and 3 other students who elected to receive a study score for English; one of whom received a study score of 42.

The median study score remained steady across time at 32 with 5.6% of students receiving a study score of 40 and over.

Of our graduates from 2021 100% successfully completed and received a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). 100% of the students who elected to go on to tertiary education were successful in gaining offers of direct entry to courses commencing in 2022.

## Staffing

Pandemic restrictions and vaccine mandates impacted on our staffing in 2021 with a number of staff not being able to attend onsite. New staff in 2021 included Maxine Harrison, Nick Harrison, Claudia Ludescher-Howells, Joe Fischer, Melissa Clarke, Ross Ingram and Phil Lemon. Staff who were bid farewell during 2021 were Domas Rukas, Jessica Parker, Leanne Sarah, Chris Brennan, Barry Sharman, Roy Rojas and Shannon Ellis.

In 2021 our staff consisted of 62 individuals in 42.6 Full Time Equivalent roles holding the following qualifications:

PhD	1
Masters Degree	5
Bachelor Degree	44
With Honors	1
Graduate Diplomas	12
Diplomas	22
Certificate IV	16



These include 27 staff holding further qualifications in Steiner Education.

## Finances

Following are the summary results from our Audited Financial Statements:

Revenue:	
Government Recurrent Grants	\$4,315,679
Fee Revenue	\$1,799,653
Other Income	\$ 195,326
Total	\$6,310,658
Recurrent Expenditure (Inc. Provisions):	\$5,963,605
Capital Expenditure:	\$2,384,144
Operating Result	\$128,188
Cash Result	\$648,204

The Capital Development and Maintenance programs in 2021 included completion of a new Prep/Preschool building opened in 2021 and upgrade of the gymnasium to a multipurpose facility (practical completion) in December 2021.

## Conclusion:

Little Yarra Steiner School continues to work consistently and collegially to maintain a supportive and safe learning environment for our students and staff, and to provide a quality independent K-12 Steiner education for families and their children in the Yarra Ranges and surrounds. Our school has excellent and satisfied teaching staff as well as a supportive parent



community. Improved facilities in 2022 and a focus on the environment, further development of the Reconciliation Action Plan and outdoor learning will support further development and capacity to provide leading edge education and facilities for our students into the future.

