



Little Yarra
STEINER SCHOOL

Annual Report 2023

2023 represented a return to a more normal mode of operation following the disruptions of lockdowns and constraints and recovery actions taken across 2022. The challenges continued managing the return to face to face classes, re-establishing the social and educational connections for students and staff. This was especially noticeable in the early years cohort who had not had the socialising norms available during the pandemic. We observed a high demand for student support services including the use of school counsellors.

The educational program was able to encompass the full camping program; a return to onsite musical performances as part of the re-establishment of “norms”. The traditional presentation of Bach’s St John’s Passion was presented at the upgraded gym / multi purpose building in a return to onsite performance.

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.

Staff welfare was also a priority in 2023 with lingering effects from pandemic restrictions, especially for those staff who had compromised health issues and vaccination concerns. The re-establishment of student / staff relationships was a priority focus to ensure learning outcomes could be met. The school employed 2 part-time psychologists to offer mental health support to staff, students, and parents throughout the year.

Curriculum

In 2023 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 2023, average student attendance for classes 1 to 10 were as follows:

Class 1	87.5%
Class 2	88.8%
Class 3	89.4%
Class 4	85.1%
Class 5	89.9%
Class 6	88.8%
Class 7	87.3%
Class 8	84.7%
Class 9	86.6%
Class 10	90.1%

Student numbers and VCE results

Student numbers in 2023 (at census) were 129 Primary and 119 Secondary students totaling 248, an increase of 20 students from the 2022 census. Our senior students comprised 10 students in Class 12 and 15 students in Class 11.

Our class of 2023 represented our 21st year of providing the VCE with 7 students supplementing this by undertaking and successfully completing a Class 12 Independent Project. Two students among the cohort elected to receive an ATAR and 4 others to receive a study score for English.

The highest ATAR was 84.75 with the next highest at 75.



The Median Study Score was 31 with the Median English Study Score at 33. The highest study score for the cohort was 41 in English and the highest ATAR contribution was 41.68 in German.

Of our graduates from 2023 100% successfully completed and received a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

75% of the students who elected to apply for tertiary education were successful in gaining offers of direct entry to courses commencing in 2024 and 25% of those received an early offer in December of 2023.

Staffing

Staff turnover was minimal throughout the year. New staff in 2023 included Neil Trezise, Lydia Burke, Jodi Cairns, Debbie Ford, Willow Harvey and the return of Shannon Ellis to the school. Staff who were bid farewell during 2022 were Rachel Sinclair, Lisa Wilson, John Haughton, Bronwyn Steventon and Beth Christensen.

In 2022 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
Graduate Diplomas	16
Diplomas	14
Certificate IV	16
Certificate III	2

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	\$4,093,364
Fee Revenue	\$1,990,935
Other Income	\$ 140,736
Total	\$6,224,508
Recurrent Expenditure (Inc. Provisions):	\$6,083,185
Capital Expenditure:	\$194,144
Operating Result	\$25,225
Cash Result	\$302,613

The Capital Development and Maintenance programs in 2023 included substantial maintenance work on buildings with the continuation of the external painting program, commencement of bathroom renovations, installation of air conditioning plant, and path & roadway resurfacing. Strong focus has also been given to grounds and landscaping to ensure a blending in with the local flora and natural land environment.

One aspect of the program was the submission of grant paperwork for the updating of the school masterplan as the first step in a review of school plant requirements.

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. 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.

