



Medowie Christian School **Annual Report 2022**



Medowie
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Well Known, Well Loved, Well Taught

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A Message from the **Board Chair**

Dear MCS Community,

As we reflect on the year that was, I am pleased to share the remarkable progress and accomplishments we have witnessed at MCS in 2022. It has been a year of stepping forward into 'normal' schooling, made possible by the unwavering dedication of our Principal, staff, students, and with the support of our vibrant parent community.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Term 1, the MCS staff team joyfully resumed the teaching and learning events that had been put on hold. Assemblies, chapel services, camps, offsite events, musicals, and competitions were gradually restored, breathing life back into our school's culture and fostering a sense of community.

Returning to school presented unique challenges for both students and staff. Many students had to catch up on missed work and skills after learning in isolation, while others found it challenging to readjust to the learning patterns and socialisation. Throughout these challenges, the MCS community grew stronger, guided by the tireless efforts of our Principal, Mrs Liz Hutton, and her executive team led by Mr Dan Weeks (Deputy Principal & Head of Secondary), Mrs Tiia Wright Baker (Head of Primary), Mr Mark Walter (Head of Operations), and Mrs Chris Salvini (Executive Assistant). Their dedication to providing the best possible learning environment for our students is commendable, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and prayers for their service to our community.

I also commend my fellow board members for their unwavering commitment to the school's progress and financial sustainability. The considerable savings achieved by MCS joining Christian Education Ministries enabled the Board to offer a fee reduction for 2022, ensuring that excellent Christian education remains accessible to more families. The Board's oversight and support have facilitated the completion of the new primary play equipment, refurbishment of the agriculture plot, and the commencement of the Block S renovation. These milestones mark the beginning of a new era for our school.

Throughout the year, the Scripture verse Micah 6:8 resonated with our community: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." It serves as a constant reminder of God's expectations for our behaviours, to exemplify justice, mercy, and humility in all aspects of our lives.

As we conclude the year, I express my gratitude for God's provision over Medowie Christian School and eagerly anticipate His plans for the coming years. Together, let us continue to strive for excellence, guided by our shared commitment to Christian education.

In His Service,



David Fyfe
Board Chair

Our Context

Medowie Christian School is a leading independent school serving the Port Stephens community. Our charter goes beyond producing great scholars, we aim to grow courageous and compassionate global citizens with truth and wisdom in Christ.

Medowie Christian School is located in the beautiful rural Hunter region (NSW).

MCS is a vibrant school that exists to serve God by meeting the educational needs of each student who attends. We are part of a network of 12 non-denominational Christian schools located around Australia. As part of this amazing network, students receive the best of both worlds. They are nurtured in a tight-knit family environment while having access to leading national and even international expertise. An example of this is the two journals, *Academica* and *Excelencia* published annually and provided to each MCS family.

MCS delivers the Australian Curriculum from Prep to Year 12, making use of twenty-first century pedagogies and technologies. It has the privilege of serving the greater Port Stephens community with students traveling from Stroud, Fern Bay, Raymond Terrace, Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens, amongst many other towns and suburbs. The true nature of our School is evident in the quality of relationships amongst our staff, students and families. There is a genuine atmosphere of care and concern for each other and respect for each of our students' unique learning journeys.

As a Christian school, students are taught resilience, persistence and optimism. The Christ centered, nurturing environment is designed to thoroughly prepare students for the challenges of life. Ultimately, we pray that our students will be a light in this world, carrying with them an enduring faith and Christ-like character that they are willing to share with others.

NAPLAN

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	447	421	422	448	414
Year 5	493	456	491	475	464
Year 7	530	502	534	524	538
Year 9	587	561	570	587	590

Further information is available at myschool.edu.au

Record of **School Achievement (RoSA)**

The NSW Record of School Achievement is a record of achievement for students who leave school prior to receiving their HSC and will be available when a student leaves school any time after they complete Year 10. The school had 7 students that required the award of a Record of Achievement.

Higher School **Certificate**

In 2022, 23 students sat for the NSW Higher School Certificate in 13 courses. In total, 100% of candidates across all courses achieved marks of 50 or more (Band 2 or higher) with 9.5% of these placed in Bands 5 and 6 (80-100 marks). Of the 2 candidates who sat for a one unit extension course 100% achieved 25 marks or more out of 50. In general, student achievement was at state level. This has been a consistent trend over the past four years.

Year 12	Qualification/Certificate	Percentage of Students
2022	HSC	95.6%
2022	AQF Certificate III or above	4.4%

Teaching staff participated in the following Professional Development in 2022:

Description of the Professional Learning Activity	No of staff participating
Dr Bill Rogers	51
Peacewise	50
Sounds Write	3
Sentral Training	All staff

Teacher Accreditation

Level of accreditation	Number of teachers
Conditional	3
Provisional	2
Proficient Teacher	37
Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0



Teacher Qualifications

Category	Number of teachers
Teachers having teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines, or	42
Teachers having a bachelor's degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications.	42

**Note that the number of teachers falling within these two categories may not sum to the total number of teachers as reported in the previous accreditation table as some teachers with Conditional accreditation may not be included.*

School Staff 2022

Teaching staff	42
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	34
Non-teaching staff	16
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	12

** Currently we have no Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff declared within the cohort.*

Student Attendance Rates

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Kindergarten	86
Year 1	88
Year 2	88
Year 3	87
Year 4	88
Year 5	86
Year 6	86
Year 7	86
Year 8	88
Year 9	81
Year 10	80
Year 11	83
Year 12	91
Whole school	86

86 percent of students attended school on average each school day in 2022. This was slightly down in comparison to the daily attendance in 2021, however as restrictions were lifted in respect to COVID-19 our attendance continued to be impacted as our community respectfully stayed at home during periods of sickness.

Students at MCS are expected to attend normal school hours every day of each term. In the event that a student is not in attendance, the School requires parents or guardians to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school.

Student attendance is monitored daily. Parents and Caregivers are notified in the instance that a student is recorded as being absent on any day for which Leave has not been previously sought and approved.

Periods of extended absence will require that a meeting be held between the family and the school to collaboratively develop strategies to support regular student attendance.

Protracted absence that is not within the framework of an Individual Education Plan developed in consultation with

the Learning support team and approved by the Principal, will lead to a review of the students enrolment.

42.8% of Year 10 in 2020 completed Year 12 in 2022.

Based on the information provided to the school when students leave it appears that many of the students who leave the school at the end of Year 10 or during Year 11 do so because of family circumstances or to pursue employment or vocational training. Most students who left school at the end of Year 12 following the completion of their school education continued to University (60%) or pursued full-time employment (13%), with a further 7% attending TAFE and 20% to other destinations.

Enrolment is open to all families who seek an education of the type provided by the MCS. Enrolment applications are received online and are processed as they are received. All applications are considered in regard to the capacity of MCS to provide an appropriate educational program to the

student. Enrolment is conditional on the family remaining current in their payment of fees and in students abiding by the uniform and behaviour requirements of the school.

A full text of the enrolment policy is available from the MCS's website.

The students from MCS represent a diverse cultural and socio-economic demographic. Students travel from all parts of the greater Port Stephens and Hunter region. There is an ethos of respect and acceptance manifested within the student body and wider community. Approximately 20% of students are part of a Defence family and we are proud to have Mrs Cork supporting our Defence Families at MCS.

As MCS's reputation for providing outstanding education in a caring and nurturing environment grows, so does the number of students. Student numbers for 2022 (Kindergarten - Year 12) were 387 (August census).



Student **Code of Conduct**

Student Welfare

Student welfare is the primary concern here at MCS. Students are placed in specific home room groups for the purpose of allowing one teacher to become a significant adult for each child - working to know that student, monitor their academic and social progress and to advocate for the student's welfare. Counseling and other support programs are promoted and MCS works in close partnership with families and with other welfare agencies and professionals to provide the best support for student welfare that it can.

Policies related to Student Welfare are available on the School website.

Anti-bullying

Our school does not tolerate bullying, discrimination, and harassment in any form.

MCS pursues a program of intervention that seeks to be educative for the perpetrator as to the emotional and psychological damage that their actions produce. The school is active in implementing preventative measures including through explicit anti-bullying components in the curriculum.

Policies related to Anti-bullying are available on the school website.

Discipline

MCS holds to a common standard of expected behaviour based on its belief of respectful relationships being the basis of community. In instances of behaviour that does not align with expectations staff implement strategies to indicate that the individual has behaved contrary to the class or the school's agreed standards. Disciplinary measures are designed to relate to the problematic behaviour, to encourage reflection by the perpetrator and reconciliation to the community.

Serious breaches of our behaviour may result in a student's suspension or expulsion from MCS. These consequences are implemented with genuine regard to procedural fairness.

Policies related to Student Welfare are available on the school website.

Complaints and Grievances

MCS seeks to resolve each issue of concern or complaint to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. Informal complaints and concerns can be raised directly with the individual concerned. Formal complaints are to be submitted confidentially in writing to the Principal and will be responded to in writing. Complaints regarding the Principal are to be confidentially submitted in writing to the Chair of the Board.

Policies related to Complaints and Grievances are available on the School website.

Student Opportunities

Serving our community is a priority for MCS. In 2022, the School worked hard to foster an attitude of generosity in students. As COVID-19 restrictions were eased, students and parents led a number of fundraisers and were given opportunities to serve at school. Projects included:

- Primary Leadership Opportunities (Playground Friends, House Captain Lunchtime Sport, Pop-up Workshops)
- Cards for Nursing Homes
- Athletics BBQ
- Medowie Makeover
- Soul Cafe

Sport

Physical activity and sport gives students the opportunity to develop lifelong physical, mental and social skills. MCS was able to offer a variety of activities to students in 2022. Many of these were made available via partnerships with local providers and/or the support of the Australian Government's Sporting Schools program. Opportunities included:

- HRIS soccer trials for primary and secondary students
- HRIS netball trials for primary and secondary students
- MTB competition
- MTB sport development camp to Thredbo Mountain
- HRIS Swimming for primary and secondary students
- HRIS Cross Country for primary and secondary students
- Northern NSW Futsal competition for primary and secondary students
- HRIS Basketball gala days for primary and secondary students
- HRIS Netball gala day for secondary students

The Arts

Creative and Performing Arts play an important role in the development of well-rounded students. Through the Arts, students are given opportunities to develop their voice and an expression of self. Events and programs at MCS that supported this area included:

- Frozen Junior Musical
- Easter Chapel Performances
- Medowie's Got Talent
- Medowie Christmas Carnival
- Nursing Home Performances

Excursions/Incursions

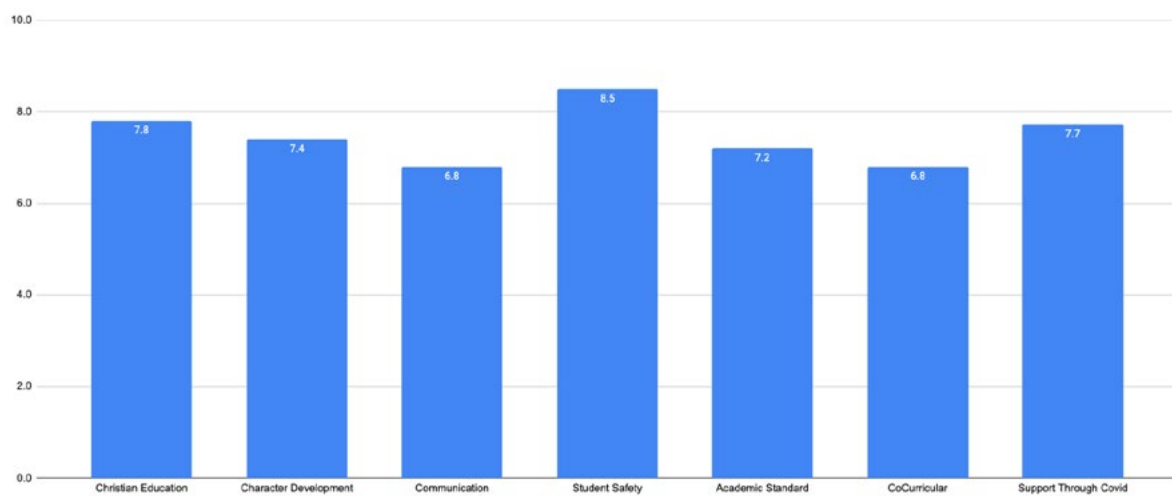
Educational excursions and incursions are important components of students' learning. They enable students to explore, enrich and apply their learning outside of the classroom. Engagement with the outside world builds confidence, promotes engagement levels and develops a greater understanding of the broader community. Activities in 2022 included:

- Excursions
- Stage 3 Camp
- Year 8 Camp
- Year 9 Camp
- Year 10 Leadership Camp
- Stage 2 - Murrook Cultural Centre

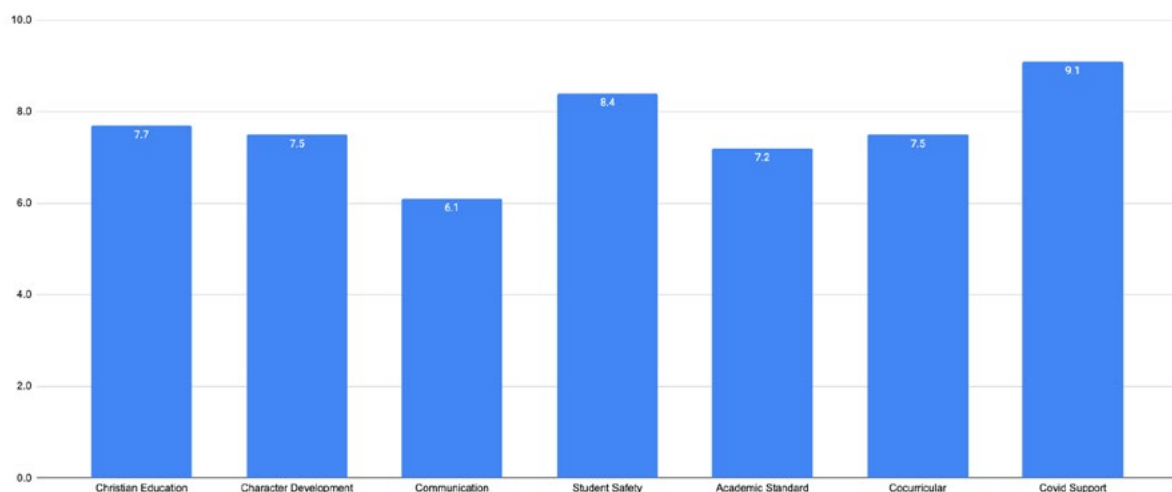
Community **Survey**

Each year MCS invites each of its stakeholders to participate in an online survey. The following parent survey gives great encouragement that the school is listening and working hard to ensure Medowie Christian School continues to listen and improve as we seek the best!

Parent **Survey**



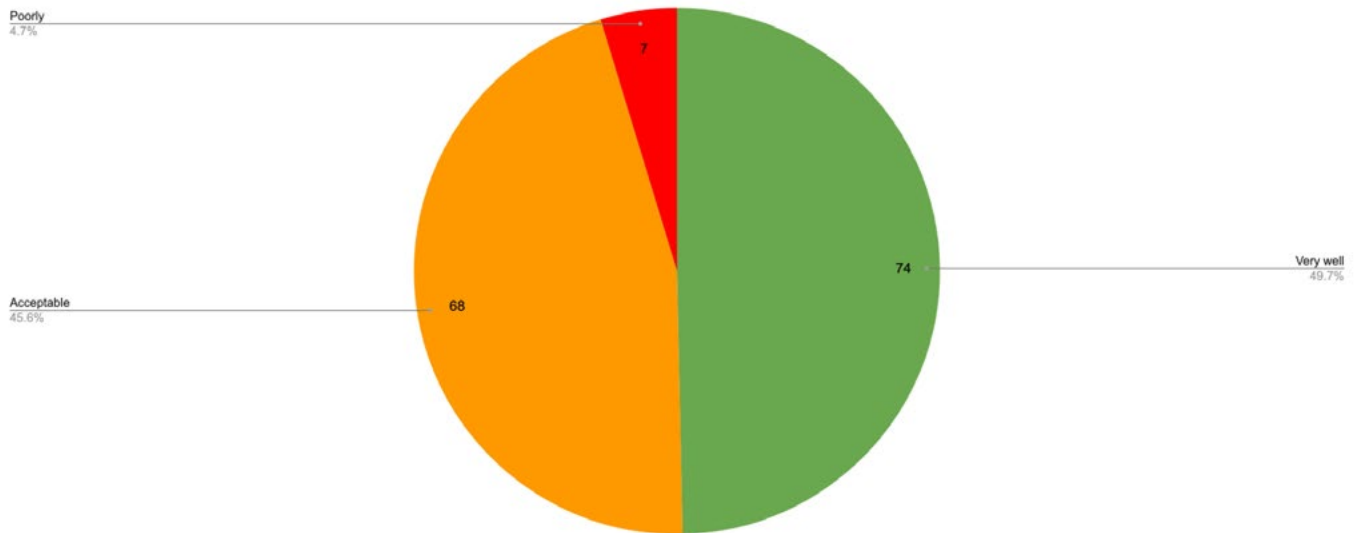
Staff **Survey**



Student Survey

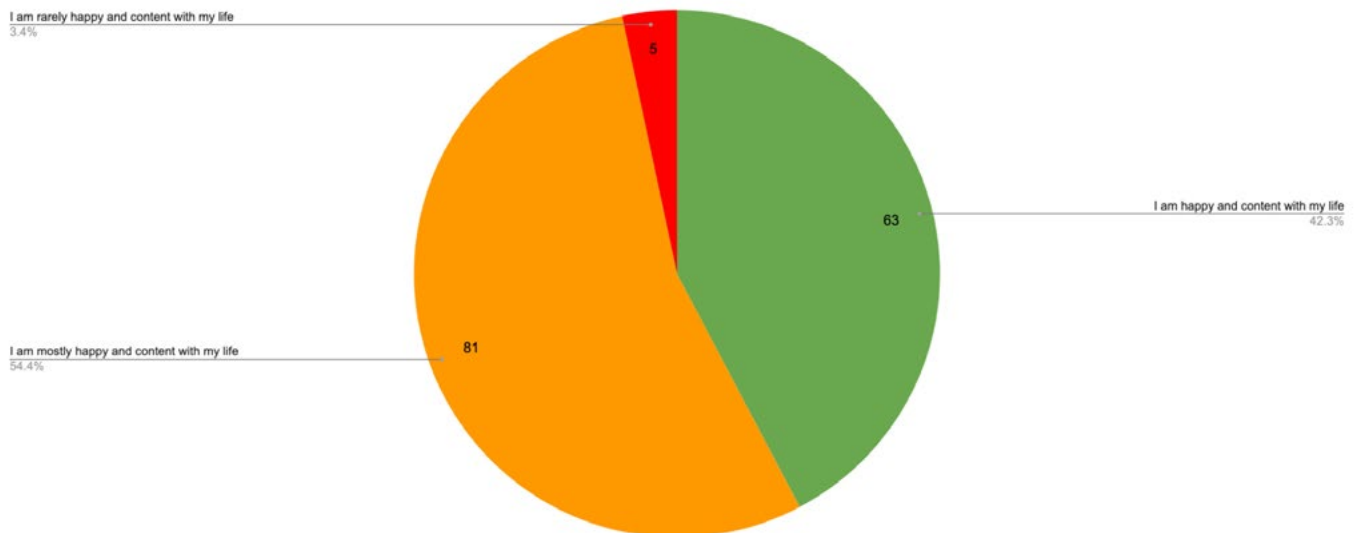
How well do you believe the school supported student learning during COVID restrictions?

On Campus 2021 Only

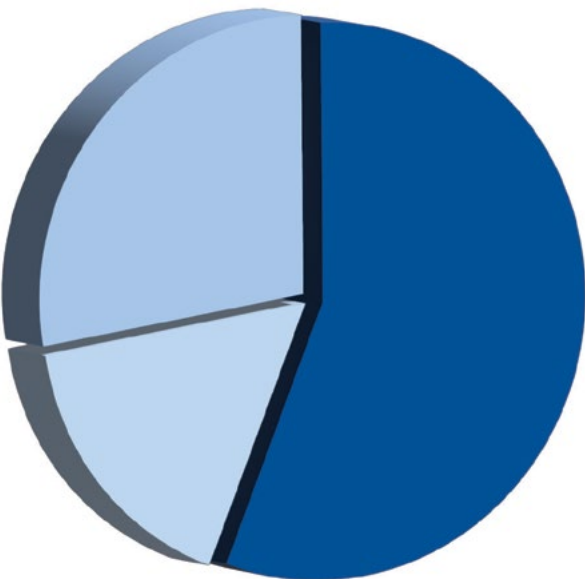


How Happy Are You?

On Campus

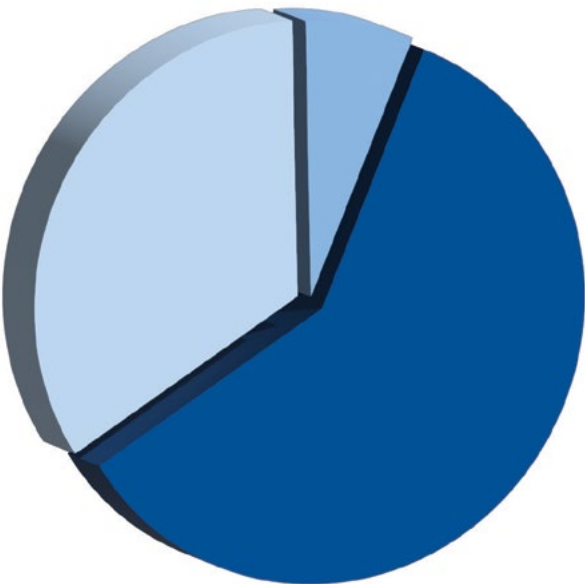


Financial Information



Income 2022

Commonwealth Recurrent Grants	\$5,205,378
State Recurrent Grants	\$1,514,624
Government Capital Gains	\$0
Fees & Private Income	\$2,531,765



Expenses 2022

Capital Expenditure	\$651,601
Salaries Allowances & Related expenses	\$5,759,832
Non Salaries Expenses	\$3,238,681



Medowie

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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