

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ADVENTIST EDUCATION
Western Australia

ESPERANCE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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# Our School

Esperance Christian School (ECS) is an independent, co-educational primary school catering for Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6. Esperance Christian School is part of a worldwide Christian Education system (Adventist Christian Schools). The school was initially established in 1979 as a single teacher school with an enrollment of only 9 students and has slowly grown in numbers and infrastructure since then.

In 2023, the school employed three full-time and one part-time teachers, two part-time Education Assistants, one full-time Administration Assistant, a cleaner, and a part-time gardens and grounds person. Our school consists of a diverse number of cultures such as Australian, South African, Sri Lankan, Columbian, Indian, and Sudanese.

# Mission

Esperance Christian School exists to provide a caring, nurturing environment where students are educated for a life of service to both God and the community. Our school encourages excellence through the balanced development of the mental, physical and social domains of each child, encompassed and nurtured through a focus on strengthening of Christian character.

# Vision

The vision of Esperance Christian School is to grow our students holistically, through a Christ based education, to flourish and serve God and the community.



# Our Values

## Respect

Value yourself and others through your words and actions.
*Treat others just as you want to be treated.- Luke 6:31*

## Effort

Work to the best of your ability and don't give up.
*Work hard at whatever you do. - Ecclesiastes 9:10*

## Compassion

Be kind and understanding of one another at all times.
*Make just and faithful decisions; show kindness and compassion to each other. - Zechariah 7:9*

## Responsibility

Make wise choices and be accountable in all situations.
*We each must carry our own load. - Galatians 6:5*

## Service

Put the needs of others first and lend a helping hand.
*Serve each other with love. - Galatians 5:13*

## Hope

Be optimistic and confident about life, even when things are difficult.
*For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11*

## Resilience

When things don't go right, keep your chin up and stay positive.
*Christ gives me strength to face anything.*
*- Philippians 4:13*

## Humility

Do not think you are better than others. Treat everyone with dignity.
*Be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. - Philippians 2:3*

## Integrity

Do the right thing even when others aren't watching.
*If you do the right thing, honesty will be your guide. - Proverbs 11:3*

## Discernment

You are free to make your own choices, but be wise as there consequences for all actions.
*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, an right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. - Philippians 4:8*

## Justice

Always be willing to stand up for what is right, and those in need.
*Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. - Isaiah 1:17*



## Special Character

The Special Character of Esperance Christian School is deeply embedded in every aspect of school life. This Special Character upholds the values of God, and provides opportunities for students, staff and the school community to be involved in worship and praise, and to demonstrate inclusion, care and compassion.

## Our Key Strengths

- Our small class sizes encourage strong relationships between student and teacher.
- Our learning environment is based on Christian values, and enables students to feel safe and valued, allowing them to prosper and flourish.
- We endeavour to meet the emotional needs of every student.
- Students engage in holistic learning activities that ensure each child's intellectual, spiritual, social and physical needs are met, encouraging them to do their personal best.
- A combination of whole-class and small-group teaching allows us to meet the needs of each student regardless of the level they are at.
- Our school promotes individual creativity, allowing the growth of God-given talents and gifts.

## Goals

The primary goal of the Esperance Christian School is to provide each student with a safe, nurturing and Christ-centered environment in which they can learn and grow. Intentional emphasis is placed on developing all aspects of each student in a secure, yet challenging atmosphere, that allows them to thrive.

Our school seeks to provide a vital hub, integral to the welcoming, inclusive, family-based community. We promote this Christ-centred culture by encouraging parent involvement; providing student leadership opportunities; developing community relationships; and by enabling the development of life skills in students.

We aim to provide an environment where students can come to know Jesus and model their lives on Him. A place where students respect God and their neighbours, whilst developing a desire to learn and strive to the best of their abilities.

# Staff Information

Our staff are from many diverse backgrounds. We have four staff of Australian origin, two of South African origin, and one from Tonga. And our chaplain is from Samoa. There are no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders currently employed.

Every teacher takes advantage of many professional learning opportunities throughout each year. The focus of these opportunities is to support the Esperance Christian School goals, and enhance student achievement in all aspects of life.

During 2023, staff participated in the following professional learning experiences:

- Quality Adventist School Framework
- Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum
- Code of Conduct
- Mandatory Reporting
- SEQTA unit planning
- Renaissance (Literacy)
- Keeping Children Safe
- EYLS intro and advanced
- +6 Early years teachers
- Mentoring and coaching
- Building Cultural Capacity
- Talk 4 Writing
- Instructional Coaching in Action
- Renaissance Introduction

# Pastoral Care

The National Chaplaincy Program provides funds that allow us to engage the services of a part-time chaplain, Pastor Ben Cowley. The primary purpose of the chaplain is to develop resiliency in students and provide student, family and community support as needed. In 2023, our chaplain provided classroom intervention and support, chapel services, and engaged students in physical activity in the playground.

# Social and Emotional Care

Staff at Esperance Christian School value all students, and endeavour to support their ongoing needs. Staff strive to support the development of students social, emotional, and mental health.
The 'Keeping Safe: Child Protection' programme is the basis of our Child Protection Curriculum, presented to each class throughout the year.

| Name | Position | FTE | Qualification | TRB Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delys Rogers | Principal | 0.8 | B Ed | 32022204 |
| Sonja Sutter | Teacher PreK- Pre-Primary | 1.0 | B.Ed (ECE) | 33072500 |
| Marelize Bester | Teacher - Yrs 1, 2, 3 | 1.0 | BA.Comm GradDip (Teaching) | 33126659 |
| Caitlin Curran | Teacher - Yrs 4, 5, 6 | 1.0 | B.Ed (Primary) | 33123136 |
| Pr Ben Cowley | Chaplain | 0.5 | BA (Theology) | N/A |
| Rhonda Wohling | Administrative Assistant | 0.9 | Certificate III Teacher Assistant | N/A |
| Laine Cowley | Education Assistant | 0.8 | B.Ed (Secondary) | N/A |
| Sue Thomason | Education assistant | 0.2 | B.Education | 32015740 |

# Staff Photos



Mrs Delys Rogers
Principal



Mrs Sonja Sutter
Teacher
Pre-Primary & Pre-Kindy



Mrs Marelize Bester
Teacher Years 1, 2, 3



Miss Caitlin Curran
Teacher Years 4, 5, 6



Mrs Rhonda Wohling
Administrative Assistant



Pr Ben Cowley
Chaplain



Mrs Laine Cowley
Education Assistant

Mrs Sue Thomason
Education Assistant

# Curriculum

The Esperance Christian School plans and implements teaching and learning activities that fully align with the requirements of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority of Western Australia.

The Early Learning Program is aligned with the national Early Years Learning Framework, the Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the National Quality Standards.

The school's 'Whole School Curriculum Plan' is developed through teacher consultation and collaboration, and covers all learning areas of the curriculum of Western Australia.

Esperance Christian School currently offer Spanish as the Languages Other Than English, with a trial program run by a native Spanish speaker.

Choir and drama play a major role in our Arts program. In 2023, Esperance Christian School choir won first place at the Esperance Music Festival for the 12th consecutive year, with only shut down in 2022 interrupting this success story.

Esperance Christian School acknowledges the importance of a healthy lifestyle. A minimum of two hours physical activity per week is included in the school sports program and health education an integral part of our whole school approach to wellness.




The 'Stepping Stones' Maths program is used as the basis for teaching Maths in year 1- 6. This program provides huge scope for the teachers to prepare and implement explicit instruction and hands-on activities that relate to real-life experiences.



Our English program utilises resources such as SoundWaves, ABC Reading Eggspress Comprehension and Grammar, Renaissance Reading, and Talk for Writing to deliver optimal learning outcomes.

Students are provided with one-to-one access to iPads to learn and extend their technology knowledge and skills. The concepts of programming and coding are taught through use of Bee-bots, Lego Technic, and other robotic resources.

History, Geography, and Science, are taught in an integrated way, to ensure that all requirements of the WA Curriculum are met. We use resources such as the Australia Virtual Museum, Scitech Teaching kits and ClickView to support our teaching.

# Parent Body

Our parents are a valuable part of our school community. They contribute their skills and talents, promoting our school values, and demonstrating a caring, inclusive ethos with our students and our extended school community. In 2023, parents were involved in many different areas such as:

- Assisting with the planning, preparation and catering for our school sports carnivals
- Assisting with the running of the school canteen
- Providing organisation and support of various functions, such as Father's and Mother's day sales.

# School Perception Survey

In 2023, our school participated in an annual school perception survey. The results of the survey present a reflection of the culture in our school community, and to help to guide the future direction of the school. Survey data from 2023, reflected an overall improvement in student well-being, previously identified as an area of concern for our school.

# Student Attendance

School attendance is actively encouraged by all our school staff. When a child is absent from school and the school has not been notified, a phone call to the parents/guardians is made. This is to ensure that the student is absent with parent/guardian knowledge. A note or phone call from parents is required, and if this is not received a follow up note or phone call from the school will ensue.

# Progress Against Identified Priorities

In 2023, staff members have continued to focus on quality improvement. We are implementing the Quality Adventist Schools Framework and National Quality Standards processes. Staff also participate in a reflective process on their teaching and learning practices and gather evidence to inform future directions in professional learning and practice.

Assessment data gathered from NAPLAN and ACER PAT testing is used to inform Literacy and Numeracy teaching and learning, with an focus on grammar and spelling in the Literacy area during 2023.

During 2023, a specific priority has been improving student well-being. Our approach has involved enhancing our caring and nurturing environment, through a purposeful focus on student and staff well-being, and extending this approach to a whole school level. Our ongoing focus on well-being will ensure our mission, vision and values are a consolidated part of our school culture.

Our differentiated curriculum helps students to thrive. Through Professional Learning, staff are able to support a learning culture that encourages students to apply their personal best efforts.
Where applicable, we will continue our focus on Individual Education Plans, to better address specific student needs.

We will continue to increase achievement levels, through implementation of a variety of activities and resources, applying evidence based pedagogical practices, such as explicit teaching and small group interventions.

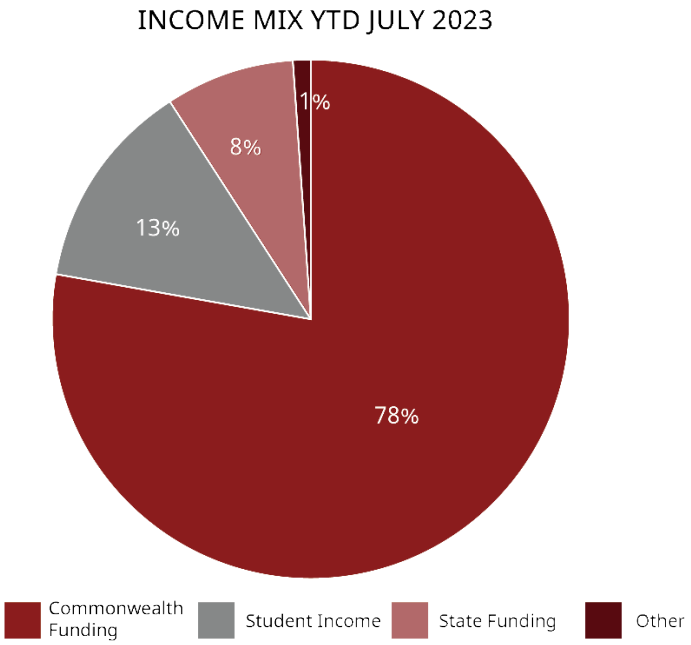


# Student Progress and Achievements

The staff members at Esperance Christian School are proud of the academic and behavioural achievements of our students and continue to strive to improve all aspects of our teaching and learning practices.

- 2023 NAPLAN Results - Predominantly show improvement.
- ACER PAT standardised testing (Year 1 to 6) is used to inform teaching and learning.
- During 2023 our students were involved in supporting different charities as part of the service component of our Special Character. Students are encouraged to express empathy for those who are less fortunate, and to discover ways they can contribute to the welfare of others. This included involvement in fundraising for Epilepsy, Asthma Foundation, the Lions Club of Australia, Adventist Development and Relief Agency and various organisations supporting cancer in WA.
- Throughout 2023 students received training for and participated in: athletics, swimming, tennis, and soccer. Tennis and Soccer coaching was funded by the National Sporting Schools program.
- School Choir - In 2023, the Esperance Christian School choir won first place at the Esperance Music Festival for the 12th consecutive year, with only lock down in 2022 interrupting this success story.

# Financials











# Principal Message

This Annual Report for Esperance Christian School 2023 reflects a year of change in many areas of the school. We have seen the change of some Teachers and Education Assistants and the return of a teacher who was on special leave last year. They have all worked together with enthusiasm and energy to make the classrooms vibrant with new pedagogy and a focus on individual student excellence. The ability to work as part of a team for the students has produced a strong relationship between them. The result has been personal growth, social skills and application of the school values in the way students interact in the classrooms. The students have learned to make good choices and to support each other to achieve success.

Staff have used strategies of rotational activities and balanced sessions of explicit teaching in small groups within their classrooms. This has been to good effect in students learning about and employing self-motivation and directed learning. An integrated approach to curriculum has also been demonstrated in the innovative use of art in various forms in the classrooms. There is a growing use of "whole school" curriculum development. Creativity is encouraged but balanced with the basics as a place to begin the learning challenge.

Our school participated in the interschool (Mallee) Sports Carnival which we hosted this year. Swimming lessons were part of the sports program for the whole school for Term 2. In Term 3, all year levels participated in Tennis coaching which has become a leisure choice now for some students. Term 4 will be assigned to a program of soccer coaching for all students. Our students from Year 1 to Year 6 all participated in the Esperance Music Festival and were judged as the winners of their category of school choirs. We were thrilled to win the trophy for this for the twelfth year in a row. The NAPLAN standardised testing took place in Term 1 and we were happy to notice the improvement in the areas where there had been emphasis since the testing last year. We were encouraged by these positive trends. We engaged in the Week of Worship and enjoyed the messages from Mrs Litiana Turner who shared the theme "Be The Change".

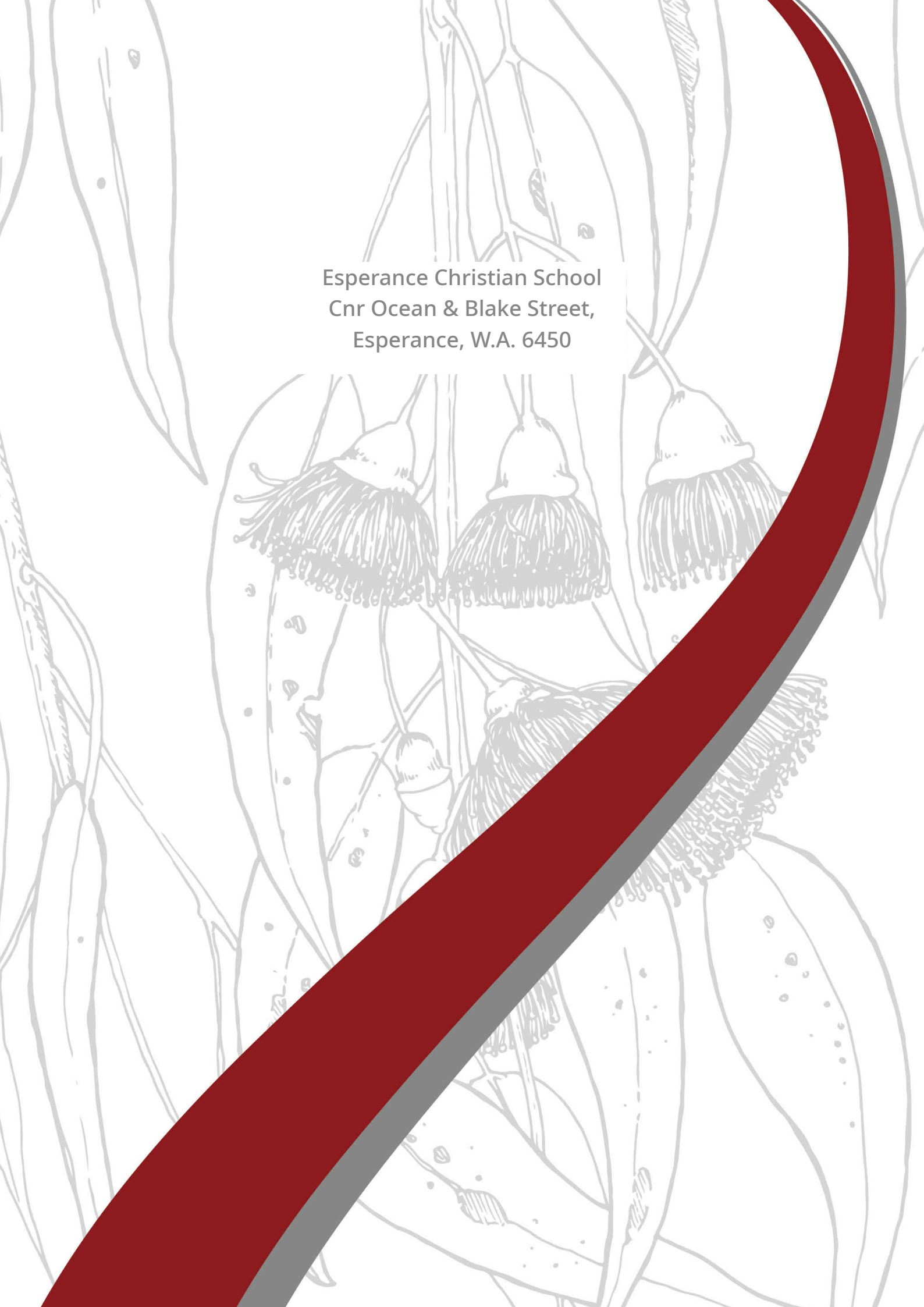
We thank the many people associated with our school; staff, students, parents and the wider school community, for their strong commitment to this school. Their dedication, effort and support is appreciated. This year our Home and School committee, and amazing school canteen, enabled and catered for a various events and fundraising. We have used some of these funds to partially supplement the costs of some school events that supported the understanding of the curriculum in our local environment.

This year there have been many educational and news articles supporting the benefits of small classes and small schools. The advantages listed in these publications are already appreciated by our staff and the school community. Our small class numbers, continue to allow our commitment to students with individual needs. Our school continues to constantly review our educational practices with the view to continual improvement.

Our mission remains to provide the best possible caring and nurturing environment for our students, educating them for a life of service to both God and our community.

To arrange an interview or tour, please feel welcome to contact the school and make an appointment. You are welcome to share our thriving environment and school community.

Mrs Delys Rogers
Principal



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