



**PALMERSTON
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**

Palmerston Christian School 2021 Annual School Report



Location: 50 Waler Road, Marlow Lagoon NT 0830

Postal: PO Box 113, Palmerston NT 0831

Telephone: (08) 79225600

Email: admin.pcs@ntschoools.net

Website: pcs.nt.edu.au

Vision Statement

The vision statement of **NT Christian Schools** is:

'We desire to be a Christian community, learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world'.

The mission statement of **Palmerston Christian College** is:

'To serve families through the process of nurturing and educating children in an environment where Christ is central; thereby enabling them to be the people that God has called them to be'.

Principal's Message

The year started with the demolition of the original school buildings. These buildings had served the school since 1988 and symbolised the history and memories of Palmerston Christian College. This demolition created space to begin construction of eight new purpose built classrooms. A construction site in the middle of the campus, all year, ensured a year of disruption and inconvenience. The completion of the facilities will be a wonderful new addition to the school facilities in 2022. I wish to thank all the teachers and children who were directly or indirectly affected by the yearlong construction process. Their sacrifice and flexibility is valued and appreciated.

It was exciting to start the year with the first ever, Year 11 students of NTCC based on the PCC campus. This is the fulfilment of a long held community goal. There were four boys enrolled in this pioneering year group. This cohort will be the first students to graduate from the Palmerston Christian College campus in 2022. The total enrolment of Palmerston Christian College, increased by 24 students in 2021 compared to 2020. Enrollment is expected to continue to increase as the secondary programs of Palmerston Christian College grow and develop.

In keeping with the growing programs and expansion to Year 12, on the Palmerston Christian College campus, the School applied and received permission to change the school name to Palmerston Christian College. As of March 2021 Palmerston Christian School became Palmerston Christian College.

Palmerston Christian College engaged in the Routine Assessment of school registration as required by the Educating Act. This review takes place every 5 years. On the 22 September 2021 the Registrar Non-Government Schools provided a report and the following outcome; "The college is meeting its registration requirements under the Education Act 2015 (NT). It was good to do a review and again receive a positive outcome.

The COVID 19 pandemic remains an ongoing and significant impact on the school community. PCC was able to press ahead with school camps and sports carnivals bringing a normality to the calendar, which was lost in 2020. Only our grade 7 camp did not progress as planned due to COVID restrictions and



impact. We adjusted the program for year 7 to adjust for this change. The NT Government announced a critical incident when locking down the Darwin region. This necessitated a middle of school day closure of school. This unusual critical event, was masterfully managed by the PCC team, who again went above and beyond in terms of student care and wellbeing. PCC lost seven staff in total to the NT Government COVID mandates. Whilst we managed to have sufficient replacements for front line staff, we finished the year understaffed and this placed a strain on personnel resources and affected classes where staff change at the end of the year was required. Recruiting good Christian staff to serve in the PCC ministry remains a prayer item moving forward.

Palmerston Christian College has thrived in 2021 despite the impact of construction and COVID. As Principal, I believe this is because we have kept our focus and reliance firstly on Christ; secondly caring for each other's wellbeing; thirdly ensuring a focus on the educational priorities of student learning.

2021, Was a year of building towards the next phase in the story of Palmerston Christian College. We are building new classes; starting new senior school programs; creating new pathways for students; as we continue to unfold the story that is Palmerston Christian College. I look forward to what 2022 holds in store for this thriving Christian school community.

Ken McAllister

Principal

Contents

Vision Statement.....	1
Principal's Message.....	2/3
Contents.....	3
Staffing Information.....	4
Highlights of the School Year	6
Parents and Community	7
Facilities	7
Critical Incidents	8
School Self Assessment.....	9
Goals achieved from 2021 SIRF	10



Staffing Information

All teachers have a minimum of four years training and are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

PCS Staff - 2021

Position	First Name	Surname	FTE
Principal	Ken	McAllister	1
Teaching and Learning	Emily	Shea	1
People and Culture	Tracy	Ronnfeldt	1
Administration	Chris	Kirkham	1
Administration	Kathryn	Beazley	1
Administration	Christine	Pardon	1
Administration	Shiane	Hawke	0.8
Administration	Halie	Bignell	0.2
Caretaker	Janelle	Fisher	0.2
Library	Chris	Macrides	0.8
Library/Science Tech	Lara	Kershaw	0.8
Science Tech	Urmi	Dais	0.4
Indonesian Teacher	Dom	Modoh	0.4
PE Teacher	Johan	van Leeuwen	0.4
DSM	Alice	Kempster	0.8
Student Wellbeing Officer	Jane	Foster	0.4
Primary School			
Lower Primary Leader	Samantha	Hickman	1
Upper Primary Leader	Leisa	Beynon	1
Transition Teacher	Gweny	Thomsen	0.8
	Liz	Ezzy	0.2
Transition Teacher	Sharon	Fishlock	1
Year 1/2 Teacher	Samantha	Hickman	1
	Stefanie	Mainey	0.2
Year 1/2 Teacher	Rosemary	Kariha	1
Year 2/3 Teacher	Gwyndelyn	Camigla	1
Year 3/4 Teacher	Andrew	Boutillier	1

Year 3/4 Teacher	Bek	Tooler	1
Year 4/5 Teacher	Marc	Schmidt	0.8
Year 5/6 Teacher	Leisa	Beynon	1
Year 5/6 Teacher	Lani	Grieves	1
PS Music Teacher	Helen	Wootton	0.4
Middle School			
Secondary Leader	Danielle	Jessup	1
Year 7 PCG	Jill	Carter	1
Year 7/8 PCG	Jeff	Kapi	1
Year 8 PCG and SRC	Danielle	Jessup	1
Year 9 PCG	Jessica	Carson	1
Year 10 PCG	Richard	Carter	1
Year 11 PCG	Richard	Carter	1
Middle School Teacher	Ana	Abbott	0.6
Middle School Teacher	Biju	Mani	1
MS Art Teacher	Michael	Manwaring	1
Education Support			
Special Education	Cynthia	Chapman	1
Special Education	Michael	Manwaring	1
TA	Arlene	Fuller	1
TA	Genelene	Macabuhay	1
TA	Marcus	Forsyth	1
TA	Leah	Merritt	1
TA	Lydia	Mitchell	0.8
TA	Kat	Muller	0.6
TA	Nomvula	Ndlovu	0.2
TA	Sheila	Brown	1
TA	Whitney	Jones	0.6



Highlights of the School Year

There were challenges to all events as we navigated and sought to be compliant as a school community with the direction and advice of the government. We did our best to protect the community and comply with government direction. Given that the Territory was mostly COVID free for 2021, we were able to continue with a number of activities.

It was wonderful that we were able to have a swimming carnival in 2021. We returned to the format of a sunset carnival. It has been more than a decade since our last sunset carnival as a school. The weather was perfect, the student attendance was high and the parent support was so much better than a gala during school / work hours. A great success which we will repeated in the years ahead.

We upgraded our athletics carnival at the Marrara Athletics stadium. For many years, we have held the carnival at the Marlow Lagoon and had to ensure the logistics of a carnival was ensured, on a grass oval with no facilities. This athletics event at Marrara Athletics facility gave the students a real world athletics stadium event with far less logistical complications. I expect we will continue to leverage the athletics stadium for many years to come based on this successful event.

The outdoor education program roared back into life in 2021. We held a Year 3 & 4 combined sleep over at school. This was a great opportunity for these students to camp at school and explore some of the highlights in Darwin. The 5/6, and Year 8 camps were a great success. Our Year 9 class was able to have the proper Larapinta experience. Going to Alice Springs and hiking the West McDonnell Mountains is a tradition and highlight for students as they engage in their Duke of Edinburgh and Rite Journey learnings in Year 9. It was wonderful to again be engaging the students in learning beyond the confines of the school.

Academically we welcomed the start of the senior school, Year 11 on the PCC campus. The start of the SACE at PCC is the realisation of a community desire for many, many years.. The ability for students to complete their schooling on the PCC campus has been a lack in the college academic offerings. In 2022 we expect to have our first Year 12 graduates. The pioneering class, of 4 students, mark a significant milestone in the development of the college.

Enrolments increased by 24 students in 2021 compared to 2020. This occurred mostly in the Middle and Senior school, which correlates with the start of the senior school offering on the PCC campus.

It was also wonderful to have our end of year Thanksgiving Service where we reflect on the year and recognise the achievements of the year.



Parents and Community

We continued to struggle with not being able to hold community events from school assemblies to other whole school events. This has meant that the rhythms of community engagement has been disrupted and impacted negatively in 2021. I am confident in the strong culture of parent volunteering will not be negatively impacted for long but has taken a temporary hit.

The parent community was highly satisfied with the support of the school and the focus on ensuring students have strong academic outcomes. The community satisfaction is evident in student enrolment and departure data. Positive word of mouth from the parent community is a significant contribution to the enrolment growth PCC enjoys. This trend of enrolment growth is expected to continue in 2022.

Parent survey feedback is especially positive about the safety of students as well as the pastoral care of the college for students. Whilst feedback remains positive in all areas, some parents indicated a desire to see more extension programs at the college for gifted students.

Facilities

The Year began with the demolition of the original classrooms being completed after the 2020 start. These demountable rooms have been used consistently since 1988 to provide for the education of Palmerston students. The demolition was funded by the federal grant from the Building Grant Authority (BGA). It has been a year long project to build eight new classrooms in preparation for 2022.

Additional refurbishment has occurred in 2021 to prepare for 2022; refurbished front office area; refurbished staffroom; repurposed computer room to be a staff work room; grade 9 class refurbished to be a computer room; refurbished staff office to be the Education Support room for Secondary students.

Maintenance of the facilities and grounds is centralized between the three Darwin based schools of NT Christian Schools. The team has ensured the school is well maintained and the grounds are safe and beautiful for our school community. We maintain a “bush” area as well as lawn oval and play areas. The grounds are an important part of the student learning environment and visitors to the campus almost always remark on the beauty and tranquility of the school environment. The maintenance as well as routine safety checks such as Hazard identification checks, were routinely conducted and the appropriate actions have occurred.



Critical Incidents

There was one critical incident. The NT government closed all Darwin schools at the start of the lock down. This 11 am decision by the Chief Minister meant that all students needed to go home as fast as was practicable. The PCC community responded well to this unexpected event and whilst it was unusual circumstances suddenly thrust on the community, the response of the PCC staff team was well executed and all students went safely home. The lock down was of short duration and the short term academic plans were implemented which ensured continuity of learning. As best as possible from the home environment. We did not reach the COVID response plan of online learning because the lockdown was lifted and the students returned to school. The school remained open for essential workers children.

School Self-Assessment

Palmerston Christian College participated in the five Yearly Routine Assessment as required under the Education Act 2015 (NT).

The College was found to be meeting its registration requirements to maintain registration. The Registrar Non Government Schools approved the ongoing registration of Palmerston Christian College on the 22 September 2021.

This was a thorough process, reviewing the policies and procedures of the school under the following categories; Governance; Finance; Teaching and Learning; Records, Policy and Procedure.



2021 Annual Action Plan - SIRF Goals Achieved in 2021

Christian Identity:

- Professional Learning Communities were developed so staff could grow professionally with the focus of learning, Formational Learning. The PLC's focused on the resource: "Transformation By Design, Crafting Formational Learning."
- Had three more staff engage in the Masters Study program with National Institute of Christian Education. (NICE)

Care and Wellbeing:

- Re-purpose the staff social club. Close the old social club and have more regular at school staff functions.

Schools and Programs:

- Reviewed the Mathematics and Spelling programs offered in the Primary School.
- Reviewed the Biblical Curriculum
- Participated in the National Curriculum Review.
- Prepared the curriculum offerings for SACE stage 1 and 2.

Gouvernance and Leadership:

- Increase the allocation of the FTE to the leadership structure.

Community and Culture:

- Employed two more people on staff who identify as Indigenous. Increasing this percentage on staff is a ongoing goal.

Finance and Resources:

- Achieved all goals in terms of student staff ratio.
- Spending within budget.
- Significant building and refurbishment to the facilities of PCC.