

SNOWY MOUNTAINS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL  
REPORT

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2023



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## Core Vision:

To provide the opportunity for a Christian education to all families on the Snowy Monaro.

## Core Purpose:

Snowy Mountains Christian School exists to prepare children for life by training them in partnership with their parents, to grow in character, skills and knowledge; realising their full potential in Christ to serve, as they understand more of God's truth in an atmosphere of God's love and mutual respect.

## Core Values:

Each core value springs out of a Christ-centred worldview where every thought, word, action is consistent with the person of Jesus Christ.

**Love** - Love God and each other.

**Respect** - Respect each other in word and action.

**Truth** - Grow in the knowledge of the truth.

**Integrity** - Possess and express integrity.

## School Motto:

'In Christ we strive for Excellence'

## Philosophy:

We see our role as a partnership with parents to educate their children. The Bible clearly states that children should be brought up to base their lives on the commandments of God and to learn to love God with all of their heart, soul and mind. We also seek to make Christ known to the Snowy Monaro region.

At Snowy Mountains Christian School, we aim to nurture the whole person - intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Students are actively challenged to become active participants in their own educational journey.

It is our aim and prayer that every student will have a positive experience at school, through developing healthy relationships, achieving their personal best, maintaining physical and emotional well-being, and developing a greater understanding of Christian faith and character.

## Biblical focus for 2023:

For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

Psalm 33:4

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## INTRODUCTION TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

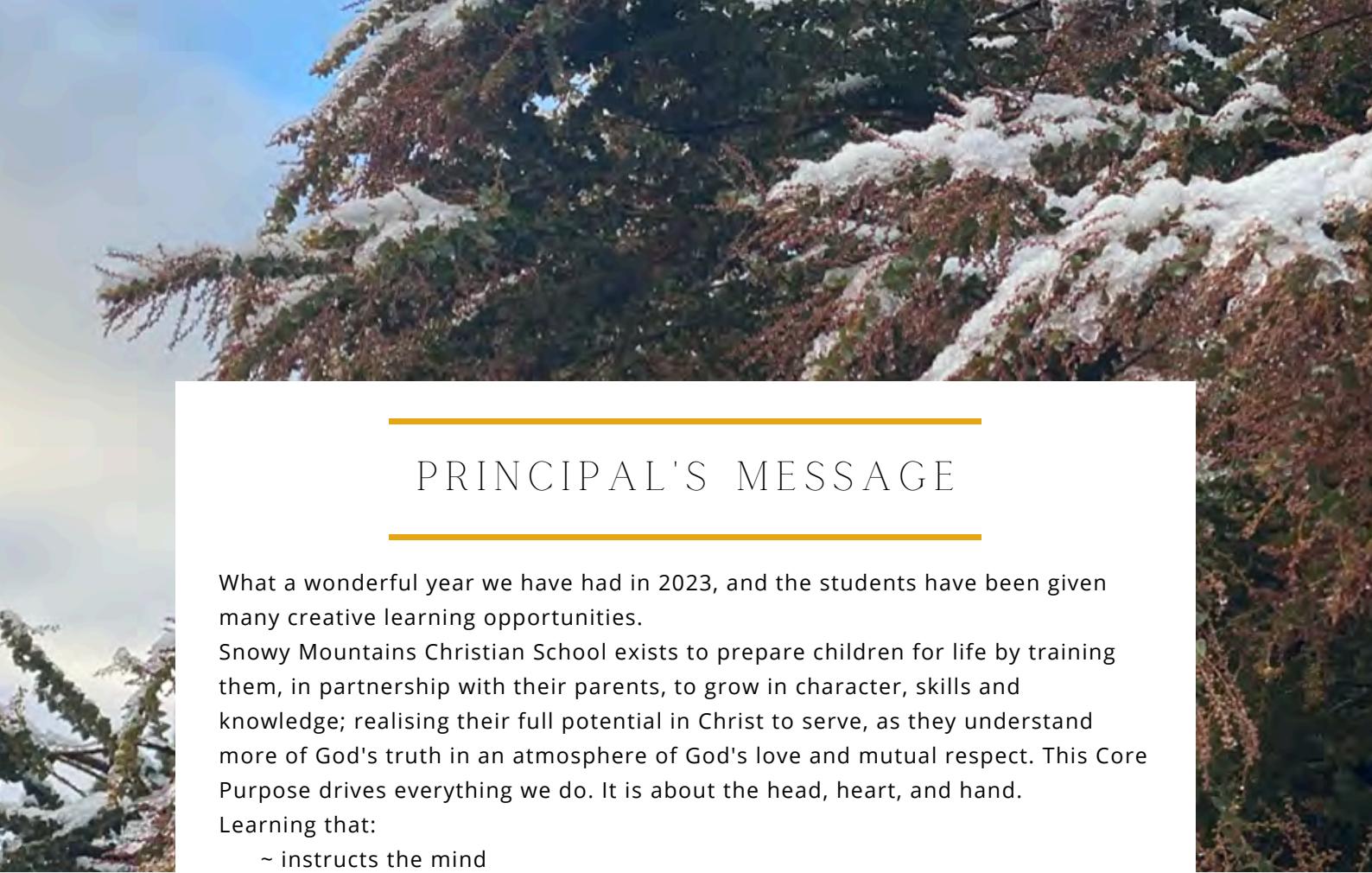
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Snowy Mountains Christian School (SMCS) lies at the heart of the Snowy Monaro region and since 1997, teaches students through a Biblical worldview about this world and how to impact it for the glory of God.

In 2023, the Principal Mrs Ella Meyer, teachers and staff engaged in nurturing the spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical wellbeing and character of 67 students, from Kindergarten to Year 10. Through smaller class sizes, rigorous pedagogy and nurturing relationships between teachers, parents and students, students progressed in their studies in accordance with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum and this characterises the student body. Each area is taught from a Christian viewpoint, bringing all of the Bible to all of life. Through activities and events such as serving on the Student Service Council; Book Week activities; international competition papers (ICAS); camp adventures and many more activities, students were given opportunities to learn, develop, and apply skills beyond the classroom and into the world, making their mark on the world.

The school relies heavily on the warm community by which it is supported, including the many people who volunteer their time whether it is on the School Board, in the library, supporting our Information and Communications Technology, fundraising, tending the school grounds, or listening to students read. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge and thank these people.

**Biblically Faithful  
Academically Rigorous  
Culturally Engaging Education**



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful year we have had in 2023, and the students have been given many creative learning opportunities.

Snowy Mountains Christian School exists to prepare children for life by training them, in partnership with their parents, to grow in character, skills and knowledge; realising their full potential in Christ to serve, as they understand more of God's truth in an atmosphere of God's love and mutual respect. This Core Purpose drives everything we do. It is about the head, heart, and hand.

Learning that:

- ~ instructs the mind
- ~ shapes the heart
- ~ equips the hand.

This year, our focus verse was from Psalm 33:4;

'For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all he does.'

It has been beneficial to learn and understand how that verse is relevant to our lives and culture.

We are very thankful for the various ways God has blessed the school community this year. SMCS has benefitted from so many extra learning experiences through a variety of events, including:

- Public Speaking Competition involving all students.
- Artworks and a visit to Cooma Show.
- Cyber Safety Workshop with Mr. Brad Lidster.
- Secondary School's involvement in the Rotary Club Debating Competition.
- Primary School camp at Jindabyne Sport and Recreation.
- Secondary Camp to Teen Ranch, Cobbitty.
- Water Days at Snowy Hydro.
- Visit from the Police, who informed the students about issues regarding them, at age-appropriate workshops and outdoor physical training competitions.
- STEM week.
- Robotics workshops with preschools from the Cooma region and a homeschooling family. With a grant from Snowy Hydro Limited, we purchased a range of Lego education robotics sets, which we used in these workshops.
- Han Worsley from the Country University Centre joined us for our ICT workshops and helped the students to create an outdoor wave machine.

- Visit to the Australian War Memorial from a grant received from the Cooma Ex-Services Club.
- Police visit discussing cyber safety.
- Science Fair, where students presented their projects to judges from Snowy Hydro Limited, Mr. Toriki Pitt and Mr. Lachlan Marks.
- Tech Talk, presented by Mr. Brad Lidster, about backing up your documents and photos, providing hints and tips to ensure you don't lose your important documents and memories.
- Book Week, including Book Fair and Book Parade with invited preschool children.
- Secondary Mental Health First Aid course for Secondary students.
- Shine program for pre-teenage girls facilitated by Mrs. Groves.
- Our Showcase Evening, celebrating the God-given skills and talents of our students.

During 2023, we farewelled Ms. Krista Elliott and Ms. Maggie Knoll, and we wish them well as they move into other areas of life. We welcomed a new teacher, Mr. Brad Lidster, who started teaching full time in 2023. We welcomed new Teacher's Aids: Miss. Jessica Stibbard, Mrs. Christa Beere, and Mrs. Judy Taylor. They have been a huge encouragement to the staff and students, and we are very thankful for their wide-ranging contributions to the school community.

We are thankful for our partnership with the Cooma Baptist Church, which also included delivering breakfast to the students twice a week. This ministry is very needed, and the students enjoy having breakfast together.

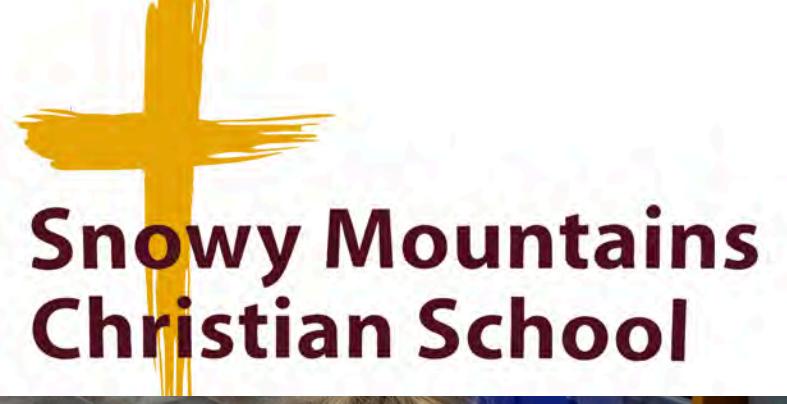
The Fundraising Team worked hard and enthusiastically to raise money for the school. Their fundraising enabled the purchase of new outdoor tables, chairs and other necessary items for the school's use.

Our students have had a rich variety of learning experiences. We look forward to seeing the growth in all our young people as we continue to deliver Christ-centred education, which is Biblically faithful, academically rigorous, and culturally engaging.

We give thanks to God for another great year at Snowy Mountains Christian School.

**'Not to us, O Lord, Not to us, but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness.' Ps. 115:1**

*Mrs Ella Meyer*





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## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

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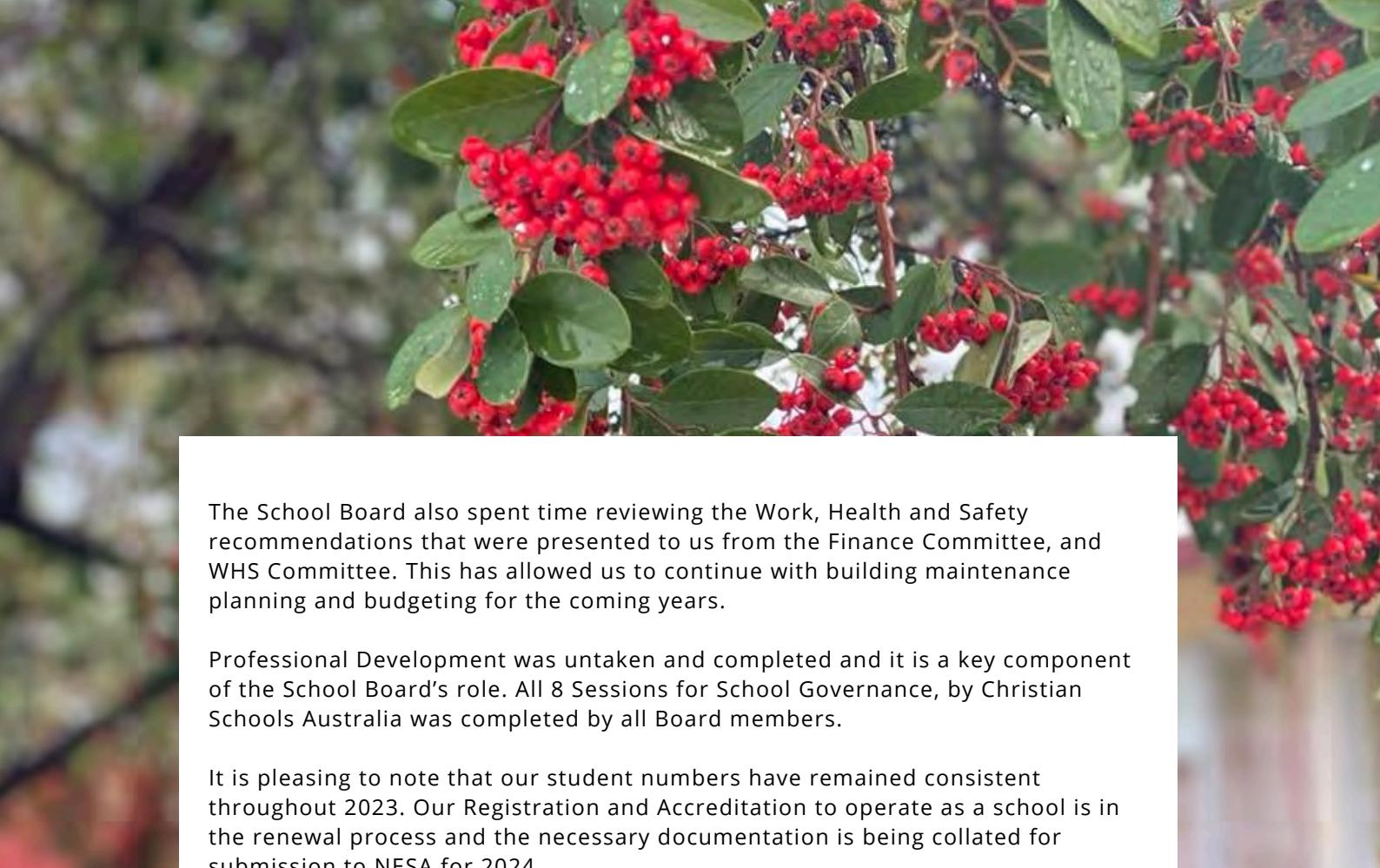
It has been on my mind that the message of the gospel must be at the forefront of everything that we do. The hope that we have from this message is not futile.

The message is not complex. From Acts 10: 36-43, God sent Jesus Christ to us 2000 years ago. Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit that empowered him to do good and this power was evident by the miracles He performed, healing the sick, having power over nature by calming the storm and raising the dead. They killed Him on a cross, He rose again three days later and appeared to eyewitnesses. Believing this to be true, we receive forgiveness of our sin.

The message is simple enough for even children to understand and commit their lives to. Keeping this at the forefront of our minds will impact our lives and the lives of the children in our care.

The School Board meets monthly and meetings are well attended. David Learoyd and Mick Torry have joined the board this year. We thank Judy Taylor for her six years of consecutive service on the board as she now steps down from her role. Sandra Mortimer, having moved from the area, resigned from the school Board and we thank her for her service to the school also.

The School Board supported the School Principal throughout 2023, as acquiring teaching staff was challenging. The staff have been exceptional, dedicated to the ministry of the school and working extremely hard covering classes and subject matter. The lack of teaching staff is a country wide issue, and we continue to thank the church fellowship for praying for the school's need for staff, and we have seen answers to prayer in this area.



The School Board also spent time reviewing the Work, Health and Safety recommendations that were presented to us from the Finance Committee, and WHS Committee. This has allowed us to continue with building maintenance planning and budgeting for the coming years.

Professional Development was undertaken and completed and it is a key component of the School Board's role. All 8 Sessions for School Governance, by Christian Schools Australia was completed by all Board members.

It is pleasing to note that our student numbers have remained consistent throughout 2023. Our Registration and Accreditation to operate as a school is in the renewal process and the necessary documentation is being collated for submission to NESA for 2024.

In His Service

*Mr John Vanderhout*

Board Chair





## SPORT REPORT

### **House Captains for 2023**

Our House Captains for 2023 were:

Wattle – Yellow: Captains – Molly Taylor & Malcolm Scarlett; Vice Captains – Charlotte Crane & Matthew Markham

Waratah – Red: Captains – Amity Rolfe & Caleb Ventura/Samson Pond (Co-Captains); Vice Captains – Imogen Walker & Jordan Groves

These wonderful students stepped up and performed their first official job at the swimming carnival. They all lead their houses with enormous success; encouraging participation and wonderful cheering. They organised their house relay teams with no fuss, allowing those who wished to participate a chance to join in.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Primary Swimming lessons began Week 1, Term 1. Each week the Primary students continued to develop their swimming skills at Michelle's Swim School at Cooma Festival Swimming Pool. Thanks to Sporting Schools Australia who helped to reduce the cost of this program.

### **Sporting Programs**

Thanks to a couple of grants from Sporting Schools Australia we were able to run some sporting programs for PDHPE.

In Term 1 Secondary students completed an Athletics training program with Quentin Stead. This program helped them to develop their skills in the different field events for athletics. In Term 2 Primary students learnt to play tennis and developed their skills in the game of tennis with tennis coach, Tom Perea.

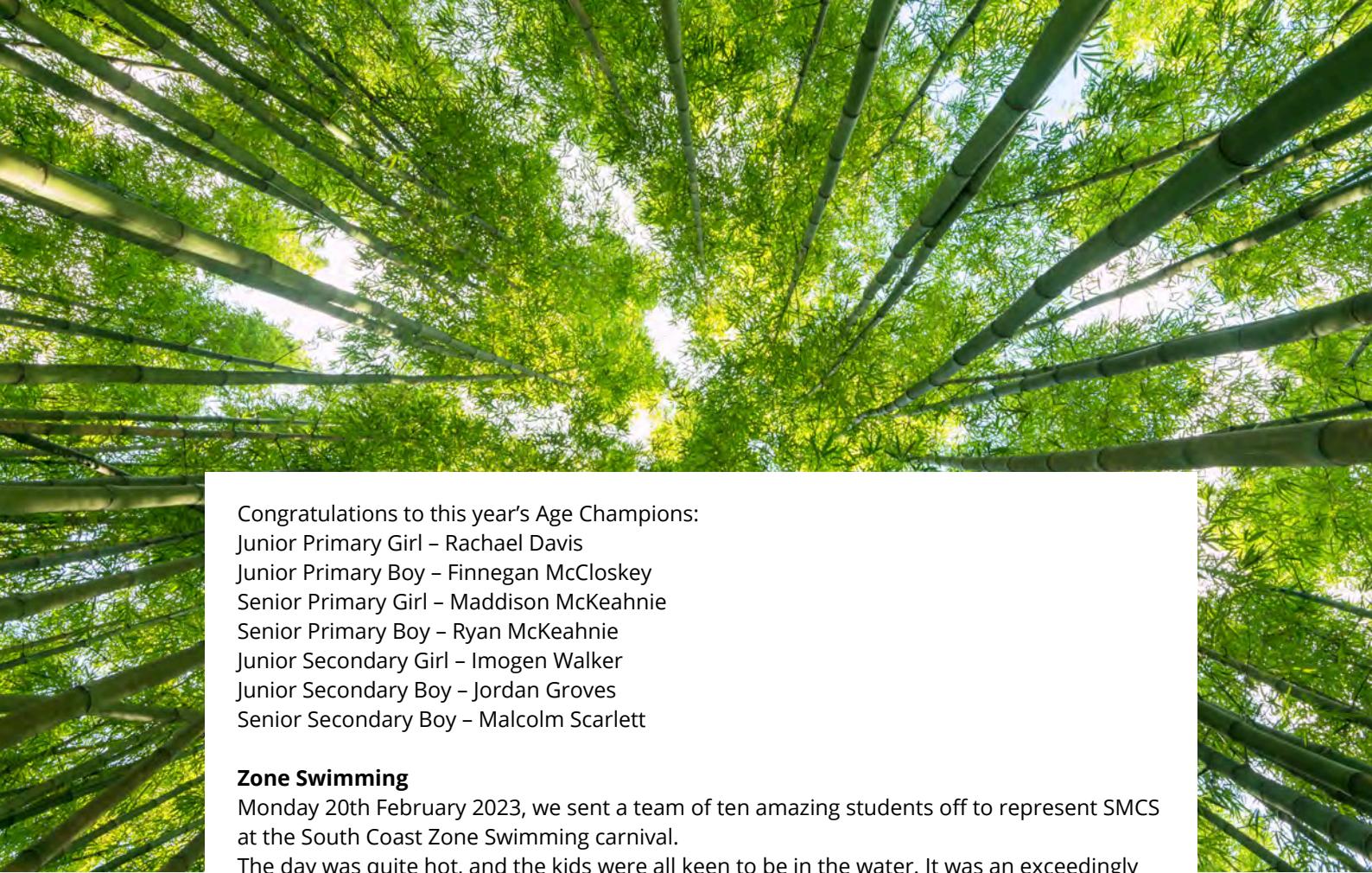
During Term 3, both the Primary and Secondary students developed their basketball skills with Basketball NSW. Each week the coaches, led by Jan Browne, taught the students dribbling skills and shooting skills.

Unfortunately, our Snowsports program was cancelled due to the lack of snow at Selwyn Snow Resort.

### **Swimming Carnival**

We had a fantastic day of fun, laughs, cheering and great swimming. It was truly amazing to see and hear all those on the sideline cheering very loudly, not only for the students in their house, but for every student giving their best in the water.

Unfortunately, we didn't break any records this year, but we had many great races, nonetheless. Congratulations to ALL those who got in the water and swam their very best. A special mention needs to be made of Aaron, Charlie and Nash who gave a whole new meaning to "give it a go!" These boys really made a difference to the house points tally.



Congratulations to this year's Age Champions:

Junior Primary Girl – Rachael Davis  
Junior Primary Boy – Finnegan McCloskey  
Senior Primary Girl – Maddison McKeahnie  
Senior Primary Boy – Ryan McKeahnie  
Junior Secondary Girl – Imogen Walker  
Junior Secondary Boy – Jordan Groves  
Senior Secondary Boy – Malcolm Scarlett

### **Zone Swimming**

Monday 20th February 2023, we sent a team of ten amazing students off to represent SMCS at the South Coast Zone Swimming carnival.

The day was quite hot, and the kids were all keen to be in the water. It was an exceedingly early start, with warm-ups at 7:15am and the first race starting at 8:00am!

We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Kamenyitzky who agreed to go along as our team manager for the day.

This was a big job, and one which required her to be at the pool from early in the morning to late in the afternoon. Fortunately, she was ably assisted by some wonderful parents, who took the time to not only transport their children to the carnival, but also who helped by fulfilling our duties throughout the day.

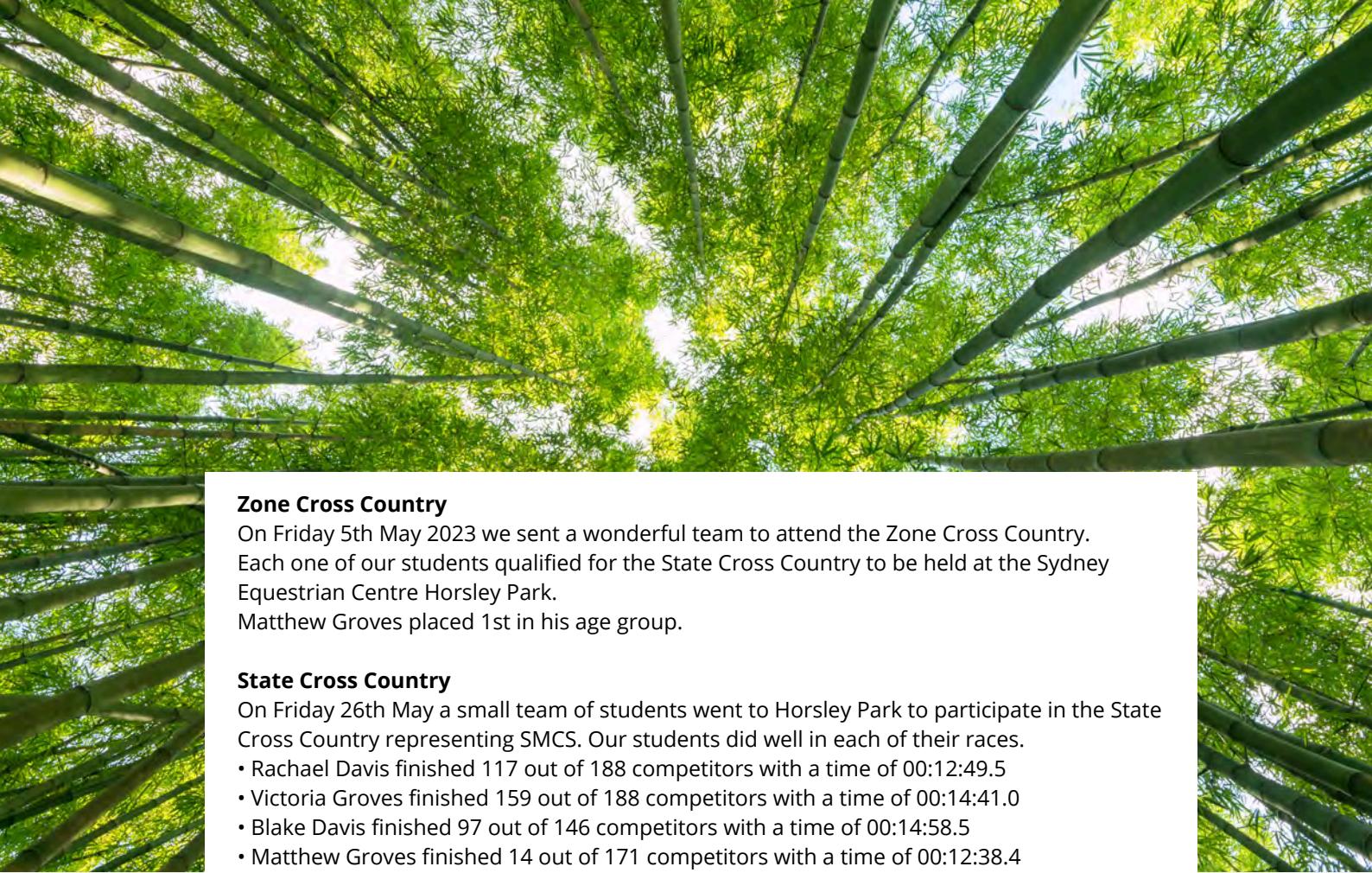
As a small school, we are immensely proud of our students and their wonderful effort at the carnival. Our school placed 3rd in the primary division and 6th in the secondary division.

Our incredible swimmers were:

- Rachael Davis (8yr girls) – overall placing 5th out of 8 competitors.
- Zane Beere (9yr boys) – overall placing 4th out of 11 competitors.
- Finnegan McCloskey (10yr boys) - overall placing 6th out of 14 competitors.
- Maddison McKeahnie (11yr girls) - overall placing 14th out of 21 competitors.
- Benjamin Kamenyitzky (11yr boys) - overall placing 10th out of 18 competitors.
- Ryan McKeahnie (12/13yr primary boys) - overall placing 6th out of 13 competitors.
- Blake Davis (12/13yr primary boys) - overall placing 9th out of 13 competitors
- Kees Biffin (13yr secondary boys) - overall placing 10th out of 12 competitors.
- Charlie Thompson (14yr boys) - overall placing 10th out of 13 competitors.
- Malcolm Scarlett (16yr boys) - 7th out of 10 competitors.

### **Cross Country**

On Thursday 6th April we held our annual Cross Country event. The Secondary students following the North Ridge route for their cross country. They did a fantastic job, encouraging one another as they went. The Primary students completed their Cross Country around the school grounds. The Year 9/10 students assisted the lower primary by running alongside them and encouraging the students.



### **Zone Cross Country**

On Friday 5th May 2023 we sent a wonderful team to attend the Zone Cross Country. Each one of our students qualified for the State Cross Country to be held at the Sydney Equestrian Centre Horsley Park. Matthew Groves placed 1st in his age group.

### **State Cross Country**

On Friday 26th May a small team of students went to Horsley Park to participate in the State Cross Country representing SMCS. Our students did well in each of their races.

- Rachael Davis finished 117 out of 188 competitors with a time of 00:12:49.5
- Victoria Groves finished 159 out of 188 competitors with a time of 00:14:41.0
- Blake Davis finished 97 out of 146 competitors with a time of 00:14:58.5
- Matthew Groves finished 14 out of 171 competitors with a time of 00:12:38.4
- Jordan Groves finished 21 out of 124 competitors with a time of 00:16:50.5

### **Athletics Carnival**

We held our annual Athletics Carnival on Friday 9th June 2023. This year we had the whole school competing in their events at Snowy Oval. It was wonderful to see the lower primary joining in and being encouraged by the older students.

It was a wonderful day with a couple of records being broken over the course of the day.

### **Zone Athletics**

Snowy Mountains Christian School has won the CSSA Primary School Zone Athletics Wainwright Shield for the first time this year! Points for the shield are calculated based on the number of students in the school and the number competing at the carnival, together with results on the day.

Three Secondary students and nine Primary students attended the CSSA Zone Athletics carnivals held at the Kerryn McCann Athletics track in Wollongong on Thursday 3rd August and Friday 4th August.

For our three eight-year-old girls, Rachael Davis, Summer Oliveira and Maggie Mills, it was the first time they had ever had the opportunity to compete at this level. Also travelling to Wollongong as part of our athletics team were Ruby Wassink, Poppy Dunkerley, Matthew Groves, Joshua Mills, Blake Davis, Jordan Groves, Xavier Pond, and Sam Pond.

All the students performed well, with many of them recording personal bests.

Matthew Groves won the 11-year-old boys Age Champion, with 1st in long jump, 100m, High Jump and 200m. He also came 2nd in 800m and 3rd in the 1500m.

Blake Davis, came 3rd in Shot put and 1st in Discus;

Samson Pond, came 3rd in 200m

Jordan Groves, who came 2nd in High Jump and Javelin.

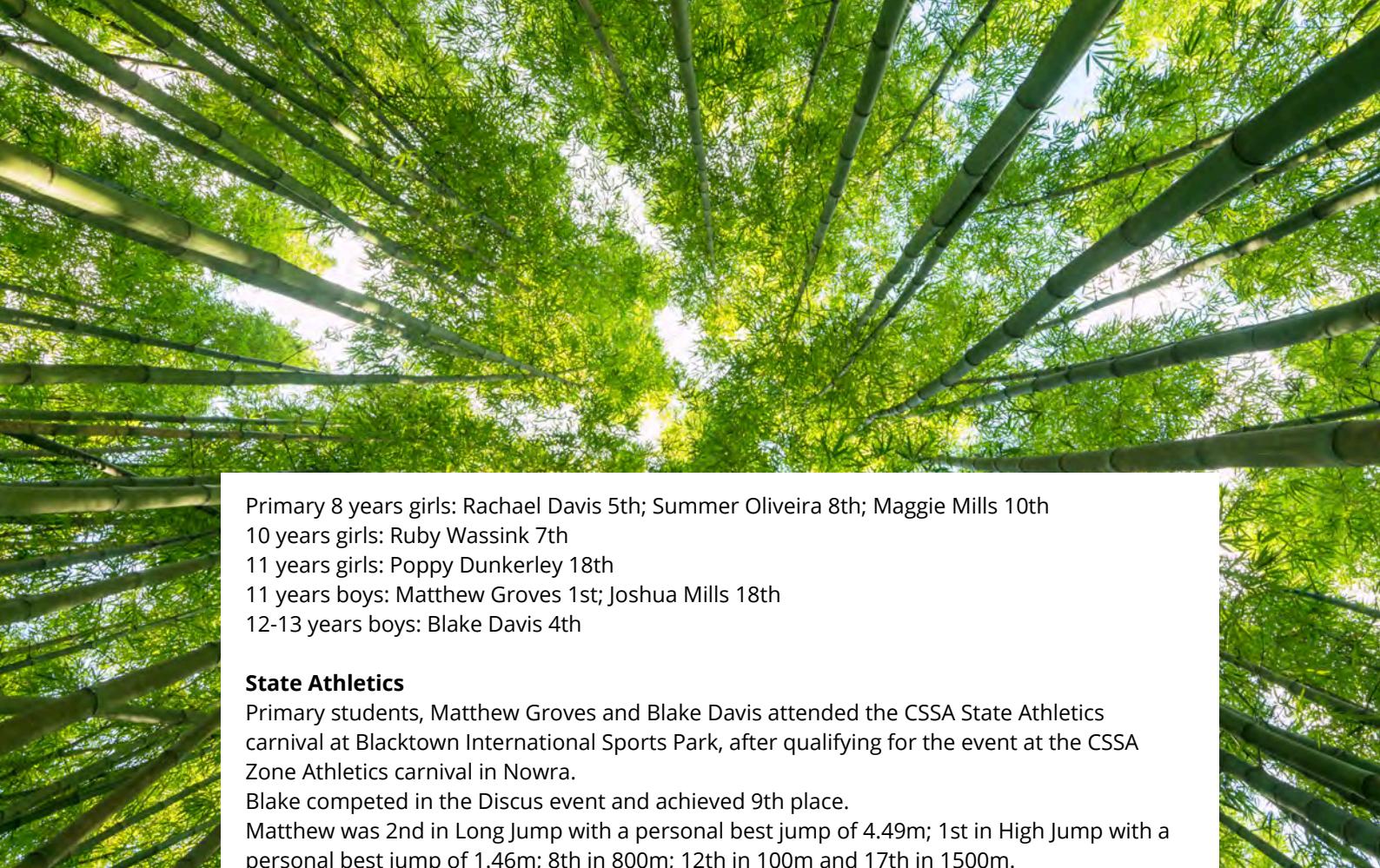
The placings for each age group are as follows:

Secondary

13 years boys: Xavier Pond 12th

14 years boys: Jordan Groves 4th

17 years boys: Samson Pond 6th



Primary 8 years girls: Rachael Davis 5th; Summer Oliveira 8th; Maggie Mills 10th  
10 years girls: Ruby Wassink 7th  
11 years girls: Poppy Dunkerley 18th  
11 years boys: Matthew Groves 1st; Joshua Mills 18th  
12-13 years boys: Blake Davis 4th

### **State Athletics**

Primary students, Matthew Groves and Blake Davis attended the CSSA State Athletics carnival at Blacktown International Sports Park, after qualifying for the event at the CSSA Zone Athletics carnival in Nowra.

Blake competed in the Discus event and achieved 9th place.

Matthew was 2nd in Long Jump with a personal best jump of 4.49m; 1st in High Jump with a personal best jump of 1.46m; 8th in 800m; 12th in 100m and 17th in 1500m.

Matthew has qualified to compete in long jump and high jump at the Combined Independent Schools State Carnival to be held in Sydney on September 19.

Secondary student, Samson Pond also competed in the CSSA State Athletics at the Secondary Carnival at Olympic Park on August 24. Samson ran in the 200m and achieved 11th place.

### **NSW All Schools and Primary Schools Athletics Championships**

In the school holidays on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th of September, Blake Davis travelled to Sydney to represent SMCS in the NSW All Schools and Primary Schools Athletics Championships. He competed in discus and placed 7th, and in shot put and placed 10th.

### **Secondary Futsal Gala Day**

Tuesday 24th October, the Secondary students set off to Canberra to join in a Futsal Gala day with Covenant Christian School, Brindabella Christian School, and Emmaus Christian School.

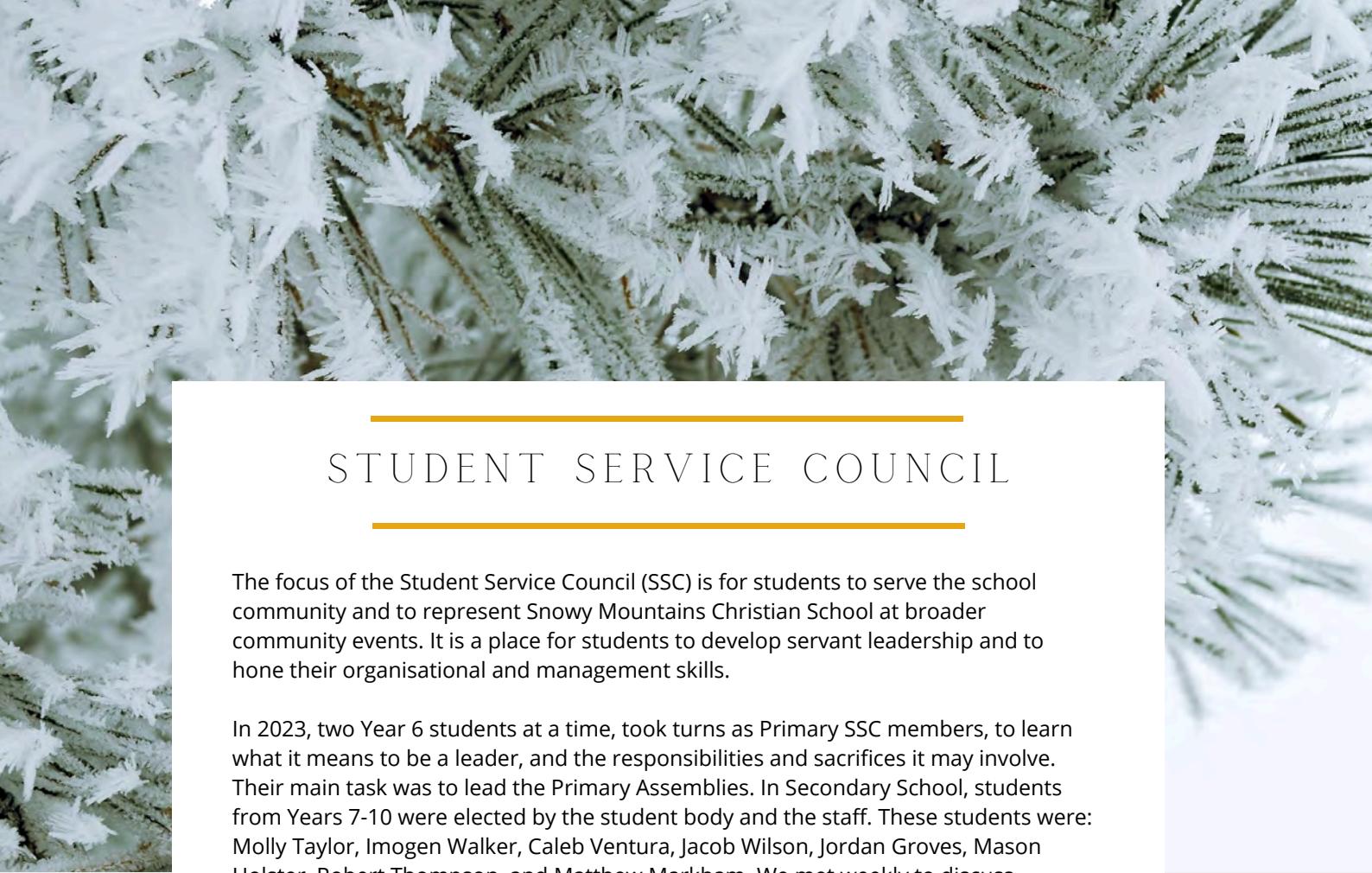
The day was full of highs and lows with each team giving their all in each game. The students learnt important teamwork skills and remembering to defend when the other team had the ball. Each team developed in their skills over the day which was seen in their last games. After a long day of playing 20 minutes games, the 9/10 boys team and the 7-10 girls team played four games each, and the 7/8 boys team played five games, the students were thoroughly exhausted. The students represented SMCS well and were praised for their effort by teachers from the other schools.

### **Big Thank You**

Congratulations to every student who represented the school so well. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who came and helped at our events. Without your help and support, these events would not have been so successful.

*Mrs Elyse O'Connor and Ms Liz England*

Sports Coordinators 2023



## STUDENT SERVICE COUNCIL

The focus of the Student Service Council (SSC) is for students to serve the school community and to represent Snowy Mountains Christian School at broader community events. It is a place for students to develop servant leadership and to hone their organisational and management skills.

In 2023, two Year 6 students at a time, took turns as Primary SSC members, to learn what it means to be a leader, and the responsibilities and sacrifices it may involve. Their main task was to lead the Primary Assemblies. In Secondary School, students from Years 7-10 were elected by the student body and the staff. These students were: Molly Taylor, Imogen Walker, Caleb Ventura, Jacob Wilson, Jordan Groves, Mason Holster, Robert Thompson, and Matthew Markham. We met weekly to discuss upcoming events and ways in which the SSC could help. Respect for, and fellowship between members was consistently present.

The SSC participated in the ANZAC Day March, with some of the team being involved in the community commemoration through a prayer and laying of a wreath. They ran an ANZAC Day special assembly at SMCS to commemorate this time in our nation's history.

This year, Molly and Caleb were asked to be the Moderators of SMCS's Annual Presentation Night. They presented themselves very well, spoke clearly and succinctly, and assisted in making the night a great success. All the other members of the SSC greeted the guests as they arrived and escorted them into the Sanctuary and helped them find their seats.

On the last day of the school year, the SSC members also ran a Fun Fair where students were able to purchase tickets to participate in many traditional 'Side-Show Alley' type games and activities. The members had been planning and preparing this for weeks; organising their activity, purchasing things they would need, wrapping prizes and assessing their plans. This was a fun activity to end the school year; everyone from Kindergarten to Year 10 mixing together and having fun. We were able to meet together in the Link at the end of the day and pray, thanking God for the school year we had successfully completed and for safety over the holidays.

We were proud of this group of students who put themselves forward to take on this leadership role.

*Ms Liz England and Mrs Nancy Groves*

SSC Coordinators



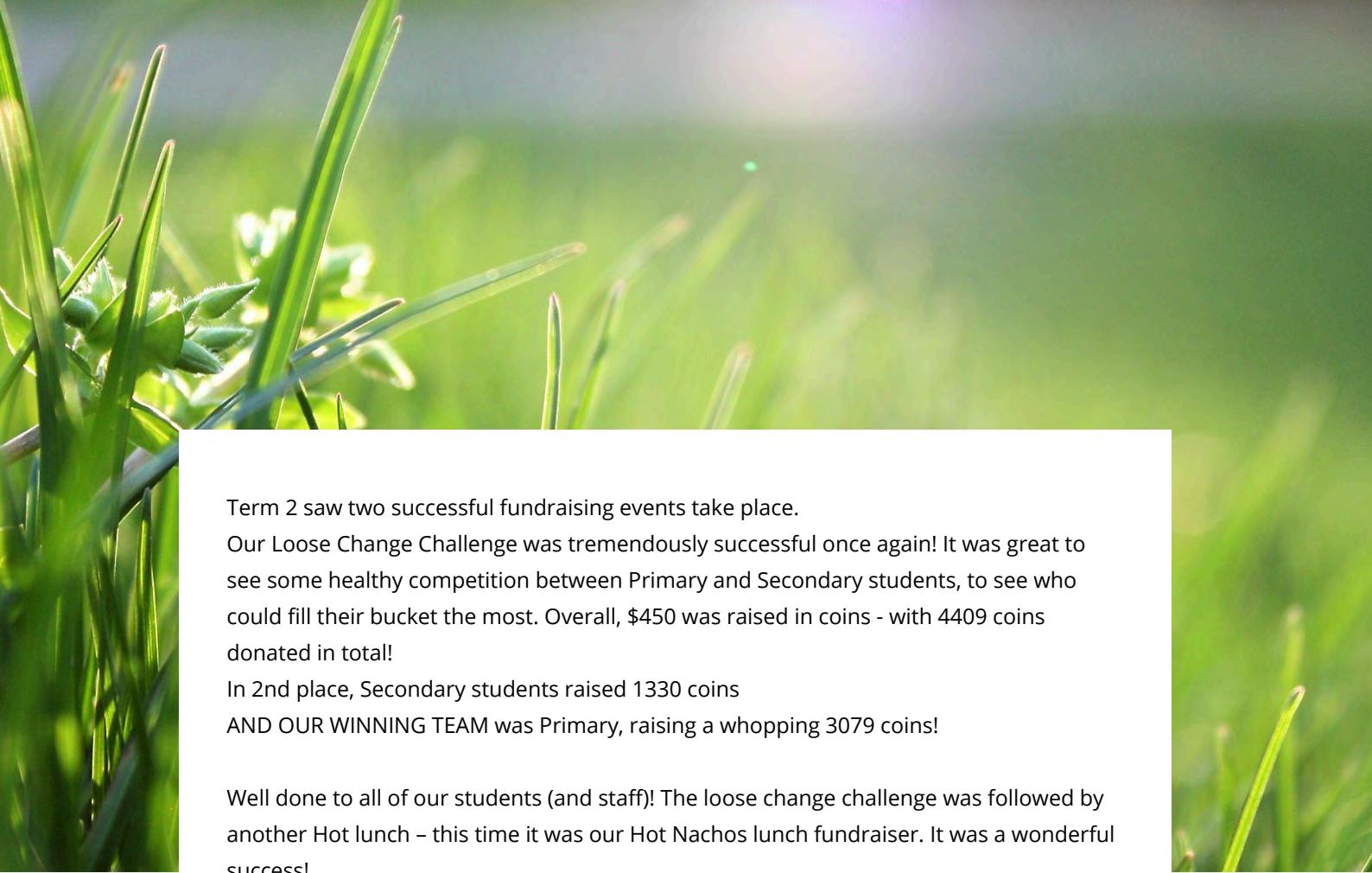
## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

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The SMCS Fundraising Committee are thankful for the support of our school community, family and friends who have generously supported the school's fundraising efforts all year! It's been a terrific year for fundraising.

This year, the SMCS Fundraising Committee's plans have been to raise funds to upgrade the old Primary school sandpit and replace it with a new one. We have also endeavored to raise funds to update/add to the existing Secondary outdoor seating areas. Two outdoor table and seat sets were purchased with funds raised, in November 2023.

Term 1 saw many of our staff, students, and parents volunteer for the Snowy Classic. The SMCS crew once again managed the 'Light Rest Stop' at the Dalgety Showground for the second year in a row, however this year we volunteered on 4 other positions along the event track too. Over 1,500 cyclists participated in the event, many of which stopped for water, energy drinks, muesli bars, bananas and a sugar fix at the Dalgety Showground. Another part of the SMCS crew were up on the Boloco Ridge, ready to cheer the riders up the steep 700m climb of the 3km hill, others were at the top ready to provide water, energy drinks and support. Another team was found just outside of Dalgety, cheering, and directing riders to the Showground for a rest, whilst another SMCS team was back in Berridale cheering and directing riders on to the next intersection! Such a fun event and we thank the event organisers, Two de Force and Yaffa for inviting us to participate once again! At the end of Term 1, the Fundraising Committee held a Sausage Sizzle and frozen popper lunch for our staff, students and parents after the annual Cross-Country event! With your support, we raised \$385!



Term 2 saw two successful fundraising events take place.

Our Loose Change Challenge was tremendously successful once again! It was great to see some healthy competition between Primary and Secondary students, to see who could fill their bucket the most. Overall, \$450 was raised in coins - with 4409 coins donated in total!

In 2nd place, Secondary students raised 1330 coins

AND OUR WINNING TEAM was Primary, raising a whopping 3079 coins!

Well done to all of our students (and staff)! The loose change challenge was followed by another Hot lunch – this time it was our Hot Nachos lunch fundraiser. It was a wonderful success!

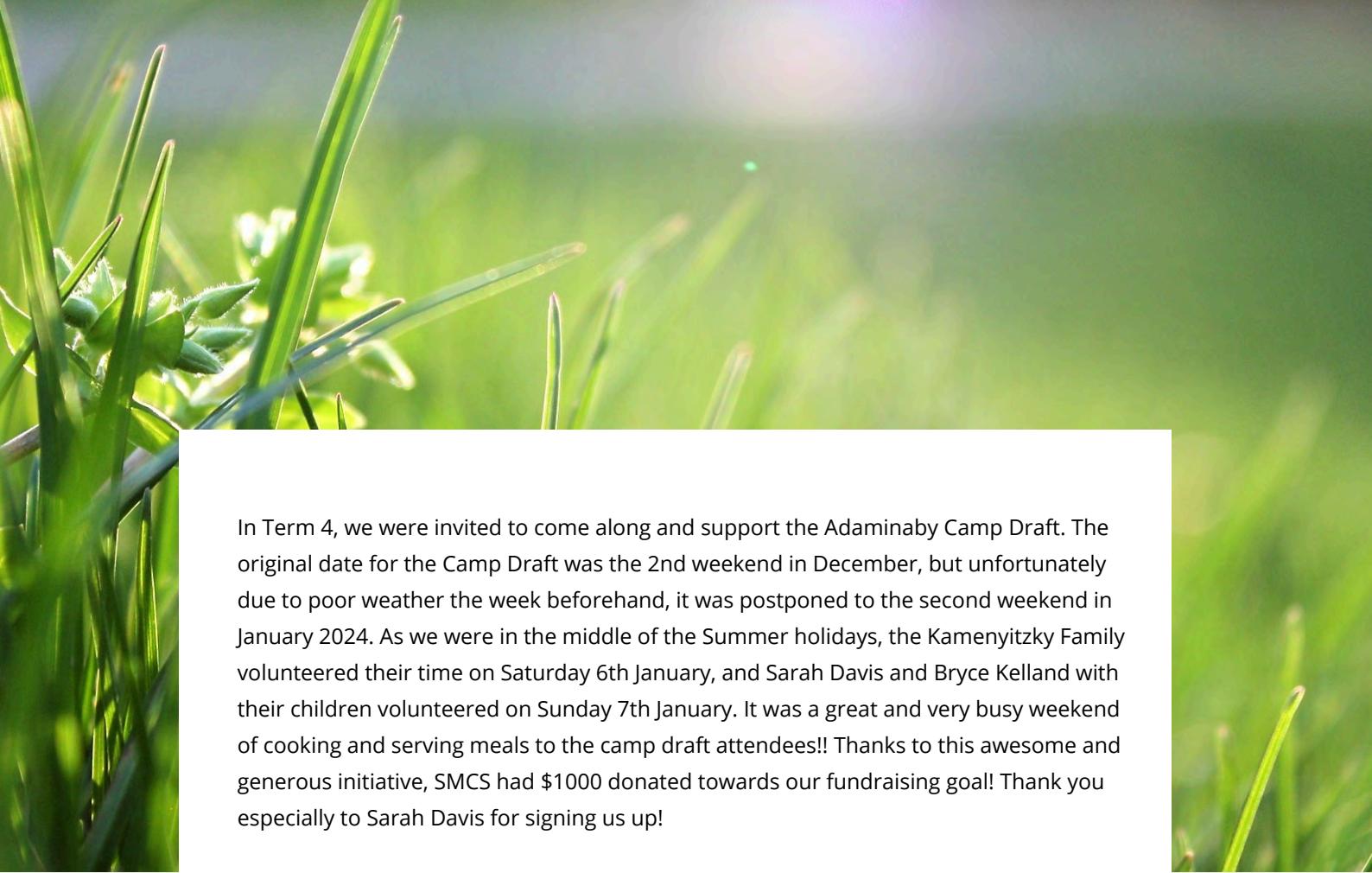
Over \$300 was raised with the help of some food donations and cash from the return and earn recycling bin!

Thank you to Mrs Judy Taylor for sharing your chopping, serving, and cleaning up skills with Mrs Allysia Kamenyitzky. Mr Johnny O'Connor for shopping for us, and for Mr Nick Kamenyitzky shopping and cooking for us! Thanks also goes to Miss Alana Stibbard, Caleb Ventura and Jacob Wilson for serving lunches, and to Mrs Lucy Gotts for helping with the final clean up!

Term 3 saw the fundraising team host another hot lunch – Spaghetti!

The general feedback from students and staff was that the spaghetti was hot and delicious – and what was Mr Kamenyitzky's secret recipe to make the spaghetti sauce that yummy!? The secret remains closely guarded, but we thank Nick Kamenyitzky for cooking up almost 60 portions of spaghetti bolognase and helping to serve it on the day with the help of Caleb Ventura, Matthew Markham and Miss Alana Stibbard. Thanks to Mrs. Gotts too for helping with the cleaning up!

In Term 3, the Year 9/10 PASS class, along with their teacher, Mr Brad Lidster ran a successful, fun, and enterprising “Back to the 80s” Glow Disco! Congratulations and well done to this class of young people who made this evening an enormous success and raised some fantastic funds to go towards the 2023 fundraising efforts! Everyone who came along had a fantastic time!



In Term 4, we were invited to come along and support the Adaminaby Camp Draft. The original date for the Camp Draft was the 2nd weekend in December, but unfortunately due to poor weather the week beforehand, it was postponed to the second weekend in January 2024. As we were in the middle of the Summer holidays, the Kamenyitzky Family volunteered their time on Saturday 6th January, and Sarah Davis and Bryce Kelland with their children volunteered on Sunday 7th January. It was a great and very busy weekend of cooking and serving meals to the camp draft attendees!! Thanks to this awesome and generous initiative, SMCS had \$1000 donated towards our fundraising goal! Thank you especially to Sarah Davis for signing us up!

Our Return and Earn bin has also been a fantastic contributor to our fundraising efforts this year and continues to earn a few dollars every month. Thank you to Mrs Gotts who kindly takes it down to Woolworths for us to cash in bottles and poppers.

It has been my honour and privilege to chair the SMCS Fundraising Team over the last five years. It has certainly been a time of adapting to the different requirements and suggestions for SMCS's fundraising needs and trying out new ideas throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been pretty special to see the funds raised by our community, with the support of this team, go to improving areas of the school, and being saved to go towards bigger and better projects. A warm welcome to Mrs Judy Taylor, who will be chairing the Fundraising Committee in 2024. I wish you all the very best!

*Mrs Allycia Kamenyitzky*  
Fundraising Chairperson





## STUDENT ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS

The total enrolment for all our students from Kindergarten to Year 10, at the Commonwealth Census date in August 2023 was 67 students, with 42 students in Primary and 25 in Secondary.

The average attendance rate in 2023 was 87.74 which was higher than 2022, which was 85.03%.

The attendance record of each student is monitored by their classroom teacher and a record of attendance is kept at the school office and in software. Any absences without a written explanation from home are to be followed up by the classroom teacher. Persistent non-attendance, for reasons other than known illnesses or approved activities, is referred to the Principal.

The small school population promotes a family atmosphere and helps us to better cater for the individual needs of each student.

### **Post-school Destinations**

Of our five Year 10 students, five have enrolled in senior secondary studies at other schools and TAFE.

All Year 10 students had their marks recorded with NESA to qualify for their ROSA.





## STUDENT ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS

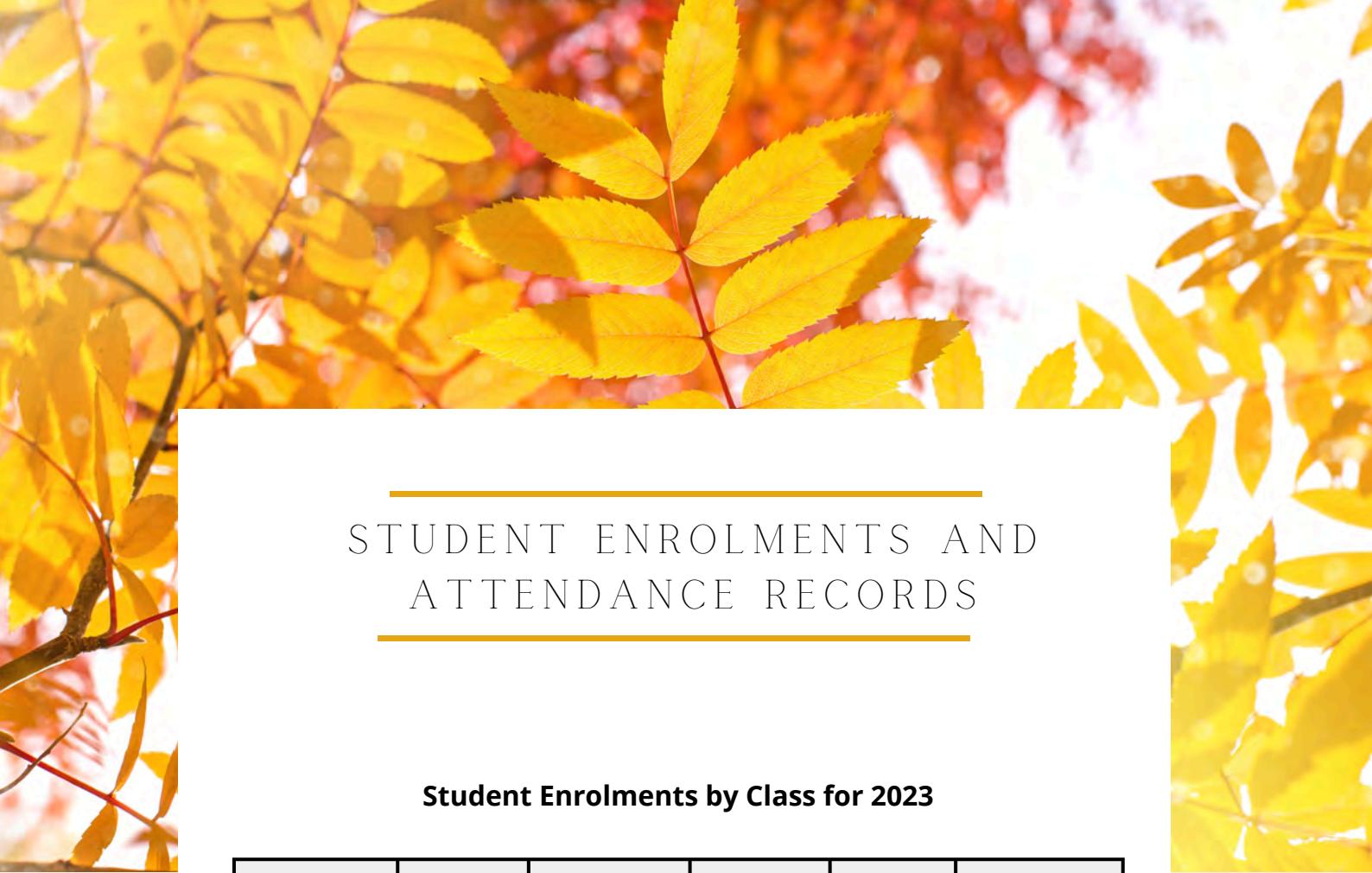
### **Management of non-attendance**

SMCS utilise electronic rolls and rolls are marked each day.

A student absentee sheet is issued to staff. A student is required to provide a note from parents/guardians for both partial absences and full day absences. If a note is still not forthcoming:

- a) The parent/guardian is called and asked to submit a note.
- b) A letter is sent to the parent (Unexplained Absence Note) to again remind them of their child's absence on that particular day, or period of time. This is kept with the student absences and archived during the year.
- c) The Coordinator informs the Principal that no note has been submitted.
- d) The Principal calls the parents/guardians & informs them that if a note is not forthcoming the next day, a letter will be sent informing them of the absence & that their child is Absent Without Reason (Unexplained Absence).
- e) Dependent upon the outcome, the Principal will then inform Community and Justice Services of the absence.

At the end of each term, teachers are to record all absent days (full days). These are to be noted on each student's report at the end of Semester 1 & 2. Community and Justice Services will be notified at any time if staff/Principal are concerned for the welfare of any child at the school.



## STUDENT ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS

### Student Enrolments by Class for 2023

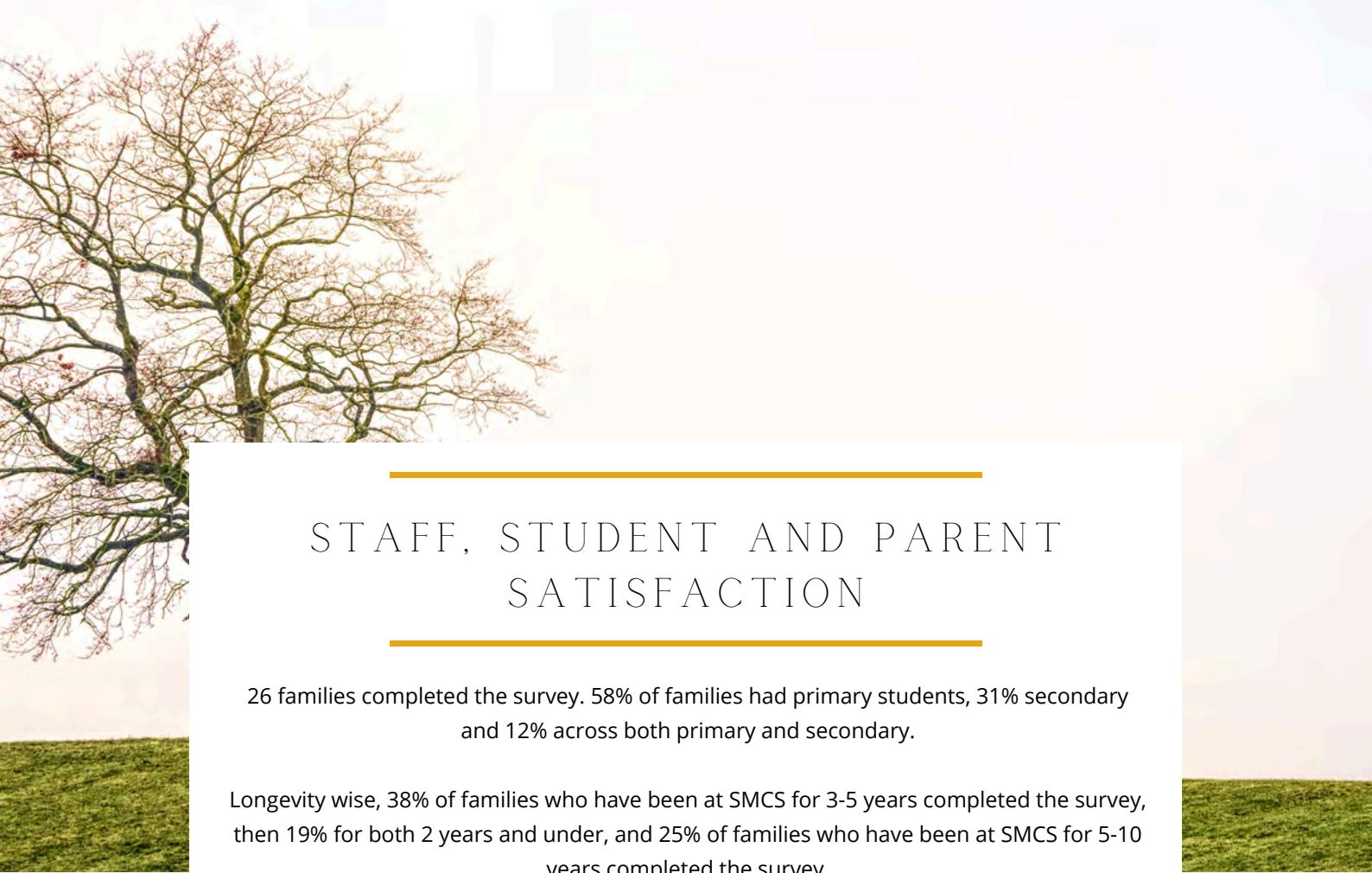
Class	Number Enrolled	Attendance (%)	Class	Number enrolled	Attendance (%)
Kindergarten	4	83.64	Year 7	6	89.13
Year 1	5	82.56	Year 8	7	88.14
Year 2	7	92.91	Year 9	7	94.81
Year 3	4	89.48	Year 10	5	82.07
Year 4	6	86.35	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	87.74
Year 5	9	92.66			
Year 6	7	84.08			

**Snowy Mountains Christian School's enrolment policy can be found on the school's website: <https://www.smcs.nsw.edu.au/newsletters-documents> for further information regarding all prerequisites for continuing enrolment.**

## SIGNIFICANT SCHOOL EVENTS 2023

Swimming Carnival  
Kinder Start Program  
Year 7 Taste n See Program  
Book Week Parade  
Year 3-6 camp to Jindabyne Sport and Recreation  
Year 7-10 Camp to Teen Ranch, Cobbitty  
Premier's Reading Challenge  
Primary Swimming Program  
Year 10 Graduation  
Year 10 Formal  
Year 6 Graduation Day  
Presentation Night  
Country University Centre Illustration Workshop  
Whole School Excursion to Cooma Show  
Work Experience Week  
Book Week Parade  
Robotics Workshops  
Preschool Visits  
Kindy Discovery Day  
Open Day/Special Friends Day  
Police Visit  
Cyber Safety Workshop & Tech Talks  
Zone Swimming Carnival  
Cross Country  
Zone Cross Country  
NAPLAN  
ICAS Competition  
International Peace Day  
Public Speaking Competition  
Athletics Carnival  
Zone Athletics Carnival  
State Athletics Carnival  
Futsal Gala Day  
Year 9/10 Leadership Day  
Water Day in conjunction with Snowy Hydro  
Representing at the ANZAC Day March  
Volunteering at the Snowy Classic  
STEM Fair  
ShowCASE Night  
Visit to the Australian War Memorial





## STAFF, STUDENT AND PARENT SATISFACTION

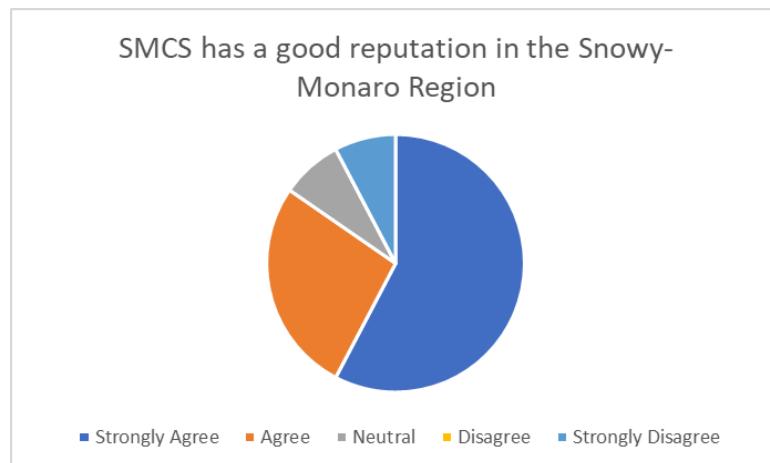
26 families completed the survey. 58% of families had primary students, 31% secondary and 12% across both primary and secondary.

Longevity wise, 38% of families who have been at SMCS for 3-5 years completed the survey, then 19% for both 2 years and under, and 25% of families who have been at SMCS for 5-10 years completed the survey.

Average rating for all quests = 4.25 (ranging from 3.92 – 4.69)

Based on Longevity: Families who have been here less than a year are most happy with SMCS, then families for 3-5 years, 5-10 years and finally families who have been here for 1-2 years are less happy with SMCS.

Based on cohort, Secondary parents are most happy, then Primary, and for families across both Primary and Secondary, satisfaction varies across the questions



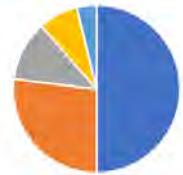
## STAFF, STUDENT AND PARENT SATISFACTION

I think SMCS provides a good Christian education for my child(ren)



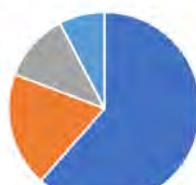
Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I am satisfied with the range of educational and co-curricular programs available



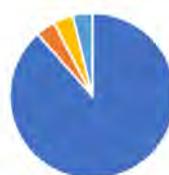
Strongly Disagree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Agree

I am confident with the Teacher's capability



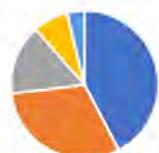
Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I am satisfied with the office and financial administration



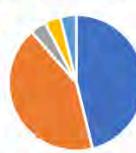
Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I am pleased with the way student behaviour and discipline is dealt with



Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I am happy with the methods of communication



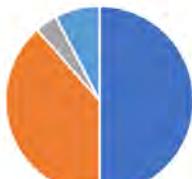
Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I am satisfied with the communication I receive



Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree

I feel a sense of community



Strongly Agree   Agree   Neutral   Disagree   Strongly Disagree



## SCHOOL DEVELOPED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

School improvement requires a targeted and focused approach on key areas within a school community. After careful consideration, Snowy Mountains Christian School (SMCS) has identified a manageable set of priorities to guide the school's improvement efforts over the next few years.

These improvement areas have been carefully developed and referenced with the school's:

- Board Strategic Plan
- Marketing Plan
- Pedagogy Improvement Plan
- Property Plan
- ICT Plan

Snowy Mountains Christian School Ltd (SMCS Ltd) was established in 1996, by the Cooma Baptist Church. The focus of the school is to provide an affordable, holistic education for all students in a distinctly Christian community.





## SCHOOL DEVELOPED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

### Improvements planned for 2023.

#### Goals Achieved

- Development of an Enrichment Program for Primary School.
- Regular Professional Development for staff.
- Commenced addressing the growing culture of the school based on previous year's research and feedback from whole school community.
- Creation of lunchtime interest clubs.
- Grow Peer Support program.
- Literacy and Numeracy; Continued monitoring and self-assessment.
- Service Learning; Continual evaluation and ongoing action, and Consideration to extend into Primary School.
- Property (Working in conjunction with the Strategic Plan).
- Regular maintenance of older buildings.
- Grow stronger connections with Cooma Community.
- Regular photos and editorials in the Monaro Post Newspaper.
- Effective communication; Evaluate the effectiveness of current: Newsletter, P/T/S Interviews, Email, SMCS Social Media, Student Handbooks, Notes home.

#### Goals for 2024

- Workshops and excursions to promote positive wellbeing.
- Continue to incorporate Sounds Write program through K-6.
- Primary School; 'Lunch with your child' in the classroom with the teacher.
- Research the process to apply for accreditation and the paperwork required.
- Development of Mental Health Program for SMCS students, incorporating student wellbeing in the learning.
- Research possibilities for assisting the mental health needs within the school.
- Regular Professional Development for staff.
- Upgrade fencing and signage around the school.
- Continual assessment of buildings and equipment within SMCS grounds.
- Prioritise the maintenance required and complete these tasks immediately.
- Complete refurbishment of Primary Playground area.
- Update ICT Plan for 2025-2030.
- Update Server.
- Purchase a second laptop computer class set and trolley.

## STAFF

### Workforce composition

Summary of the workforce composition for Snowy Mountains Christian School

2023 Staff	Number	FTE
Full Time Teaching Staff	5	5.00
Part Time Teaching Staff	1	.8
Full time non- teaching staff	1	1.00
Part time non- teaching staff	6	3.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12.80</b>

Average staff attendance: 95.68%, compared with 94.22% in 2022

When updated to show 2023 data, this information is also available on the MySchool website at: <http://myschool.edu.au>



## STAFF

### Teacher Accreditation

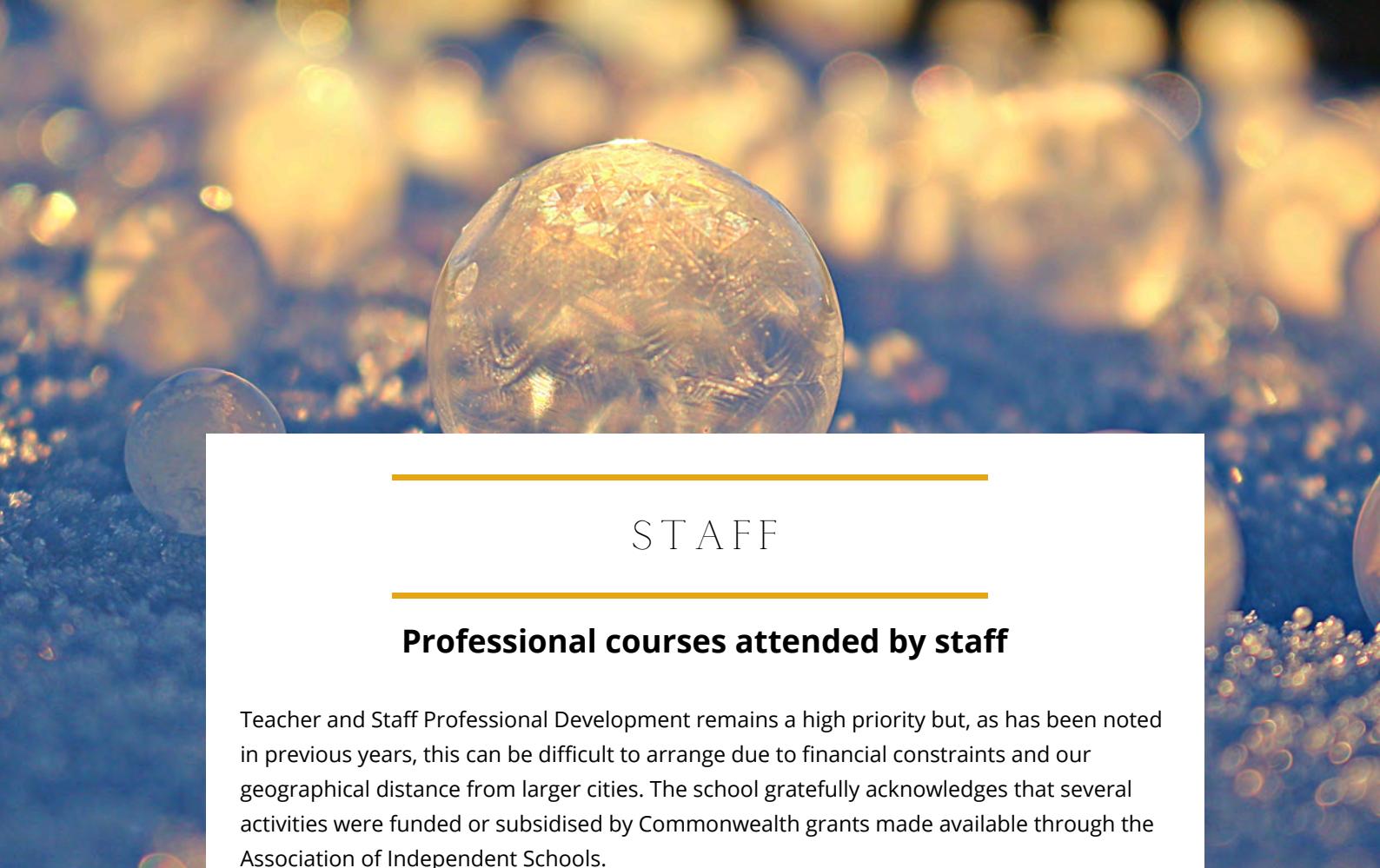
All teachers at Snowy Mountains Christian School have accreditation with NSW Education Standards Authority, as defined by TA Act.

2023 Teaching Staff	Number
Teachers accredited at the level of Proficient teacher	5
Teachers accredited at the level of Provisional teacher	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

### Teacher Qualifications

All staff are committed Christians who subscribe to the school's Statement of Faith and all teachers and aides are committed to teaching from the perspective of a Christian worldview. We have an appropriate spread of age and experience giving a balance of maturity and discernment. National backgrounds include Australian and there are no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff employed in the school.

In accordance with NSW Education Standards Authority guidelines, all six teachers reported in the 2023 Annual Census hold a recognised teaching qualification from a higher education institution within Australia (or a qualification recognised by the National Office of Overseas Skill Recognition). That is, they hold a degree in Education or a degree related to their field of teaching with a Diploma in Education.



## STAFF

### **Professional courses attended by staff**

Teacher and Staff Professional Development remains a high priority but, as has been noted in previous years, this can be difficult to arrange due to financial constraints and our geographical distance from larger cities. The school gratefully acknowledges that several activities were funded or subsidised by Commonwealth grants made available through the Association of Independent Schools.

All teaching staff undertook the following training:

- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Revisit
- Duty of Care
- First Aid
- A Teacher's Guide to Differentiating Activities
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data requirements
- Cyber Safety
- Trauma and Mental Health First Aid
- CSA Flourish Course; Vision, Culture, Faith and Practice.
- God's Big Story
- Digital Technology Skills

Individual staff members attended Professional Development courses in their specialised areas. On their return to school, they shared their learning with the rest of the staff at the next Staff Meeting.

The Principal attended the CSA Principals' Networking Conference with other NSW Principals, learning more about the legal situation and changes that impact the school management.



## FINANCE REPORT

Snowy Mountains Christian School Limited (SMCS) recorded a surplus in 2023 of \$84,739, similar to the surplus of 2022, \$91,112.

The surplus was mainly due to the continued funding from Commonwealth and State Government, in addition to the AISNSW, with wonderful grants that have helped improve teacher professional development and student engagement and learning, particularly after the impact of the pandemic.

There were 67 enrolments based on the 2023 August census, down from 78 in 2022. The Company's results for the year were as follows:

Income totalled \$1,689,959 and consisted of Commonwealth and State Government recurrent grants of \$1,477,680 and included a Schools Upgrade Fund of \$25,000, AISNSW grants of \$24,981, increased donations of \$34,433, fundraising of \$6,748 and fees and private income of \$146,117, which included interest income of \$6,091.

Costs for the day-to-day operation of the school ('operating costs') totalled \$1,605,220 which comprised staff salaries and related expenses of \$1,283,090, non-salary expenses of \$230,939 which included \$47,276 of depreciation and interest of \$4,281, and capital expenditure of \$91,191.

With the granting of Schools Upgrade Fund, Snowy Hydro STEM Grant, and Sporting Schools Grants, SMCS undertook property improvements and acquisitions totalling \$91,101. This included replacement of and purchase of playground surface, air conditioner and air purifier, LEGO Learning System and Robotics kits, gym equipment, as well as the continued acquisition of new ICT equipment including computers and televisions for classrooms.

Total current assets increased by \$44,901 during the year, from \$376,110 in 2022 to \$421,011 in 2023, while the total current liabilities also increased by \$39,766 from \$218,233 in 2022 to \$257,999 in 2023.

Net assets (total assets minus total liabilities) increased by \$84,738 from \$1,478,472 in 2022 to \$1,563,210 in 2023.

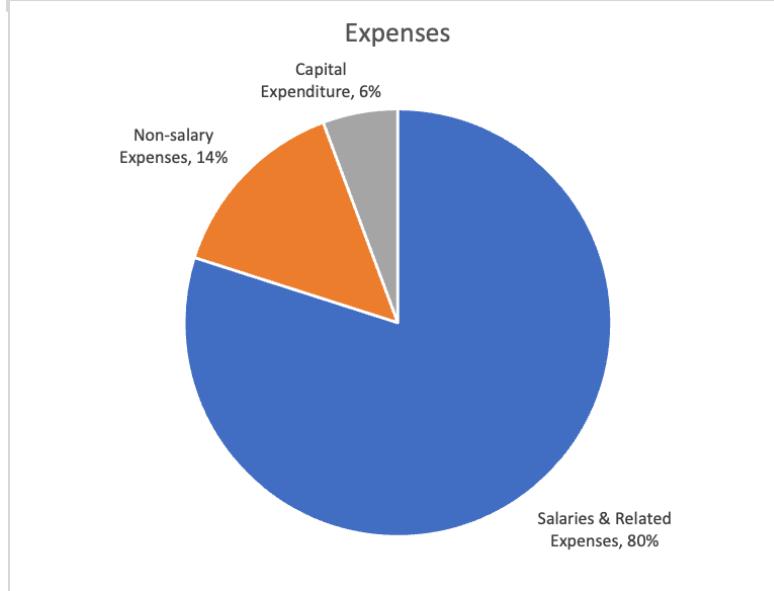
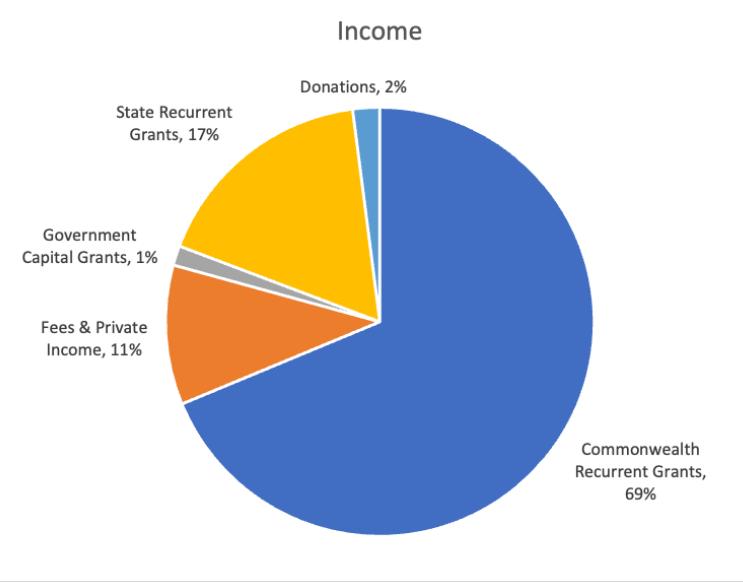
The long-term debt (non-current liabilities) decreased by \$35,689 from \$284,764 in 2022 to \$249,075 in 2023 due to the continued repayment of loans.

Cash held at year end after all school activities was \$382,158.

Contingent Liabilities have reduced to \$40,000 down from \$171,429 in 2022, leaving only 1 liability. This loan amount is reduced by 5% each year if the school remains in operation until 2027 when the loan will cease to exist.

## FINANCE REPORT

A detailed account of the financial performance of the School is contained in the audited 2023 Financial Statements which is available from the school website or the School Office.



## NAPLAN

Every year, students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

Students sit each test online except for the writing test for Year 3 which is completed on paper. Students are tested for their writing, language conventions (grammar and spelling), reading and numeracy. Each student tried their best in each test.

Results in the 2023 NAPLAN for Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, and Year 9 are as follows:

- Due to our small number of students in Year 3 and Year 7 in 2023, we do not have a comparison for these years. NAPLAN requires the minimum of 11 participants per for a comparison to be available.
- Year 5 results were close to the national average in Writing, Spelling, and Numeracy and Grammar, and above the national average for Reading.
- Year 9 results were close to the national average for Writing and Spelling, and above the national average for Reading, Grammar and Numeracy.

2023					
Compare to	Students with similar background		All Australian students		
	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	-	-	-	-	-
Year 5	516	462	458	470	495
Year 7	-	-	-	-	-
Year 9	633	530	558	597	594

NAPLAN participation for this school is 91%

NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%

NB A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate for a comparison to be available. Grey shading indicates participation did not meet these thresholds.

*Mrs Elyse O'Connor*

NAPLAN Coordinator



## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS REPORT

Snowy Mountains Christian School participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) this year. It was offered to students from Year 2 to Year 10. Countries around the world that participate in this competition include Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.

"ICAS is designed to target students' higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee and Digital Technologies."

The assessments are suitable for students wishing to extend themselves academically and take up the personal challenge of competing in an international assessment.

6 students from SMCS, participated from Year 3-10 and whom together completed 12 assessments.

- In ICAS Mathematics one student in Year 4 received a Credit certificate and one student in Year 5 received a Credit certificate.
- In ICAS Digital Technologies one student in Year 4 received a Credit certificate.
- In ICAS Writing one student in Year 10 received a Distinction certificate.

Below is the Raw Results for each test:



### Digital Technologies 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

#### Performance Overview

#### Awards

Year Level	School	Test Score Distribution	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 4	School AU		21 16.1	30	0 4.6	0	0	1	0	0	1

Award Certificate	For each year level in the state or country/region
HD = High Distinction	The top 1% of participants
D = Distinction	The next 10% of participants
C = Credit	The next 25% of participants
M = Merit	The next 10% of participants
P = Participation	For all remaining participants

average score  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10%  
(not shown if fewer than 10 students)

# ICAS REPORT

**ICAS. | ICAS assessments | Powered by Janison. | Supported by THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

## English 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

Performance Overview		Awards								
Year Level	Test Score Distribution	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 5 School AU		21 28.5	50	4.2 6.7	0	0	0	0	2	2
Year 6 School AU		30 29.9	50	0 8	0	0	0	0	1	1

**Award Certificate** For each year level in the state or country/region  
HD = High Distinction  
D = Distinction  
C = Credit  
M = Merit  
P = Participation  
The top 1% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
The next 25% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
For all remaining participants

**average score**  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10% (not shown if fewer than 10 students)

**ICAS. | ICAS assessments | Powered by Janison. | Supported by THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

## Mathematics 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

Performance Overview		Awards								
Year Level	Test Score Distribution	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 4 School AU		28 22.9	40	0 6.3	0	0	1	0	0	1
Year 5 School AU		24.5 23.9	40	2.1 6.5	0	0	1	0	1	2

**Award Certificate** For each year level in the state or country/region  
HD = High Distinction  
D = Distinction  
C = Credit  
M = Merit  
P = Participation  
The top 1% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
The next 25% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
For all remaining participants

**average score**  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10% (not shown if fewer than 10 students)

**ICAS. | ICAS assessments | Powered by Janison. | Supported by THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

## Science 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

Performance Overview		Awards								
Year Level	Test Score Distribution	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 5 School AU		19 22.4	40	0 5.7	0	0	0	0	1	1

**Award Certificate** For each year level in the state or country/region  
HD = High Distinction  
D = Distinction  
C = Credit  
M = Merit  
P = Participation  
The top 1% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
The next 25% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
For all remaining participants

**average score**  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10% (not shown if fewer than 10 students)

# ICAS REPORT



ICAS assessments | Powered by **Janison.**



## Spelling Bee 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

### Performance Overview

### Awards

Year Level	School	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 5	School AU	10 22.1	45	8.1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Year 6	School AU	21 24.9	50	9.1	0	0	0	0	1	1

Award Certificate  
For each year level in the state or country/region  
HD = High Distinction  
D = Distinction  
C = Credit  
M = Merit  
P = Participation

For each year level in the state or country/region  
The top 1% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
The next 25% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
For all remaining participants

average score  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10% (not shown if fewer than 10 students)



ICAS assessments | Powered by **Janison.**



## Writing 2023 - Raw Score Results & Awards

Below is a summary of the performance of all your students that participated including award summary data for each year level of participation.

### Performance Overview

### Awards

Year Level	School	Average Raw Score	Max Possible Score	Std Dev	HD	D	C	M	P	Students
Year 9	School AU	19 20.7	31	4.7	0	0	0	0	1	1
Year 10	School AU	28 22	31	4.5	0	0	1	0	0	1

Award Certificate  
For each year level in the state or country/region  
HD = High Distinction  
D = Distinction  
C = Credit  
M = Merit  
P = Participation

For each year level in the state or country/region  
The top 1% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
The next 25% of participants  
The next 10% of participants  
For all remaining participants

average score  
range excluding the top 10% and bottom 10% (not shown if fewer than 10 students)

*Mrs Elyse O'Connor*

ICAS Coordinator

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# POLICIES

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**The full transcript of the following policies can be found on the  
Snowy Mountains Christian School website.**

**[www.smcs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.smcs.nsw.edu.au)  
[www.smcs.nsw.edu.au/newsletters-documents](http://www.smcs.nsw.edu.au/newsletters-documents)**

**Copies of these policies can also be obtained from the School Office.**

**Student welfare, pastoral care, anti-bullying, discipline and complaints handling is infused in all teacher-student-parent interactions and informs development of all policies and procedures.**

- **Student Welfare Policy and Procedures**
- **Anti-bullying Policy and Procedures**
- **Nurture and Discipline Policy and Behaviour Management Procedures**
- **Child Safe Policy**
- **Enrolment Policy**
- **Managing Complaints Policy**





SNOWY MOUNTAINS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
2023 ANNUAL REPORT