



Live to be kind. Learn to be wise.

Annual Report  
2014



*“I have always had this view about the modern education system: we pay attention to brain development, but the development of warm-heartedness we take for granted.”*

His Holiness Dalai Lama

## Principal Overview

The year 2014 was certainly a year of growth for our school. With 15 Prep students enrolling we were able to offer our first Prep only class. It was wonderful to see so many bright, happy faces eager to learn. Congratulations to Ann Fitzgerald for taking on the task of teaching this dynamic class.

We are deeply grateful for the support and generosity shown to our school by Venerable Phuoc Tan and the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook who organised and hosted a fundraising event for us at the start of the year. The event attracted people from all over Melbourne and was great exposure for the school. We received \$10,000 in donations from the event which certainly helped boost our building fund.

Term one saw the event now in everyone's calendar the annual Autumn Fair being held once again. This fantastic community event is an opportunity to invite the public into our school and celebrate with them. The 2014 event saw the biggest crowd ever come and enjoy the festivities.

We also welcomed back Tanya Wiggins who returned after a couple of years away on maternity leave to the position of Learning Manager and bid farewell to Marilyn Chambers.

The final year Latrobe University Outdoor Education students organised our school camp again this year, taking our Grade 3,4 & 5 students to Lake Epplaock. The highlight of the camp was canoeing across to the island! It was so great to see the older more experienced students helping out the younger ones and it really demonstrated the strength of the skills they have developed through our outdoor education program over the last couple of years.

In 2014 we continued our involvement in community projects developing a strong partnership with the Friends of Cornish Hill. The students all assisted planting saplings in the Cornish Hill revegetation. The school was also involved in a Bat workshop where they explored a natural habitat of bats in the local environment.

The school was approached by a local resident who asked if we would be interested in assisting them with beautifying of the Bus Stop in Bridport Street. Through our Project Learning groups in Term 4 we contributed yarn bombing, seedling and succulent plantings, mosaic tiles, clay sculptures and more to the wall adjacent to the bus stop. The intent was to provide a more visually appealing environment to those waiting for transport into and out of Daylesford. The students really took ownership of the project and helped create a comfortable and creative space.



This year we held our first Comedy 4 Karma fundraising event that was a huge success. We are so grateful to all the wonderful comedians who donated their time for the evening to provide a thoroughly entertaining evening for the people of Daylesford. We are sure to run this event again in years to come

Our fabulous teaching and administration staff continue to provide an amazing environment for learning. Each and every day I express my gratitude to having such a great team around to ensure we deliver the best experience we can for all our students and their families. In 2014 the Teacher Retreat was held at the Satyananda Yoga Ashram in Rocklyn. The staff spent three days engaging in Buddhist pedagogy and developing a deeper understanding of the philosophy that underpins our school.

We continue our search for a new home and raising the funds for this with a working party being setup. This working party tirelessly volunteered their time to identify potential properties and evaluate them against the various legislative and compliance requirements. With the support of this working party we are getting closer to finding a permanent site for the school to relocate to.

Thank you to all the students, staff, parents and volunteers for their continued support and belief in our school. Without each other we do not have a community and it is such a wonderful community to be a part of.

**Joel Hines**  
Principal



## Board of Governance Report

This year is highlighted by transition and growth. Transition around the school premises and growth from the ground up as the school welcomes Year prep students and their families to the school. These are all positive indicators in terms of the achievements of the school and its core foundation of Buddhist principles that combine with high quality teaching and learning.

The nature of this past 12 months requires diligent Board governance in the ongoing evolution of the school's strategic plan, combined with setting realistic goals in order to maintain the School's viability both in terms of high quality educational outcomes and financial and budgetary requirements. The Board has provided guidance and direction for the School's Principal to implement key directions in the past 12 months. In particular: the transition of the school premises; the establishment of a strategic fundraising strategy and the ongoing operations of the School. It has been exciting and yet challenging to come to this point of signing a contract to purchase land in order to develop the next stage of the school.

Two new members joined the Board: Kim Percy as the Board's first parent representative and Lynda Poke, who is now the Treasurer. Their commitment and expertise has been gratefully received. There are long term Board members who have been engaged since the School's inception and we are truly grateful for their ongoing generosity of time and commitment over the years. Kim Woodram, who was the previous Treasurer, had to leave the Board due to health reasons. On behalf of the Board and school community, we thank Kim for her dedication and enthusiasm over the time she served on the Board. Late last year, as the purchase of a property came to the fore, Mel Ogden (who is a Board member) stepped down to take on a paid coordinator's role to manage the property development. Mel has worked tirelessly behind the scenes and has done a lot of work beyond her paid hours in dealing with permits and all the project design – thank you Mel. Thanks also to parents and community members who have given in kind support and commitment to bringing this next stage to fruition.

The current Board (2014 – 15) is:

Gen Blades – chairperson

Lynda Poke – treasurer

Andrea Furness – secretary

Kim Percy

Nic Aunger

All Board positions are voluntary and our heartfelt gratitude extends to all Board members.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated work and leadership by the Principal, Joel Hines, along with the excellent teaching team, administrative staff and volunteers.

**Gen Blades**

Chairperson



### Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

All parents and teachers and Grade 5 students were given an opportunity to provide feedback to the school through the School Survey in 2014.

This survey asked questions relating to 9 key areas:

- An explicit improvement agenda
- Analysis and discussion of data
- A culture that promotes learning
- Targeted use of school resources
- An expert teaching team
- Systematic curriculum delivery
- Differentiated teaching and learning
- Effective pedagogical practices
- School-community partnerships

As a result of the survey it was identified that the school demonstrated a strong culture that parents, staff and students felt was inclusive and supported the teaching and learning of the students.

Some areas of improvement were identified in the areas of school maintenance and the dissemination of data in relation to student outcomes

### Characteristics of Student Body

GRADE	Male	Female	Total
Prep	6	9	15
Grade 1	1	6	7
Grade 2	2	3	5
Grade 3	2	2	4
Grade 4	2	5	7
Grade 5	2	5	7
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>45</b>

Represents 100% non indigenous students





## Teacher Standards and Qualifications

All teachers employed at the school have the appropriate registration required by the Victorian Institute of Teachers (VIT). Working with Children checks have been obtained for all other non-teaching staff and volunteers working at the school.

Professional development expenditure of just over \$15,000 (including travel costs) was used for professional learning for all staff.

Funded professional development activities were:

- Annual Teacher retreat
- Specific training, seminars, workshops and events from approved Educational Training Providers.
- Inter school networking for teacher mentoring and support.
- Introduction of Growth Mindset framework
- Introduction of AITSL Standards for Teachers

## Workforce composition

	Male		Female	
	Count	EFT	Count	EFT
Principal	1	0.8	0	0
Teaching staff (including librarians)	1	0.8	4	2.4
Specialist Support	0	0	1	0.3
Administration and Clerical (including aids and assistants)	1	0.1	4	1.0

Represents 100% non indigenous staff

## Attendance

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE
Prep	90%
Grade 1	87%
Grade 2	88%
Grade 3	81%
Grade 4	81%
Grade 5	87%

Attendance across the whole school was 86% for 2014

Attendance is monitored twice daily. All absences, early leavers and latecomers are required to inform the school either by phone, email or by filling in the required form. Any unexplained absences are followed up by administration staff via phone call to parent or carer. Attendance rates are reported to parents in their students report twice a year.



## Student Results in Assessments

Our students performed well under test conditions with the NAPLAN testing during 2014. Due to our small numbers the results are not statistically significant as a comparison however detail about these results can be viewed on the ACARA website.. Our emphasis is providing an opportunity for students to learn and cope with the stress and pressure surrounding testing and exams. We believe that our programs centred around mindfulness, concentration and focus adequately prepare students for these testing conditions.

## Funding

The School received a total of \$738,231 in receipts for the year of 2014. This amount comprised the recurrent government grants, tuition fees, fundraising activities and donations.



