



**CSA NSW/ACT STATE UPDATE**  
From the Desk of the Executive Officer – NSW/ACT  
April 2018



**Dear Colleagues – as Term 1 draws to a close here's the update from NSW/ACT**

## **1. Farewell to Keith Francis and Hello Denise Parcell – January**

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Unfortunately, the year started with a sad farewell to our National Chairman, Keith Francis. His memorial service on the Gold Coast in January was testimony to a life well lived in the service of God and Christian Education.

On a positive note we welcomed Denise Parcell to the role of Communications and Administration Support Officer for CSA NSW/ACT. No doubt you have already had contact with Denise re the Newsletter for Term 1. She is proving to be an invaluable asset to the NSW team and a great support for schools/principals and PA's.

## **2. God's Big Story PD for Schools – January 24-26**

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I kicked the year off doing one of my favourite things – running PD for staff at Taree Christian College and Toongabbie Christian College. We worked through Modules 1, 3 and 4 of the God's Big Story Train the Trainer Course. Feedback was positive and it was wonderful to see teachers working with the GBS resources and thinking critically about how they programme and present their teaching and learning from a biblical perspective.

The modules are available on the CSA website <https://csa.edu.au/resources/curriculum-resources/> for all users to access – or I am more than happy to head to your school and present to your staff.

## **3. State Council Retreat and Board Chair Dinner – Feb 19-21**

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In February the State Council headed south to the ACT for our retreat. We had a solid day of strategic planning and have developed a State/Territory plan in line with the National Strategic Plan complete with objectives and KPI's (love it when a plan comes together!). We also welcomed the newly appointed Principal for Brindabella, Christine Lucas at the Board Chairs dinner along with Ian Hewitt the new Principal at Trinity. It is always wonderful to hear the passion that Board Chairs have for Christian Education and be able to share the work CSA is doing to help support their schools.

On the Wednesday we had our first State Council Meeting for 2018 and we developed action items for Regional Representatives on State Council, plus the planning for the Principals Retreat and an inaugural Board Chairs Dinner for the Sydney Regions. It was decided that the 2019 State Conference will be held in a CSA School next year and we identified a possible host. Planning is underway for Conference 2019 and communication will go out to schools Term 2 to ensure time for budgeting and planning.

State Council also decided to partner with Halloran Morrissey to undertake our Child Protection Support Service for 2018. The initial Investigator training course is scheduled for June 6-8 and a dedicated website will be online Term 2.

#### **4. North Coast Leaders - March 2nd**

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Daniel Pampuch presented at the Association of Christian School Executives from the North Coast Christian Schools meeting and then joined leaders at the dinner afterwards. By all accounts it was a fruitful meeting and enjoyable networking experience.

#### **5. Compass Schools Conference - March 3-5**

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I was privileged to be invited to attend the Compass Schools Conference in Canberra at the beginning of March. It was a full 3 days of both formation learning for students and staff alike plus visits to Parliament House and the War Memorial. We have some amazing young leaders in our schools and I felt honoured to get to know them, and their dedicated teachers over the 3 days. Well done Compass Foundation for the work you do in developing Christian leaders for emerging generations.

CSA are partnering with Compass to extend offerings to our schools, including a Formation Retreat for Christian Teachers in July this year <https://www.compass.org.au/>

#### **6. NSW Principal Retreat – March 7-9**

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The State Council decided that 2018 was the year to revive the Principals Retreat for Christian Schools. We held the retreat at Macquarie Graduate School of Management and guest speaker Andrew Ranucci lead us through 3 days of being in a 'Quiet Place' with God and each other. It was a marvellous time of fellowship and renewal for all who attended, topped off with some activities and games in the Lane Cove National Park and a great dinner at the Whitefire Grill Steakhouse. Thanks to Ian Liney and Janine Hellyer from Wyong for all their organisation plus Tanya Anway from Brightwaters for the 'showbags' and lollies. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and this Retreat promises to be a signature event on the CSA annual calendar.

The Term 1 THACCCSA Meeting, New Principal Induction and AGM were all held at the Retreat. Welcome to new Principals Malcolm East (Hunter Christian School), Mark Shume (Greenacre Christian School) and Ian Hewitt (Trinity Christian School in the ACT).

#### **7. Bali Buddies Immersion Trip – March 10-16**

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Both Daniel Pampuch and myself were invited by Coffs Harbour Community Christian School to accompany Dave Hamilton and Dave Sochin on their annual trip to Bali to support schools and orphanages plus The Bali Buddies Language Programme. CHCCS has been supporting both schools and orphanages in Bali for over 20 years and have developed strong relationships between the Coffs Primary and Secondary campuses, and 4 schools in Bali. They have done an outstanding job in supporting Christian Education in Bali and the relationships they have forged are grounded in Christ. CSA are working with CHCCS to expand the Bali Buddies Programme to other schools in our network who teach Indonesian. CHCCS are developing a model to be presented at the May Forum.

## **8. ACT Board Chair and Principals Dinner – March 19**

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The first of two Board Chair and Principal Dinners for ACT Christian Schools was hosted by CEN's new SEO, Rachel McClure. We were honoured to have Minister Berry attend the dinner and address our school representatives on the current review being undertaken on ACT Schools. This dinner has been running successfully for a number of years and is an opportunity for Principals and Board Chairs from all Christian Schools in Australia to unite in fellowship and learning.

## **9. Curriculum Symposium – English Focus – March 21-23**

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This year's Symposium was hosted by Christian Heritage College in Brisbane and coordinated by Sandra Scott our SEO South Australia. I spent a couple of days with Craig Murison and Louise Scache developing a framework tool to use with the Australian Curriculum and God's Big Story in February prior to the Symposium. We also fine-tuned the programme for the Symposium to allow attendees adequate time to develop programmes using the God's Big Story approach and the framework. The Symposium was an intense 2 days of programme development for English teachers from around the country with representatives from all States. The NSW team of Bronwyn Wong, Gareth Scott and Karlene Grinham did an amazing job of pulling together a Year 7 programme and developing our own framework for NSW schools. All programmes will be uploaded on the CSA LOR for teachers to access.

## **10. The Inaugural Sydney Regional Board Chairs Dinner – April 6**

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Following on the success of the ACT Board Chair and Principal Dinner, CSA launched the Sydney Regional Board Chair Dinner last week. We gathered at the Mercure in Parramatta and invited Mark Spencer to present a National Update to the group. I then facilitated interviews with Paddy Benn (Board Chair St George Christian School) and Pam O'Flaherty (Board Chair Oxford Falls Grammar School). All attendees gained from the wisdom of 2 very experienced board chairs and of course, Mark Spencer. The feedback from the night was overwhelmingly positive and we will be hosting another dinner in Term 4 this year.

## **11. Visit to Hinterland Christian College – April 10-11**

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I am heading up to Hinterland today to support Karlene Grinham in the implementation of the Gods Big Story approach to her English programming and help with the development of her strategic plan for 2018.

It's been a busy but incredibly rewarding term here at the NSW/ACT Office. The Easter break allowed some much-needed time for reflection and rest before the final weeks of Term. I have also just submitted my draft Research Proposal for my PhD in Organisational Leadership through Excelsia so stay tuned for further information!

I pray you have had an equally rewarding Term 1 and look forward to catching up in Term 2

Blessings

**Cassandra Pendlebury**  
State Executive Officer – NSW/ACT  
Christian Schools Australia