

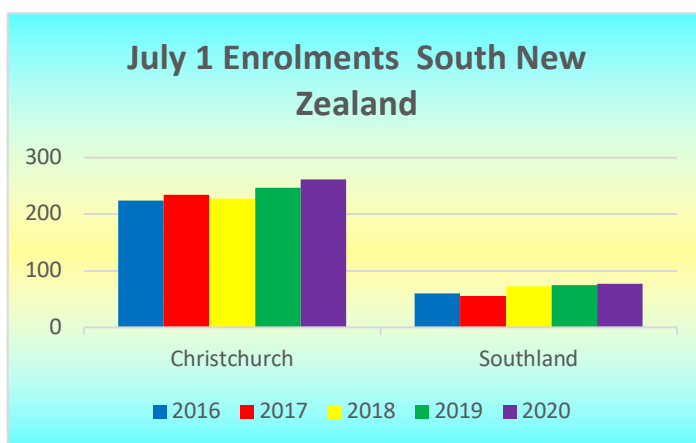
Directors Report

Educational Activity

Highlights

Growing system

With the approved increases in maximum rolls for both Southland and Christchurch Adventist Schools the enrolment in South New Zealand has increased. This continues a steady trend seen over a number of years. The total student enrolment is 339 within an approved maximum of 350. 45% of the enrolled students are from Adventist families.



Online Learning

We can be grateful for the excellent response to the COVID19 crisis that was led by the Ministry of Education. Schools were well informed, and by and large the Adventist Education Office only had to address matters relating to property. Both our principals —Evan Ellis and Joshua Taylor— led very ably, and the overall consensus is that they moved to online learning very well. They have also transitioned back to school-based learning equally well. The principals and staffs are a real credit to the church for the way in which they have responded during this time.

Lowlights

Staffing

COVID-19 will have an impact on the teacher supply as we move towards 2021.

As we grow in size and face situations like COVID-19, staffing our schools will remain a very difficult job. Our strategic plan for 2020 – 2025 is to challenge and support students and young people to see life as mission and to consider how their work could be mission and a means of supporting the mission of the church. Although it may take some time before we see students training and graduating as teachers, we need to encourage our children and youth to consider how their careers can be of service to God.

Items of Interest

Encounter Review

It is ten years since we completed the MOU between Australia and New Zealand to jointly develop the Encounter curriculum for our schools. This innovative Bible programme is being overseen by the Australia New Zealand Encounter Curriculum Committee (ANZECC). We are grateful for the funding from the Bainfield Trust and others. This funding has contributed to making this project such a success. The curriculum has been a very positive contribution to our school programme and the impact has been rewarding. In these ten years, the British Union and the North American Division have both adopted the programme under MOU's with New Zealand and Australia. We have also been approached by other parts of the world which are also looking at using the programme.

Currently, we are working with Australia to review and update the units to ensure they are current and reflect what teachers have learned from the implementation and teaching of the units thus far – including feedback from the North American Division implementation.

Maria Cokanasiga and Joshua Taylor represent New Zealand on the Curriculum Committee.

Fourth Quarter's Sabbath Lessons

The General Conference have prepared a series of lessons on Christian Education scheduled to be used during the fourth quarter of 2020. This is an exciting opportunity to engage members in a discussion around the issues of being a learning organisation, as well as an opportunity to feature our schools as excellent learning organisations. To this end, the Adventist Education Office are preparing a series of 14 videos that share a brief insight into learning and a snapshot of our schools each week. Churches will be encouraged to screen these short videos and to share and reflect on them as they engage in Sabbath School and other programmes.

Integration Reflection

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Director of Education took the opportunity to write a review of the historic factors that had led Adventist Education to integrate into the state school system. This included a record of the schools' journeys since integration. It is our intention to make this document available for our schools and churches, as it serves as a record and reminder of the journey of Adventist schools in the 27 years since integration. In South New Zealand we have witnessed an increase of 140% increase in student enrolment which is 5% annual growth. There are implications if this continues for the two schools.