Mission Statement

‘Good Shepherd Lutheran College is a Christ-centred community providing educational excellence in a nurturing environment, developing active, knowledgeable and compassionate students, encouraging them to enrich our world through selfless service.’
A Place of Growth

The mission statement of our College is a clear statement about what we as a College believe is critical to the holistic development of the children we are entrusted with.

Principal’s Message

The College aims to provide an educational pathway for each student that empowers them to develop as successful learners and valuable members of the wider community. We ensure that students aspire and strive to achieve the greatest possible choice of futures through an experience of excellence in pedagogy and pastoral care.

I look forward to welcoming you to Good Shepherd and invite you to contact our Registrar for further information or to book a College tour.

Mrs Rachel Boyce, College Principal
Living in Grace

God’s love and the gift of forgiveness He offers to us informs who we are, and guides us in the decisions we make.

We exist to provide a vibrant and challenging education for all our students within a caring, supportive community and seek to foster in them a living relationship with Jesus Christ. The learning environment for each of our sub-schools ensures students feel secure, confident and happy and are well supported by the facilities, modern technologies and programs required for a quality education.

Caring, Personal Relationships

Good Shepherd provides an environment where each individual is valued as a special child of God, and is treated with Christian love and respect; encouraged to challenge themselves to aspire and strive to be their best academically, socially and spiritually. We emphasize the importance of caring, personal relationships built on mutual respect in all aspects of life.

Uniqueness

We appreciate that each child has individual strengths and we commit to helping parents nurture their children’s growth and development. To fulfil this commitment, we provide a Pastoral Care program that emphasises the partnership between God, parents, our staff and the children entrusted to our care. Through pastoral care programs students are encouraged to identify and reflect upon their core values, ensuring that these inform their decision making and are apparent in their actions. Personal integrity is the foundation from which students are encouraged to learn from and value the differences in those around them.

Lutheran Education

In 2014, the Lutheran Schools Association held many celebrations in honour of 175 years of Lutheran Education in Australia. Today over 38,000 students receive their education in 86 Lutheran schools throughout Australia. They are located in every state and territory apart from the ACT. In addition, close to 4000 children are educated and cared for in 52 Lutheran early childhood centres around the nation.

What’s so important about Lutheran Schools?

• Lutherans have operated schools in Australia since 1839
• Students in Lutheran schools are seen as unique people created by God
• Core values of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation
• Schools strive to provide an education of excellence

For more information on what we believe and do please go to www.lca.org.au
Valuing Community

At Good Shepherd we value family and community partnerships, and reach out to students and their families with the love of Christ.

Strong Relationships

We place a high priority on ensuring that our students are resilient and well-balanced, and through the College Pastoral Care program we aim to develop confident learners with a passion for life-long learning, with an acceptance of who they are and where their strengths lie.

Service Learning

Service is a core value that underpins the ethos of the College and students at all year levels are provided with opportunities to use and develop their abilities for personal growth and service to others, and are encouraged to reflect on their own spiritual development. Students are empowered to be caring, resilient individuals who value social justice and who seek to create a better world.

With this in mind, we ask students to commit to service in a manner that is appropriate for each individual, taking into account family circumstances as well as the physical and emotional development of each student.

There are numerous local and overseas community service opportunities for our students, with the Bethany House Service Project in Malaysia and World Challenge, being latest additions.

Community Involvement

Good Shepherd recognises the mutual benefit that is developed through interaction between the school and the wider community. There are a number of ways relationships are fostered with families, organisations and communities connected with the College.

Volunteers are welcomed into the classrooms and are valued for their contribution. There is a strong sense of community within the College which is greatly aided by various initiatives such as ‘Class Carers’ who plan social events and support families.

The College places great emphasis on maintaining active and vital links with former students and encourages them to retain their membership of the College’s wider community through social events, such as reunions and guest speaker program. The opportunities for Old Collegians continue to develop. They will always be a part of our community and are most welcome to become involved and support the College in achieving its mission.
Good Shepherd Beginnings

Located across three campuses in Palmerston, Howards Springs and Leanyer, the College has grown from a single campus established in 1998 with an initial enrolment of 18 students.

In 2009 the College commenced Senior Schooling with eleven students completing Year 12 in 2011. Today, Good Shepherd provides educational opportunities from our Early Learning Centre (ELC) through to Year 12 for approximately 1,300 students.

- **Palmerston Campus** is located on the corner of Emery Avenue and Temple Terrace in Palmerston and caters for students in Transition to Year 5.

- **St Andrew Campus**, Leanyer is located at 94 Leanyer Drive. The Early Learning Centre caters for 3-5 year old children. The Junior School caters for students in Transition to Year 6.

- **Howard Springs Campus** is located on the corner of Whitewood Road and Kundook Place in Howard Springs. It has an Early Learning Centre that caters for four year old children and a Junior School. The Middle and Senior Schools cater for students in Year 6 – Year 12.
Learning at Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd exists to provide a vibrant and challenging education for all our students within a caring, supportive community and seeks to foster in them a living relationship with Jesus Christ. The learning environment for each of our sub-schools ensures students feel secure, confident and happy and are well supported by the facilities, modern technologies and programs required for a quality education.
Early Learning Centres

Good Shepherd Lutheran College has two Early Learning Centres, located at the St Andrew campus in Leanyer and at the Howard Springs Campus. The ELC at the St Andrew campus caters for 3-5 year olds and the Howard Springs Campus for 4 year old children.

A qualified teacher at each campus leads a team of caring staff in implementing the learning program. The Early Learning Centre aims to develop children intellectually, socially and physically, while meeting their emotional and spiritual needs. The ELC aims to provide an innovative play-based curriculum designed to cater to each child’s individual learning style and needs. The learning program is based on the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Children will be exposed to a curriculum where they are encouraged to question, investigate and learn about the world around them, preparing them for the transition into their first year of Junior School.
Junior Schools

Preparing students to become lifelong learners who respect themselves and others and participate fully in the world within and beyond the classroom.

Primary Years Programme
The Junior Schools use the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP). The IBPYP equips students with the knowledge and skills for lifelong learning using inquiry based pedagogy, taught through the Australian Curriculum.

Transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry
The learning in each year level is based around six transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry with a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. In this programme students are encouraged to be inquirers, thinkers and communicators in an environment that is challenging and supportive.

Interesting Facts
All students take part in swimming lessons each year and the annual swimming and athletics carnivals are highlights on the calendar. Good Shepherd has a strong presence in the local netball competitions with the Junior School students starting to play in Year 2. Year 5 students take part in the Palmerston & Rural Region School Sport (PARRS) events and the students have the opportunity to be chosen for the PARRS teams.
Middle School

Building positive relationships with peers and adults as young people seek to define their identity, beliefs and place within the broader community.

Learning Through the Middle Years

We strongly believe that children in this sub-school need learning experiences that are integrated, relevant, challenging and rewarding, and include practical activities that empower them to take responsibility for their own learning.

The Middle Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate (IBMYP) organises learning into eight subject groups, with an emphasis on inquiry through interdisciplinary learning. This approach helps students to take knowledge from two or more subjects, and create new understandings and connections. Through the programme students are encouraged to be active learners who through international mindedness are able to empathise with others and pursue a life of purpose and meaning. The subject groups taught follow the Australian Curriculum with the addition of Christian Studies as a ninth subject.

Languages offered at Good Shepherd include both German and Japanese and our Art and Technology subjects include units such as Woodwork, Graphics, Animation, Food Technology, Textiles, ICT, Music, Visual Art, Dance and Drama.
Senior School

A partnership with parents, where genuine relationships are established to support students both personally and professionally as they make the transition from dependence to interdependence to independence.

Curriculum and Subject Choice

The Senior School academic program builds on the IB MYP offered in the Middle School years. Students are able to choose from a wide variety of subjects as part of a broad and well balanced curriculum, which enables them to gain the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) on completion of Year 12/13.

The Senior School currently uses the curriculum prescribed by the SACE Board of South Australia (South Australian Certificate of Education), which is titled the NTCET for Northern Territory students. This senior school curriculum offers a wide range of subject choices, is accessible to a wide range of students, and has world class academic rigour.

Students are supported in achieving the NTCET and the College also offers Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses through the NTCET and through external course providers.

Partnerships

From this basis of understanding and developing responsibility for themselves, students work in partnership with College staff to make informed decisions, set goals, develop plans and pursue these with courage and discipline. Student pathways are individualised and may include academic and vocational elements, relevant to their further education and career aspirations.
The Classroom and Beyond

Good Shepherd aims to provide all students with opportunities to experience and participate rather than to simply learn. Students and staff are able to relate, learn and develop in a safe and relaxed environment outside the constraints of the classroom. Students who participate in activities beyond the classroom have the opportunity to develop their self esteem, gain organisational and leadership skills and appreciate the importance of teamwork.

Outdoor Education and Camps

The College offers an extensive Outdoor Education program that focuses on developing leadership, communication, team-building and organisational skills while providing opportunities for reflection, cultural understanding and environmental awareness. The program is greatly enhanced by the Top End’s fantastic, predictable ‘dry season’ weather.

Diverse Program

The Outdoor Education Program begins with ‘Stay-Ups’ and ‘Sleepovers’ in the Junior Schools and continues through a diverse range of camps for students in Year 4 to Year 12 ranging from a visit to the Nation’s capital-Canberra, to Litchfield National park and a Future Pathways camp in Adelaide for Senior School students. Camps are a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves individually and to develop teamwork skills.

Pedal Prix

Each year, the College sends teams of students Interstate to compete in the Australian International Pedal Prix. Students spend seven months training for the 24 hour endurance event, in a ‘Human Powered Vehicle’. Pedal Prix teaches participants important life skills, providing opportunities for participants to develop their ability in leadership, teamwork, commitment, personal fitness and health.
World Challenge

Every second year, students who are in Years 10 or 11 have the opportunity to go overseas on a challenge and service trip run by international adventure group, World Challenge. In this program students take on roles of leadership and organisation, under the supervision of both Good Shepherd staff and World Challenge leaders. This camp involves both a Service and a Physical Trek component. Participants spend time in the 18 month lead up to their expedition organising and running fundraising events for their chosen project. The program is about developing student leadership and self-esteem, as well as giving students a first-hand appreciation of the needs of people in other parts of the world and how we can help them.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered through the College with students nominating to become involved from 14 years of age. The Duke of Edinburgh award aims to empower young people to explore their potential and achieve success.

Cultural Exchanges

Senior School students have the opportunity to take part in cultural exchange programs to Germany and Japan. These short term visits give students the opportunity to live in and experience a new culture and continues to develop their perspective of living in a global society. Students have the added benefit of applying and further developing their language skills; Japanese and German.

Debating

Good Shepherd students greatly enjoy the opportunities provided through debating at both inter-house and inter-school levels. Many staff and students also enjoy the chance to observe the debated topic at hand. The program has grown dramatically and our teams have been fortunate to regularly make semi-final and final status at both Middle and Senior School levels.
Clubs
Each year, Good Shepherd students and staff organise and participate in a variety of clubs that extend their interests and talents beyond the classroom. Clubs have included Chess, Creative Art, Debating, Dance, Drama, Creative Writing, Cross-country, Fitness Training, Board Games, Anime and Book Club.

Sports Carnivals
Creating College spirit and culture is very important to Good Shepherd. To ensure that this flourishes we have four Houses, Fenton, Hughes, Livingstone and Strauss. The College conducts its annual Swimming Carnival in Term 1 and Athletics Carnival in Term 2. These are both fantastic days where students and staff are involved and dress up to support and compete for their houses.

PARRS
The Palmerston and Rural Region School Sport (PARRS) is a sporting organisation that provides our students with the opportunity to further develop their athletic ability, sportsmanship and relationships with the wider community.
**Music**

Music is offered as a subject to all students from Transition to Year 12. Music provides a unique way of learning and correlates superbly with the Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes. Students are encouraged to sing and/or play musical instruments as well as rehearse together in choirs, bands, quartets, orchestras or be involved in the annual musical.

**College Choirs**

The Junior and Senior School choirs perform at College functions, combined College / Church services, Anzac Day ceremonies, shopping centres, hospitals and many community events. Vocal ensembles contribute to weekly devotions, concerts and recitals.

**Instrumental Music Tuition**

Good Shepherd facilitates individual private instrument tuition. Students are able to take private lessons during College hours: piano, guitar, violin, flute and voice being offered.

**Musical**

Secondary students audition for the biannual musical during a ‘musical camp’. The camp is held over a weekend in Darwin’s picturesque rural region, and provides the perfect opportunity for cast / staff bonding and initial rehearsals. The musical is usually held at the end of Term 2 and has become a most eagerly anticipated event on the College calendar.
Come Join Us!
Hedgehog Concept

‘To ensure that students aspire and strive to achieve the greatest possible choice of futures through an experience of excellence in pedagogy and pastoral care, in order to serve the community.’
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