

Mackay North State School

2007 School Annual Report

School Details

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Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Mackay North State School is known across our region as 'a great school'! The school has a long and proud tradition of excellent academic results, and is well known for our performing arts and sporting achievements. This fine reputation is backed by an experienced and enthusiastic staff, strong community involvement, and the high achievements of our students. 2007 was a year of focussed review and reflection, using the Triennial School Review process, which allowed celebration of our past achievements and set an aligned direction for 2008 - 2010. The year was also marked by a number of community grants which provided a new Senior Years Playground (School Community Grant), Early Years Playground (Gaming Commission Grant) and upgraded classroom furniture and ICT hardware- connectivity across the whole school (Investing In Our Schools Grant). The renewed school Statement of Purpose is to deliver high quality education in an inclusive and supportive environment which provides children with the knowledge and skills needed for their future.

Future Outlook

The following is a statement of achievements from 2007:

Learning

- Strong writing results across the school
- Successful implementation of half cohort of Prep and preparations for full cohort in 2008
- Development of Early Years Strategy
- Continuation of Middle Phase Action Plans
- Development of Whole School Mathematics Program
- Outstanding performing arts awards
- Optiminds Honours (for all 3 teams)

School

- Completion of Triennial School Review, with school and community representation, outlining the strategic direction of the school for 2008 to 2010.
 - Upgrade of ICTs: Transisiton to MOE V2.0, and computers for teachers program.
 - Implement programs using successful Community Grants - eg School Community Development Fund (Senior Area Playground), Investing in Our Schools (Classroom furniture upgrade and ICT hardware upgrade)
- ##### Community Gaming Funds (Early Years Playground)
- Implement the creation of Early Years, Middle Years and Senior School precincts
 - Review of Responsible Behaviour Plan for students in response to the student opinion survey data
 - Trial of student Communication Books

Workforce

- Provision of professional development aigned to school priorities
- Implement the Workforce Sustainability Plan developed during the TSR process

Mackay North State School

2007 School Annual Report

Future Implications:

- Implement School Strategic Plan, developed through the TRS Process 2007, which includes:
 - Whole school focus on Information Technology: internal school communication system, student learning, teacher professional skills.
 - Implement QCARF - audit Essential Learnings, Student reporting, aligned curriculum and assessment.
 - Investigate English Syllabus upon release.
 - Adoption of student communication books through whole school
 - Implement revised Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
 - Continue school programs valued by community

Mackay North State School

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total enrolments:	391
Year levels offered:	Prep-7
Structure:	Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings and Extra Curricula Activities:

Our distinctive Curriculum Offerings include the eight Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Studies of Society and Environment, The Arts. Technology, Language other than English and Health and Physical Education.

During the year, our LOTE changed from French, to an Intercultural Investigations Studies approach, with a focus on European culture for the first semester, and the Asian Culture for the second Semester. This change brings us into alignment with our feeder High School, which offered a single LOTE of Japanese.

The school has additional curriculum offerings of

- Gifted and Talented
- Special Education Unit – Cooking, Bowling, Fishing, Gymnastics, Life Skills
- Learning Support Programs, including Intensive Reading
- Integrated ICT in class programs
- Project Clubs year 5 - 7
- Library Monitors Program.
- Opti-Minds
- Northside Consortium Scholarship

The Arts:

- Instrumental Music (Strings; Woodwind, Brass and Percussion)
- Choir
- Recorder Band
- Wakakirri

Sporting:

- Club sports (Basketball, Hockey, Rugby League)
- Athletics (District, Regional and State Representation)
- Interschool Sport
- Swimming

Parents, in the Opinion Survey, reported a level of satisfaction with the variety of school activities at 71.9%

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 76.5%

How computers are used to assist learning:

From the improved infrastructure upgrades delivered during 2006, the school was successfully transitioned to the system-wide Managed Operating System V2.0 (MOE), making our school part of the single Education Queensland network. This brought with it the remote service facility, assisting the school in the management of hardware issues. Following the MOE upgrade, the school was then issued with laptops for all teachers as part of the Computers for Teachers Program.

Throughout the year, staff have been involved in training opportunities to improve their skills and confidence in using technology. Teachers have continued to make full use of the computer lab, the mini-lab located in the library, and the 2 or 3 computers in each classroom from Prep to Year 7.

Teachers have ensured that the use of ICTs is included in the Integrated Units taught each term, and students have demonstrated their knowledge of ICT skills through the accumulation and manipulation of information and the delivery of assessment tasks.

Mackay North State School

Our school at a glance

Social climate

Student and parent concern with the behaviour of students at this school has been addressed through a number of strategies. A continued focus on the whole school 'You Can Do It' program, which addresses the social-emotional well being of students, has been a priority for all class teachers, including regular presentations and celebrations on weekly assemblies. The school undertook a revision of our Responsible Behaviour Plan for students, which refined and clarified the expectations of student behaviour and processes used to support students. A trial of a student communication book was conducted with the recommendation that it be introduced across the school in 2008.

The school utilises a number of committees to support the learning, behaviour and engagement of students. One priority this year has been the partnership between school and parents, and additional community organisations, working together to support individual students through short or long term modified learning programs.

In 2007, the school successfully made application for a School Chaplain, to commence in 2008.

39.2% of students reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

46.9% of parents reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

Involving parents in their child's education

Our school enjoys strong support from our parent body and local community.

Our students are well supported through extensive volunteer contributions in all aspects of school programs and especially the Literacy and Numeracy programs. It is a feature of the school that community events are held regularly and are valued through high attendance. These include (amongst other events) the annual ATSI BBQ, Welcome-back Bush Dance, and Volunteers' Thank you Morning Tea.

At school events, such as Sports Day, Under Eights Celebrations, community representatives such as our Adopt-A-Cop, Adopt-An-Ambo and Adopt-A-Firey all are regular participants.

Communication with parents and community are through the fortnightly newsletter, the weekly assembly and twice-yearly parent teacher interviews, which complement the issuing of the formal report card for each student at the end of each semester. Annual events, such as the Year Seven Graduation and the Awards Ceremony also provide opportunity for communication and celebration.

Mackay North State School is regarded by our community as a 'Great School'.

The School Opinion Surveys from August 2007 show that in all areas, except the use of ICTs, parent results are comparable to both State and Like schools. Disruption to the delivery of the ICT program occurred through the conversion of the school system to the state-wide single network system (MOEv2). Both students and staff surveys reflected this concern with results in this area falling below state and like school benchmarks. Once the conversion was completed, access to ICTs was greatly enhanced, resulting in the school being included in the computers for teachers program.

2007 was a time of renewal for the school, utilising the Triennial School Review process to re-engage all staff in the future direction for school programs. The development of the School Strategic Plan 2008 - 2010, resulting from the TSR, will guide decision making and provide clear direction for the school.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

78.1% of parents expressed satisfaction that their child is getting a good education at school.

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 89.2%

Parent responses to the Opinion Survey question about this being a good school indicated a level of satisfaction at 81.2%

60% of staff members reported that they were satisfied with the morale in the school.

Mackay North State School

Our school at a glance

Value added

The writing results from the Year 3,5,7 tests showed continued strength in this field with 87% (year 3), 91% (year 5) and 94% (year 7) students meeting the benchmark.

The reading result from the Year 3,5,7 tests was strong for Year 3 students with 91% meeting the benchmark. 73% of both Year 5 and year 7 students met the reading benchmark.

The numeracy results from the year 3,5,7, test showed 83% (year 3), 90% (year 5) and 70 % (Year 7) of students met the benchmark.

Overall, these results are consistent with 2006 results.

Students identified as not having met the benchmark are included in the whole school intervention program, led by the schools Support Teacher Learning Difficulties.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 92%

Mackay North State School

Our Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers and school leaders

Highest level of attainment

Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school

Doctorate

Masters

Bachelor degree

Diploma

Certificate

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$20581

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Literacy
Numeracy
Information Technology
Early Years Pedagogy
Middle Years pedagogy
Music

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 88.5%

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate in 2007 was 96%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

92% of staff were retained by the school from the end of the 2006 school year for the entire 2007 school year.

Mackay North State School

Performance of our students

Please note that as information published in the tables below must maintain the privacy of individual students, data may have been withheld, especially for cohort sizes less than five. In these situations the 'Value Added' section at the beginning of this report provides a narrative in regards to student performance. Similarly, District Special Schools and Outdoor Education Centres may (or will) not have information to publish in these tables.

Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Percentage of students not requiring additional support:

Reading:	71.7
Writing:	71.7
Number:	79.2

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests

		Yr 3:	Yr 5:	Yr 7:	
Reading	Average score for School:	528	599	657	
	Average score for QLD:	527	606	672	
	Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:	2007	91.3	73.2	73
		2006	92.3	77.2	73.7
	Writing	Average score for School:	526	586	668
Average score for QLD:		523	600	681	
Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:		2007	87	91.1	93.7
		2006	90.4	93	89.5
Numeracy		Average score for School:	512	591	637
	Average score for QLD:	521	588	648	
	Percentage of school students above the national benchmark:	2007	83	90	69.8
		2006	80.8	86	64.5