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Principal's foreword

Introduction

2007 began with only five students but ended the school year with 7 students. The year was a success with wonderful community support at our major school events. The school also benefited from the active involvement of the P&C throughout the year. They played a vital part by helping to transport children to various interschool events, working collaboratively with staff as well as running fundraising events towards our biennial school excursion in 2008. Funding through the local area committee of PCAP also enabled the school to purchase a new amplifier and wireless microphones to use at our school community events throughout the year. All staff members were actively involved in Professional Development throughout the year, especially in Literacy and also preparing for the implementation of QCAR Essential Learnings in 2008. Students continue to enjoy the practical hands on integrated unit activities such as our ongoing garden project, woodwork and technology.

Future outlook

2008 will be the school's 10th anniversary with celebrations taking place in second term. Our focus for 2008 will be the continued development of our assessment and reporting processes in line with the District's Curriculum Framework. In addition to that The roll out of the Managed Operating Environment (MOE) for our computer system as well as the roll out of the OneSchool will present many challenges as we try to keep abreast with all these changes. The improvement of the writing and reading skills of our students will continue to be a priority in an endeavour to have this reflected in the year 3, 5, 7 tests.

School Profile

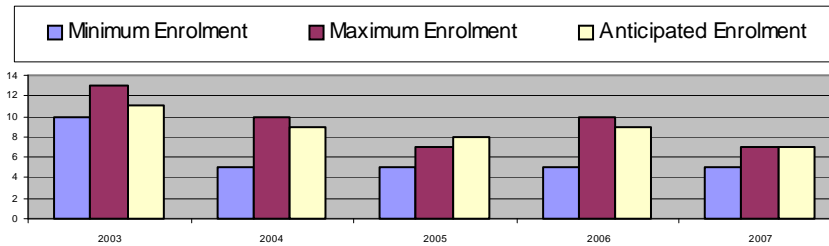
Yowah is an isolated opal mining town 160km west of Cunnamulla. Our enrolments fluctuate throughout each year as shown by the chart below.

Enrolments: In 2007 our minimum was 5 students and our maximum was 7 students.

Year levels P-7 are offered.

Our school is coeducational.

Yowah State School Enrolment Trends



Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Throughout the year students participate in practical, hands-on activities. In 2007 these included a garden project, woodwork, and robotics.
- The students were also involved in the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation's "Fit 4 Fun" program encouraging children to adopt a healthier lifestyle and how to help other children who are less fortunate than themselves. They also won the Queensland Highest Fundraising School Trophy for their Fit 4 Fun fundraising efforts.
- In addition students travel to district sporting events as well as Arts Council Performances. A weekly parade and some major community events such as the Opal Festival provide students with opportunities to be involved in public speaking, drama, singing and a variety of activities.

Extra curricula activities

- The continuing Garden Project provides additional hands on activities throughout the year and also enhances the Maths, Science and Physical Activity programs.
- Students take an active role in the Paroo Shire Council's Junior Council
- South Western Priority Country Area Program (PCAP) Cultural Pursuits program
- Thargomindah Small Schools Sports Camp
- PCAP Small Schools Swim Camp in Charleville.
- Older Students are all Junior Members of the Golf Club.

How computers are used to assist learning

Due to our small student numbers we have a computer for each child and are used on a daily basis. Computers are used across the KLAs as a tool for research, publishing, assessment, extension and consolidation. During the extreme heat of summer months computers are available for use during the lunch break.

Our school at a glance

Social climate

Our small enrolment enables each student to gain a great deal of face to face tutoring and flexibility to meet their individual needs. Parents and staff are actively supportive of the school through the P&C and by their involvement and help at school events and programs. Parents have weekly opportunities to be actively involved in their child's education and to have contact with school staff. Parents are able to be involved in the school's home reading scheme, weekly parade and special events throughout the year. Responses in the School Opinion Survey by parents indicated that students are happy to go to school and feel safe at school. Responses by parents were above the State mean and Like Schools data.

Responses by students in relation to behaviour and discipline at school indicated some issues even though the majority of responses by students showed that they were satisfied to very satisfied.

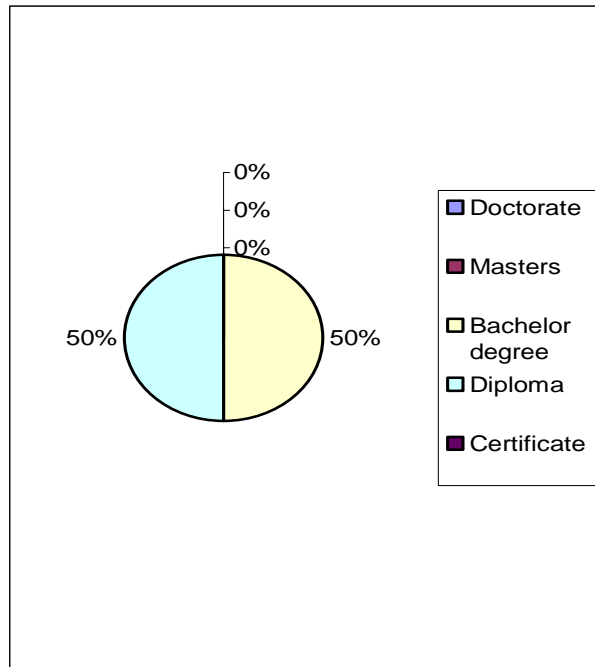
Involving parents in their child's education.

Throughout 2007 the majority of parents have taken an active role in the school's community. Each week parents attend Parade to encourage students and celebrate their successes. Parents are also actively involved in the school's home reading scheme by listening to their child read at home as well as some parents attending school to listen to students read and to change their books. Being a small school, many parents also take the time to talk with staff before and after school. Due to our isolation students often travel considerable distances to attend extra curricula activities and interschool events. Parents often help by providing transport to these events. Parents are also keen to invite family and friends to help the students celebrate their special events such as our Education Week's Open Day and end of year Presentation Night.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	1
Diploma	1
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$8128.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - QCAR Essential Learnings
 - Assessment & Reporting Alignment Planning
 - Planning and Accountability training
 - Principal's Conferences at District and Cluster level
 - Numeracy & Literacy training
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 98% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 100 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 96 %.

Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

There were no Year 2 students this year.

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

In this years results students were within the average mean score in Literacy. All students were above the national benchmark in Literacy and Numeracy. All students were also above the Queensland average score in Numeracy.

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

The itinerant nature of our families over the years and the fact that often there is only one student in a Year makes it very difficult to make comparisons regarding growth or value added for a particular cohort without identifying individuals. Generally though what can be seen is that where individual students have been identified as needing extra tuition, and programs have been put into place, especially in the early years of school, this intervention has enabled students succeed in future years. Due to the fact that the majority of our students will do their initial high school years through Distance Education we seek to help them become independent and disciplined students who are able to work on their own.

Students are happy to come to school and a variety of real life learning activities throughout each term keeps all our students engaged. The garden project continues to be added to with each year. This garden area and the shade house provide a special place for students and staff. Students look forward to showing visitors this special place that they are so proud of.

Each year students plan and prepare activities and presentations for our school's Open Day during Education Week. This is one of the highlights of the year with up 60 visitors coming to enjoy that day planned by the students.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

This year's Opinion Survey in summary indicates that parents are satisfied to very satisfied with all areas covered by the survey. Student outcomes, Curriculum, Pedagogy, Learning climate, School climate, School-community relations, and Resources. The school's mean score was above the state mean and also like schools mean.

During this year we have also seen all our staff involved in professional development and staff meetings as needed. Staff continues to be very satisfied with their workplace's Physical work environment, Relationships, School operations, Staff morale, Support, resources and training, Work roles, Work value and recognition. The school's mean score was above the state mean and also like schools mean.

In comparison Student responses to the Opinion Survey were varied with the average response being Satisfied. In this regard we fell below the Like Schools mean in most areas and also fell below the State mean in areas covered in the survey. These responses showed that students have high expectations and believed they could do better, wanted more variety and that the expected standard needed to be higher and that school grounds needed more improvement.