

Wallabadah Public School Annual School Report 2014



School context statement

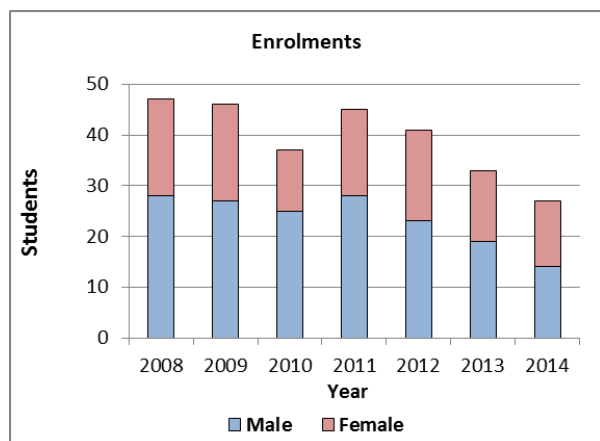
Wallabadah is a caring, community based K-6 school. The community takes great pride and interest in the school. The students come from a rural background and enjoy a variety of outside school activities.

Wallabadah Public School students, teachers and parents have nurtured an atmosphere of cooperation, encouragement and pride in the school. This atmosphere enables each child to achieve their best and successfully meets the school motto of "Excellence in Learning"

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile



Student attendance profile

Our attendance rates have continued to be well above State and Regional averages for the past five years.

		Year	2012	2013	2014
School	K		95.3	95.2	89.9
	1		95.3	95.2	94.4
	2		98.9	95.6	95.3
	3		97.9	99.4	98.1
	4		96.7	96.1	98.9
	5		95.8	98.7	na
	6		93.3	97.3	94.8
	Total		95.6	96.5	95.2

Management of non-attendance

Our school regularly monitors student attendance. We strive to make Wallabadah an enjoyable learning environment in which to learn. Letters are sent to parents when student

attendance rates fall below 85%. Home school liaison officers are kept informed of attendance rates that are of concern.

2014 has been a busy year for Wallabadah P&C committee.

School Messages

Principal's Report

"You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing. I wove my webs for you because I liked you. After all, what's a life, anyway? We're born, we live a little while, we die. A spider's life can't help being something of a mess, with all this trapping and eating flies. By helping you, perhaps I was trying to lift up my life a trifle. Heaven knows anyone's life can stand a little of that."

Do you recognise this quote? It's from the childrens novel "Charlotte's Web", Charlotte the spider talking to Wilbur the pig about their friendship.



This day I greet you wherever you are as friends, friends of Wallabadah Public School.

We often hear the word friend, but what is a friend? In the dictionary a friend is described as a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard. Look around you tonight and see the people you would describe as a friend.

Some of our first friends are forged in preschool or Kindergarten, and some of these relationships last for your entire life. I have a friend who I met in Kindergarten and it was only a few weekends ago that I met up with him in Sydney. We are still good friends. Other friends we meet on the sporting field, at a special event, through other friends, or even at work.

Friendship is like planting a seed that you've found. You are not quite sure what is going to come up so you have to watch it carefully and

nurture (look after) it. Maybe it won't grow, in spite of your best efforts. Maybe it will only grow into a weak and sickly plant, or it could grow into a horrible weed and you would have to pull it out. If all the conditions are right and you've really look after it well then you could end up with a strong, flourishing plant that will continue to grow bigger and better as time passes. Friends are the people who like us for our best and worst qualities.



Someone said to me once, "A friend is a person who is willing to take me the way I am." That's true but we have an impact on our friends just as they do on us, and so friends help us through the times that we might not be handling very well. This being said it takes real courage to be a true friend. Friends can't always be passive listeners, the ones to pat us on the back and tell us it'll be OK. Sometimes they have to make the hard call and tell us we need to "Step up", "Get over it" or "Accept we may just be wrong". Often that's a hard pill to swallow, but if the friendship is strong and valued, advice from a friend should always be considered. May I suggest we are something less than a real friend if we leave a person the same way we find them.

There seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of some people today as to what it means to be a friend. Acts of a friend should result in self-improvement, better attitudes, self-reliance, comfort, consolation, self-respect, and better welfare. We are not a friend if we encourage them towards delinquency, misery, and heartache.

Some of us identify our closest friends as those with the courage to remain and share themselves with us under all circumstances. A friend is a person who will suggest and save the best for us regardless of the immediate consequences. Sir Winston Churchill became Great Britain's greatest friend in his country's darkest hour

because he was courageous enough to call for "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" when some would have accepted him more readily as a friend had he suggested a peaceful surrender.

President Abraham Lincoln was once criticized for his attitude toward his enemies. "Why do you try to make friends of them?" asked an associate. "You should try to destroy them."

"Am I not destroying my enemies," Lincoln gently replied, "when I make them my friends?"

Taking this into account we therefore shouldn't take our friends for granted. At school we encourage our students to take time to thank friends for being their friend. That's why they have fun together.

As adults we often mix in different circles of friends, so we need to be aware that we need to spend time with them. While our children don't often have such a diverse range of friends we need to remind them that if we are consistently too busy to give time to our friends, they will one day move on without us. At school we encourage children to actively listen to our friends, and show interest and enthusiasm in their lives.

We all make mistakes and sometimes at school we are dealing with situations where children have been let down by a friend. Teachers will often say to a student, "Put yourself in their shoes. I know it's not nice but sometimes they may just have got out of the wrong side of bed and they just didn't mean it"

So to all the Wallabadah friends here tonight, I would like to thank you for your contribution towards the successful teaching and learning experiences at Wallabadah Public School throughout 2014.

The community of friends. We are very fortunate to have a community who so strongly believe in the school and appreciate what it is providing for their children. A special thanks goes to the core of hard workers of our P&C who give up their time to fundraise and assist the school on a daily basis. The children appreciate and enjoy seeing parents coming into the school.

To our friendly staff. Thank you for your



dedication and commitment, not only providing valuable and stimulating lessons for the children but also support exciting extra curricula activities and often in their own time. This is what provides the icing on the cake at our school. Thank you ! And to our big and little friends in front of me. Thank you for doing your best. I hope we have succeeded in providing you with the experiences that will inspire you to do "great things". Charles Swindoll said of a friend once, "I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, friends make life a lot more fun."

Christopher Jackson
Principal 16/12/2014

P&C Report

The year started off with some changes as we said good bye Cheryl Bray as P&C President after 3 years of hard work and dedication. Thank you Cheryl! Thanks also to the executive committee of Jeff Nankivell, Mandy Smith, Mandy Reedy and all of the P&C members who have attended meetings and put in a fantastic effort this year.

The goals for the P&C during 2014 have been to contribute towards educational facilities and subsidise costs for families. With these goals in mind the P&C have contributed towards the School library for new resources, the cost of the learn to swim bus and both the yr 3-6 Sydney excursion and the K-2 Dubbo Zoo excursion with a great time reported to be had by all.

These contributions would not be possible without fundraising and our major fundraiser for the year has been the Horse sports day. This fundraiser has taken a lot of planning and organisation and could not have gone forward without the hard work of Mandy Reedy, Vicky Hawthorne and Cheryl Bray. Thank you for organising this event.

Of course no fundraising efforts would be successful without the support of our School community. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who support our fundraising efforts. I am always amazed at how well Wallabadah pull together to support our School and it is a quality we should all be proud of.

Wishing all a safe and Happy Christmas.

Meagan Hall
Secretary, Wallabadah P&C



School Captains Report

It has been a great privilege to be the leaders of the School.

All the students were great and always had a smile on their faces. At the start of the year we attended the Young Leadership conference in Sydney and the speakers were amazing. Ita Buttrose, Andy Griffiths, Bob Carr and Ashton Cohen taught us better ways to take on leadership roles. The main message we got from the conference was that EVERYONE is someone, and a quote from Ita Buttrose, "Follow your dreams, because no-one else dreams your dreams". Later on we went to the GRIP Leadership course which was more interactive. Brodie and Brock came along too.

It's been really fun thinking of cool fundraisers. Halloween was our favourite because it was so cool to see everyone dressed up and we think everyone enjoyed the ice-cream and lollies. We raised the most money from this fundraiser. It has been an incredible privilege to help Jayde and Josh prepare for being future school leaders. The past few weeks they have been mediating and learning what to do.

Throughout our years at Wallabadah we have had many opportunities, like public speaking, sports and interacting with other schools. We will miss Wallabadah dearly and we hope that our small school roots will help us in later life. We would like to thank all our teachers from K-6 who have helped us through our primary education.

Jock Barnett and Emily Cronin
School Captains 2014

Workforce information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Workforce composition

Position	Number
Principal	1
Classroom Teachers	1
Teacher Librarian	.4
Casual Teacher National Partnership	
School Administrative & Support Staff	2
Total	5

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. There are no staff members who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decent.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	



Professional learning and teacher accreditation

The school receives global funding to support the professional development of all staff. Throughout 2014 funds were used in the following way:

Number of teachers participating in professional learning activities = 100% of teaching staff.

These activities included Staff Development Days and general Professional Learning. A partnership

with Willow Tree P.S. was also initiated for Professional learning 3 afternoons a term.

- Science and Technology
- KidsMatter
- Tamworth/Wolemi Principal's Conference

The school had no staff working towards accreditation.

All staff participated in all School Development Days.

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary	30/11/2014
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	74,928.32
Global funds	56,545.03
Tied funds	50,777.17
School & community sources	17,025.59
Interest	1944.56
Trust receipts	667.90
Canteen	0.00
Total income	201888.57
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	27,071.52
Excursions	10,383.95
Extracurricular dissections	3276.39
Library	1,545.62
Training & development	473.03
Tied funds	58,909.82
Casual relief teachers	4269.70
Administration & office	18,611.69
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	10,123.80
Maintenance	2479.62
Trust accounts	667.90
Capital programs	1238.00
Total expenditure	139051.04
Balance carried forward	62,837.530

A full copy of the school's 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2014

The school and our students have achieved “great things” throughout 2014. There have been achievements at a high standard academically, on the sporting field, creatively and in community service endeavours.

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. In 2014 we did not have any students enrolled in Year 5 at the time NAPLAN Testing was administered, therefore there is no report on Year 5 Literacy or numeracy results nor is there comments relating to our student growth for 2014.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.



NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

All five students in Year 3 achieved above minimum standards, with two children working in Band 5 and above in all aspects of Literacy.

Our results in writing were particularly pleasing. This is attributed to our Accelerated Literacy sessions held each day in the Primary classes.

Spelling results were pleasing also with all children falling between the top of Band 4 to Band 6. Most of the students achieved Band 4 to above band 6 in Grammar which was outstanding. Reading results were scattered with

two children scoring Band 2 and the rest in Band 6.

NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

All five students in Year 3 achieved above minimum standards, with two children working in Band 4 and above in Numeracy.

Our results in 3D Space and Length again were not as pleasing as other strands in Numeracy. Data and Money results were also lower. Our students all performed well in operations such as Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division as well as in Fractions.

The *My School* website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link <http://www.myschool.edu.au> and enter the school name in the *Find a school* and select *GO* to access the school data.



Other achievements

Arts

We had another successful year with Creative Arts at Wallabadah, from exhibiting Art work, performing at special events, public speaking competitions and culminating in the Quirindi Small Schools Arts Festival which featured a number of our students performing solos.

The students art work was displayed at the Wallabadah “All the Jazz” Art Festival in March and the Quirindi Spring Show. As usual our

children get a great buzz seeing their art work up on a wall for all to see.

The children enjoyed Musica Viva which is integrated into the school's music program and taught by Mr Jackson. The children thoroughly enjoyed this year's performances which were "Gypsy Tober" and "Makukuhan". We joined with Murrurundi and Blandford schools at Murrurundi which also provided a wonderful interaction activity.

Joey Reedy, Emily Dent, Sienna, Lochlan and Emily Cronin participated in the Australian Speech and Communication program in August this year. All students did exceptionally well with Emily, Sienna, Lochlan and Emily attaining Distinctions, while Joey was awarded a High Distinction. Joey was presented with a Centre Medallion and Lochlan an Achievement Medallion in Sydney in March 2015.

Children exhibited artwork at the local show, sang and danced at school and community events and performed a number of items at Presentation night.

The 2014 Quirindi Small Schools Arts Festival was held again this year and the whole school performed a dance item to "All I want for Christmas" which was choreographed by our Vision Support teacher Miss Jane Evans.



Sport

Wallabadah represented very well in a variety of sports throughout 2014. We had four children progress to the P.S.S.A. Swimming carnival achieving their personal best. Three Year 6 boys, Brock Abrahams, Brodie Nankivell and Jock Barnett trialed the Zone, Divisional and Regional P.S.S.A. trials in soccer. A super effort. We had a wonderful representation at the Zone Cross

Country Carnival with children progressing to Regional level. Horse sports featured throughout the year with Jayde Smith, Sophie Hawthorne and Joey Reedy proving what a terrific riders they are bringing home many ribbons. The whole School Excursion to the Spring Ridge Schools Athletics Carnival was a huge success. Wallabadah won the March past and were overall winners of the Ball Games trophies. Brodie Nankivell and Ashton Sweeney were individual winners in their age divisions.



It was our first year to combine with Willow Tree P.S for our Annual School Athletics Carnival. The children and parents really enjoyed this idea which will continue for 2015.



A highlight for the school this year was the Touch Football team progressing through to the state carnival in Liverpool. Congratulations to the Year 3-6 class on a wonderful achievement. Many sport clinics were held throughout the year to continue the development of Fundamental Movement skills within the school. This included a visit from NSW Sport and Recreation

Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding

Aboriginal education including RAM

There is an expectation at Wallabadah Public that all teachers will program to include Aboriginal perspectives in Key Learning Areas throughout the year. Through our Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) units we specifically educate students about Aboriginal history, culture and current Aboriginal Australia.

To complement our Aboriginal education program in 2014 we utilised parents and community members to present Aboriginal perspectives to special days such as Book Week, and Education week. Our RAM funds of \$500 was utilised to replenish our resources in Aboriginal education.



Low Socio-economic funding RAM

The staff at Wallabadah felt that the extra funds that we received in RAM for 2014 would be spent supporting the current focus of human support in the classrooms targeting children with the greatest need.

Multicultural education and anti-racism

While Wallabadah Public doesn't have a significant multicultural population, we endeavour to look for opportunities to highlight and celebrate the benefits of multiculturalism and social diversity for all students. This has been highlighted around our Focus Weeks which was reintroduced this year, but also integrated into both HSIE and HPDPE in all stages. Units of work that address cultural differences, religious diversity and acceptance are studied.



School planning and evaluation 2012–2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1

Our school will have a consistent and professional approach to Quality teaching. The school is seen as a place of excellence in literacy where all students are challenged and engaged, taught by professionally competent teachers engaged in seeking ways to improve student learning outcomes.

Outcome from 2012–2014

Maintained percentage of Year 5 students achieving Greater Than or Equal to Expected Growth in NAPLAN Reading 2014 at 81% (2013 – 80%).

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

Unable to support this outcome as the two children who were originally enrolled in Year 4 2013 relocated and didn't participate in the NAPLAN in Year 5 at Wallabadah P.S.

Strategies used to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Employment of SLSO's to support staff in the provision of an effective and quality teaching and learning program for all students

- SLSO assisted staff to implement differentiated instruction
- SLSO supported staff in data gathering to ensure timely and accurate feedback to staff member and students.
- SLSO supported the teaching principal to ensure resources and materials are developed to address student needs
- Conducted Learning walks.
- Revised Professional Teaching Standards measuring own performance against 7 elements
- Promoted technology as an important learning tool for students to further develop skills in Literacy.



School priority 2

Our school will have a consistent and professional approach to Quality teaching. The school is seen as a place of excellence in numeracy where all students are challenged and engaged, taught by professionally competent teachers engaged in seeking ways to improve student learning outcomes.

Outcome from 2012–2014

Increased percentage of Year 5 students achieving Greater Than or Equal To Expected Growth in NAPLAN Numeracy 2014 by 20% Min(from 2013- 30 %).

2014 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

Unable to support this outcome as the two children who were originally enrolled in Year 4 2013 relocated and didn't participate in the NAPLAN in Year 5 at Wallabadah P.S.



Strategies used to achieve these outcomes include:

- Employment of SLSO's to support staff in the provision of an effective and quality teaching and learning program for all students
- SLSO assisted staff to implement differentiated instruction
- SLSO supported staff in data gathering to ensure timely and accurate feedback to staff member and students.
- SLSO supported the teaching principal to ensure resources and materials are developed to address student needs
- Conducted Learning walks.
- Revised Professional Teaching Standards measuring own performance against 7 elements
- Promoted technology as an important learning tool for students to further develop skills in Numeracy.



School priority 3

To be recognised as a “Small school with BIG opportunities”, engendering a culture of being a “caring family” A school with professionally competent teachers engaged in seeking ways to improve student learning outcomes.

Outcome from 2012–2014

Increased number of online training hours undertaken by the school’s learning support team from 2013 baseline figure.

Increased circulation of our newsletter within the wider community

2014 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

Increased number of online training hours undertaken by the school’s learning support team from 2013 baseline figure.

Increased circulation of our newsletter within the wider community

Strategies used to achieve these outcomes include:

- Leadership and management ensured that opportunities were available for every student. Our ethos “Small School BIG opportunities” is endorsed.
- Expectations that teachers are professional, accountable and meet the needs of students through strengthening their own teaching skills & approach.



Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

As part of the schools evaluation cycle, leadership was the evaluation area for 2014. Information was gained through parent and child written surveys, term surveys and informal discussions.

Findings and conclusions:

Staff and parents actively promote the school in the wider community, and as a part of a regeneration of school publications redeveloping a new prospectus was distributing it throughout the area. An updated school vision statement was written to support the new DEC plan for 2015-2017.

2014 saw the return of Mr Jackson as school Principal and many of the programs set out in the 2012-2014 School Plan were finalized.

As the school enrolments have steadily declined due to a downturn in the rural sector, a blitz on all local media outlets was undertaken. TV coverage of the KidsMatter launch, regular reports in both the Northern Daily Leader and the Quirindi Advocate and the purchase of space in special educational features in Regional papers were conducted.

Students and parents felt inclusive in most school decisions. This was supported by the P&C.

Staff are encouraged and supported in leadership roles with one staff member handing over the reins as Zone PSSA President (for the last 19 years). Students also have had opportunities to be involved in leadership initiatives with our two school captains travelling to Sydney for the National Youth Leadership course in March, and Year 6 students involvement in the Quirindi High School interaction days.

Future directions

At Wallabadah we would like to extend opportunities for students to be involved in leadership roles. Using the already successful “Stop Think Do” program children will attend workshops to develop co-operation, and negotiation skills along with self-esteem and motivation strategies.

Staff are always encouraged to take on leadership roles not only within the school but within the local area as well.

Future Directions

2015-2017 School Plan

NSW DEC is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school's website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.



About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Christopher Jackson	Principal
Bronnie Saunders	Staff Member
Meagan Hall	P&C Secretary
Cheryl Brae	Parent Representative
Jaimie Barnett	SAM

School contact information

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Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/emsad/asr/index.php>

