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Principal's foreword

Introduction

This report identifies some of the school major highlights for 2007. It also presents the school's academic data collated from a variety of sources. The school continually strives to achieve its academic targets whilst providing a safe, nurturing and accepting environment for all groups within the school. The school focuses on the rights of the individual child: - to be happy at school, to be safe at school and to engage in learning without disruption or distraction. A focus on the Australian Schools Values as part of our daily dealings with children, staff, parents and community has been a major focus.

Future outlook

The school will focus on literacy as a key improvement strategy in 2008 and beyond. This will involve teacher training and best practice in the area of reading in every classroom.

The school will also have an ICT focus with emphasis of further integration of ICT's into the classroom and in units of work.

A focus on school values within the responsible behaviour plan and an alignment with teacher values with the school values will see an improvement in behaviour and community perceptions of the school.

School Profile

Total student enrolments: 315

Year levels offered: Preparatory Year to Year 7

Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings:

- Waraburra offers student learning in seven Key Learning Areas from years 1-7.
- Waraburra is a non-LOTE school as decided by the school community this year. Children have the opportunity to study a language at entry point at secondary level.
- Our school offers a Fine Arts program with a specialist art teacher for years 6 and 7 on a weekly basis. Other classes have access to the art specialist once a term.
- Throughout the year we have visiting touring performances or learning presentations in Dance, Music, Science and SOSE.
- Waraburra celebrates NAIDOC week with activities to enhance embedded indigenous perspectives in the curriculum.
- Year 1-7 access swimming lessons in terms 1 and 4.
- An active Student Council invites student input in decision making in the school
- Instrumental music (Strings, Brass and Woodwind) is offered to interested students.

Extra curricula activities

- Waraburra School hosted a cluster well-being day for all year seven students in the western cluster of schools (Mount Morgan Central School, St Paul's Catholic School, Gracemere School, Bouldercombe School, and Stanwell School). The day consisted of rotational activities based on drug education, personal development, and sporting development programs. This was an activity planned in the cluster's successful submission for Drug Education in Primary Schools.
- Personal Health Program for Indigenous Students in Year 4-7.
- Combined School Concert
- Signing Choir, Junior and Senior Choirs, Instrumental Music Program
- The Wara Cup (ball games) and Fitzroy Sporting Functions were sporting highlights.
- Sporting Development Officers are an integral part of PE classes giving students the opportunity to experience different sporting activities.

How computers are used to assist learning:

All students have access to all LAN printers (laser black and white and laser colour) from any terminal across the school. The software that provides this access also monitors student usage. Each student from year 3-7 has a notional printer budget managed by the software. Overall savings in paper and cartridge usage have continued to be achieved. Continuation of multi-media aspects of ICT's has been integrated into the school's curriculum with a focus on culminating activities. Students from year 4-7 have their own email account and their own user identification. To give them access on demand to the LAN and World Wide Web. In 2007 a computer Technician has been employed one day each week to maintain the school's hardware and LAN and to provide software support.

Our school at a glance

Social climate

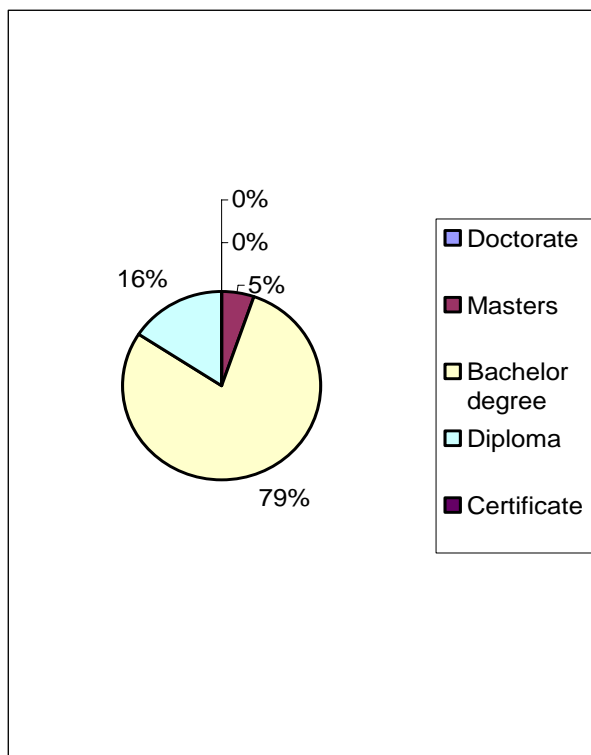
Waraburra's social climate is based on the Australian Values which we have incorporated into the Responsible Behaviour Plan. The plan is based on these values, the school's emblem and school's motto 'Learning for Life'. The various aspects of the plan are modelled and taught and highlighted in the school newsletter and are embedded in classroom practices. The school has a buddy system to support new students and has regular class buddy programs where the upper school children support the early years in learning and sporting activities. Parents and carers are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities within the school and classrooms.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Parents and Carers are encouraged to be involved in various aspects of the school. The school's P&C is active, not only in fundraising, but in making decisions about school management and operations, and providing extra-curricula activities for students. Parents are offered induction sessions for Prep and Year One. Individual classes invite parents to class meetings; classroom helpers; letters are sent home each term outlining the term's unit of work and parents and carers are invited to culminating activities at the end of class unit of work.

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	15
Diploma	3
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$15 328.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Preparatory Year Training, Drug Education
 - Mathematics Syllabus
 - Literacy Training
 - Assessment Immersion
 - Year 2 Net
 - Workplace Health and Safety.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 90 %.

Our staff profile

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2007.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 88 % of staff was 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 93%.

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	77 %
Writing	86 %
Number	83 %

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 the school		475	583	640
	Average score for Queensland		527	606	672
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	80 %	63%	74%
2006		78%	76%	81%	
Writing	Average score for the school		472	561	655
	Average score for Queensland		523	600	681
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	75%	86%	92%
2006		81%	92%	90%	
Numeracy	Average score for the school		464	539	625
	Average score for Queensland		521	588	648
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	75%	49%	68%
2006		65%	82%	84%	

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

At Waraburra School we have:

Ongoing internal monitoring of students academic achievements

Internal Intervention Programs which included Reading Recovery (Last Year), Reading Assistance Voucher Scheme, Upper School Literacy Intervention

A focus on Literacy Teaching.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The School Opinion Survey shows general satisfaction in all areas in both the parent and student surveys. Parents showed general satisfaction in the areas of having the opportunity to access an approachable staff, the school communicate well, have the opportunity to be involved in school decision making, and that school community relationships were good. Students show a general satisfaction with how they are performing well at Waraburra School.

Again the number of respondents, who indicated that they have no opinion in relation to their level of satisfaction, remains high. In the parents survey this ranges up to 52% on one item and in the student group up to 40%.

The school staff is generally satisfied with their physical work environment, school operations and their work roles. Staff morale at Waraburra is high.