

# QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOL REPORTING - 2009

## Mackay North State High School

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### Principal's foreword

#### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of our school's performance during 2009. A copy of this report will also be available upon request from the school office.

#### School progress towards its goals in 2009

**Managing Growth:** In 2009 our school implemented an Enrolment Management Plan to ensure we can appropriately cater for all students. We have strived to meet the challenges of maintaining a shared vision with our very large staff, parent and student body.

**Information Communication Technologies:** Our school has seen an increase in the number of computers available to students and an increase in staff expertise around ICTs.

**Senior Phase of Learning:** Our school has continued to increase its flexibility in senior secondary options for students, to ensure all students leave school with a qualification at the end of Year 12.

#### Future outlook

Our school undertook a Triennial School Review in 2009 and, as a result, a number of recommendations were made for the future. These recommendations are as follows:-

**Learning and Attainment:** To have a focused and targeted response to the school's previous literacy/numeracy results and to review and update current work programs and resources in the KLAs to ensure implementation of the QCAR framework and alignment with the National Curriculum.

**Engagement:** To improve the learning outcomes for all students through the implementation of the Closing the Gap strategy and the Framework for Gifted Education

**Wellbeing:** Develop a culture of wellbeing that increases a sense of belonging and resilience and notions of self responsibility.

**Pathways:** To align school initiatives and processes in order to enable students to successfully move from school to further education, training or full-time work

**Sustainability:** To take steps to reduce our environmental footprint.

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### School Profile

The purpose of Mackay North State High School is to meet the needs of all students, as they pursue the highest level of educational attainment that they can achieve. Our school features a strong Instrumental Music program. The signature ensemble is the Marching Band, incorporating percussion, woodwind and brass along with a choreographed banner routine. Students from this group were invited to be part of the Marching Band for the Sydney and Beijing Olympics. Other Performing Arts activities include Rock Pop Mime, Fanfare, school musical, choirs, Rock Eisteddfod, the Eisteddfod and school concerts. A strong sporting tradition exists with many opportunities for team or individual sports for all year levels. Students participate in academic competitions such as the Australian Mathematics Competition, Debating and Optiminds. Opportunities exist for our Special Education students to take part in athletics competitions for students with disabilities, life skills and excursions. The nationally recognised Anzac commemorative tours are held biennially, for Senior students to visit Gallipoli, France, Belgium and Thailand, as part of their Modern History studies

Coeducational or single sex: Co-educational

Year levels offered: 8-12

Total student enrolments for this school:

Total Enrolment	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb 2009 – Nov 2009)
1522	766	756	84%

Characteristics of the student body:

Indigenous students represent 9% of our student body and approximately 4% of our students are special education students. In 2009, our retention rate for students in Years 8-10 was 98% and in Years 10-12 was 72.8%

Class sizes – Proportion of school classes achieving class size targets in 2009

Phase	Average Class Size	Percentage of classes in the school			
		On or under target	Under Target	On Target	Over Target
Year 8 – Year 10	24	95%	84%	12%	5%
Year 11 – Year 12	18	99%	93%	6%	1%
All Classes	22	96%	86%	10%	4%

School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	319
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	113
Exclusions	<5
Cancellations of Enrolment	<5

### Curriculum offerings

#### **Our distinctive curriculum offerings:**

Our school has a broad range of curriculum offerings designed to meet the needs of all students. In Year 10, a number of extension subjects are offered to enable students to better prepare for the Year 11 and 12 curriculum eg. Extension English, Extension Science, Media Studies, Extension SOSE, Extension Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Design.

We offer a Cricket Academy for Sporting Excellence.

#### **Extra curricula activities :**

Our distinctive extra-curricular offerings include a strong instrumental music program which involves over 200 students in tuition and membership of a large number of ensembles or bands. The signature ensemble is the Marching Band which is a unique group in Queensland incorporating percussion, woodwind and brass along with a choreographed banner routine. With its 100 members, it is the largest school marching band in Australia and is sought after for performances at major events. Students from this group were invited to be part of the Marching Band for the Beijing Olympics.

Other Performing Arts activities also include – Rock Pop Mime, Fanfare, school musical, choirs, Rock Eisteddfod, entries in the Eisteddfod and school concerts. These events are well supported by staff, parents and community members.

Our school has a strong sporting tradition with many opportunities for team or individual sports for all year levels. The annual Sports Awards Night is a special part of our school calendar, recognising the success and achievements in sport each year.

#### **How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning**

We are continuing to build up our computer facilities for staff and students. Currently, we have 430 computers which are housed in ten dedicated computer laboratories, as well as some smaller nodes of computers in the First Year Centre, music, art and the library. Some classrooms are set up as presentation rooms with data projectors permanently in place in ten rooms and most rooms in the school are networked.

Students may choose from a range of subjects which use technology, however, the use of computers is embedded across most subjects eg. the use of graphics calculators in mathematics, the presentation of assignment work by students using Power Point presentation or the work with cutting edge software in Computer Aided Design in Manual Arts.

Each year, our budget allocation reflects the high priority placed on maintaining up to date hardware, software and networking for our staff and students. The efforts put in to this area are reflected in the high satisfaction rate in the annual School Opinion Survey where students' satisfaction with access to computers and the internet rates higher than state and like school means.

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## Mackay North State High School

### Social climate

The welfare of students and social climate of our school is underpinned by a network of student support. Members of the Administration team all take responsibility for designated Year levels and work closely with the Year Coordinators of their Year level. Year level activities to build school spirit and a sense of identity within their year level are led by this team, as well as monitoring the behaviour, welfare and progress of these students.

Heads of Department support the teachers and students in their faculty and assist with class-room related issues, identify under-achieving students and ensure that the curriculum programs meet the needs of their students.

The Student Council led by five Year 12 students who are elected by the student body, together with the Home Group and Year Level representatives, provides active leadership to the students and contributes to fundraising, supporting charities and providing input into school decision making.

Students and parents report that the wide range of extra-curricular activities which are on offer for our students are a significant addition to our school's social climate. Through sport, cultural activities and the Student Council, our students work cooperatively with students from different year levels and different backgrounds. This adds value to their educational experience.

Guidance Officers support students through counselling, assisting students to set positive goals and by referral to other support agencies when appropriate e.g. the Youth Support Coordinator, Youth Pathways Program and Youth Mental Health officers.

The school has a Community Education Counsellor, two part time Chaplains, a School Based Youth Health Nurse, and School Based Police Officer - all part of the network of support for students.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The overall satisfaction with the school of our students is above the state mean; the overall satisfaction for parents is similar to the state mean and higher than the like school mean. The overall staff satisfaction mean is higher than the mean for like schools

Performance measure	Result 2009
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that their child is getting a good education at school	81%
Percentage of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at school	75%
Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied with their child's school	94%
Percentage of school workforce satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives	62%
Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school	83%

### Involving parents in their child's education.

Parent input is encouraged and fostered in many different ways. The P&C is active in establishing a register of skills and interests, and this is useful for the school's operations. Involvement in decision making concerning curriculum matters may occur in a variety of ways eg parent membership on small committees, parent surveys and wider requests for input into issues raised and publicised in the newsletter.

General communication with parents and caregivers occurs through fortnightly newsletters which are also published on our website. Parents are encouraged to phone or email the school with specific concerns and there is a dedicated absentee phone number to make the reporting of student absences more convenient.

Parent Opinion is sought through the annual School Opinion Survey, through special purpose surveys in the newsletter and through phone calls on specific topics. Overall, we receive strong support from our parent body and have continued to maintain a good reputation in the community.

A range of forums is used to encourage parent participation in school activities and in their children's education. These include –

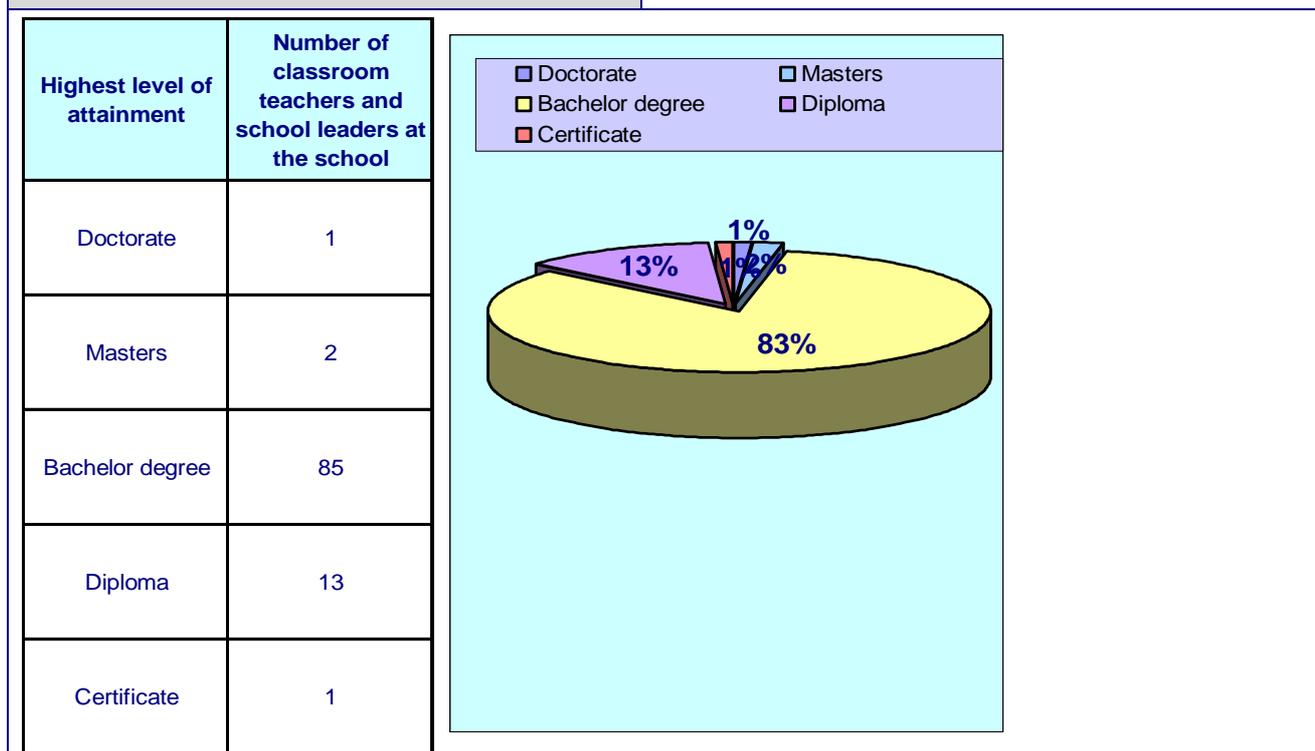
- Monthly Parent and Citizens' meetings
- Projects Committee meetings
- Volunteer work in the Tuckshop and library.
- Attendance at school functions such as the Easter Fair, ceremonies, cultural and sporting events.
- Individual meetings and contact.
- Letters of congratulations at the end of Semester 1
- Parent-teacher interviews (twice per year)
- SET plan interviews
- Participation in Year 10, 11 and 12 Information Evenings

## Our staff profile

### Staff composition, including Indigenous Staff

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	131	51	3
Full-time equivalents	120	36	3

### Qualifications of all teachers.



## Our staff profile

### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2009 was \$51 973 .

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

Bruce Sullivan – Personal Development and Coping with Change,

Attendance at conferences – History, INTAD, E-Learning and Literacy, Home Economics, Marine Studies, Digital Pedagogy

Attendance at workshops - Certificate IV, Bullying and Behaviour, Spelling

Aspirational leaders' program

QSA workshops,

First Aid

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2009 was 100% as per professional development records.

### Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2009.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2009 school year, 91% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2009 school year.

## Key student outcomes

### Attendance

#### Student attendance - 2009

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2009 was 88%.

#### Student attendance for each year level

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
NA	90%	88%	85%						

#### Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

Our school marks the roll twice daily. Follow-up phone calls are made to parents in the event of student unexplained absences.

## Performance of our students

### Achievement – Year 9

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Year 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 9	
Reading	Average score for the school in 2009	572	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	580.5	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	95%
		2009	93%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	11%
2009		17%	
Writing	Average score for the school in 2009	556	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	568.9	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	86%
		2009	89%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	11%
2009		13%	
Spelling	Average score for the school in 2009	573	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	576.3	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	86%
		2009	94%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	13%
2009		18%	
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school in 2009	570	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	573.5	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	88%
		2009	92%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	12%
2009		14%	
Numeracy	Average score for the school in 2009	584	
	Average score for Australia in 2009	589.1	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	95%
		2009	99%
	For the school the percentage of students in the upper two bands	2008	10%
2009		17%	

## Performance of our students

### Attainment and Achievement – Year 12

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.	
Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	73%

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2009	
Number of students receiving a Senior Statement	207
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.	4
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	116
Number of students who are completing/continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship.	19
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training qualifications.	98
Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II or above.	77
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.	156
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	77%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	86%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	93%

Overall Position Bands (OP)				
Number of students in each Band for OP 1 to 25.				
OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15	OP 16-20	OP 21-25
25	25	39	20	7

Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)		
Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).		
Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
39	66	22

Post-school destination information
At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2009 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.