

Herons Creek Public School Annual School Report 2014



School context statement

Hérons Creek Public School is a dynamic, exciting environment where all students are encouraged and supported to achieve their very best in all areas of school life. We are committed to becoming a Kids Matter School where we are building a strong focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our students

Hérons Creek provides:

- Experienced, dedicated teachers
- A dynamic holistic learning environment
- Individual learning programs
- Opportunities for Gifted and Talented students
- A safe and spacious playground
- Access to up to date technology

In 2014, Herons Creek Public School had an enrolment of 37 students from Kindergarten to Year Six drawn from families living in the Herons Creek and Camden Haven Community of Schools area.



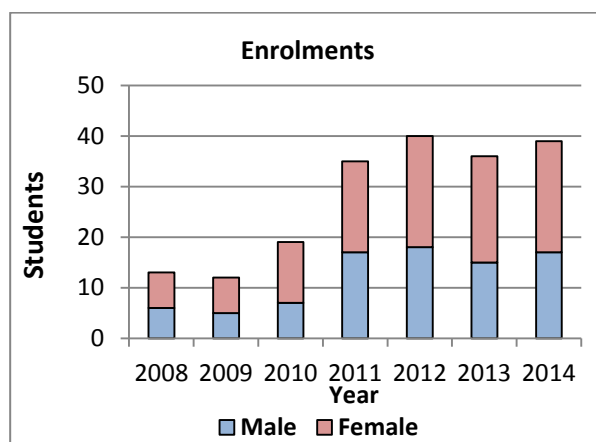
Active After Schools- Paddleboarding

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

Gender	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Male	6	5	7	17	18	15	17
Female	7	7	12	18	22	21	22



Student attendance profile

The school encourages all students to attend school. Unexplained absences are followed up with a telephone call or a letter. Failure to provide an appropriate response is managed by the Principal who liaises closely with the local home school liaison officer.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
K	93.7	92.7	93.8	90.2	90.0	89.3
1	97.9	91.0	89.7	94.1	92.9	93.6
2	93.3	95.5	82.6	79.3	91.4	92.4
3	89.5	94.7	90.9	91.8	72.5	92.0
4	na	93.8	91.8	89.0	91.3	83.5
5	93.9	98.9	87.6	87.9	84.1	91.8
6	95.8	89.4	95.7	90.2	83.7	87.4
Total	93.4	93.0	90.8	89.9	87.7	90.3

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

Deputy Principal(s)	
Assistant Principal(s)	
Head Teachers	
Classroom Teacher(s)	1.4
Teacher of Reading Recovery	
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	0.1
Teacher Librarian	
Teacher of ESL	
School Counsellor	
School Administrative & Support Staff	0.89
Total	

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

25% of our staff are of Aboriginal descent.

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

A key focus of 2014 was to build staff capacity to achieve our key literacy and numeracy outcomes. We now have a Focus on Reading Lead Trainer who is training the remaining staff and staff from other schools in Focus on Reading. We also spent a significant amount of professional learning money on having a staff member trained in L3.

Throughout the 2014 school year staff were also able to take part in professional development which included:

- Child Protection
- Emergency Care
- LMBR/ SALM
- Anaphylaxis
- CPR
- Smart board
- Quick Smart Numeracy
- Kids Matter
- New Curriculum training

- Use of I Pads
- Reading Recovery for Small Schools

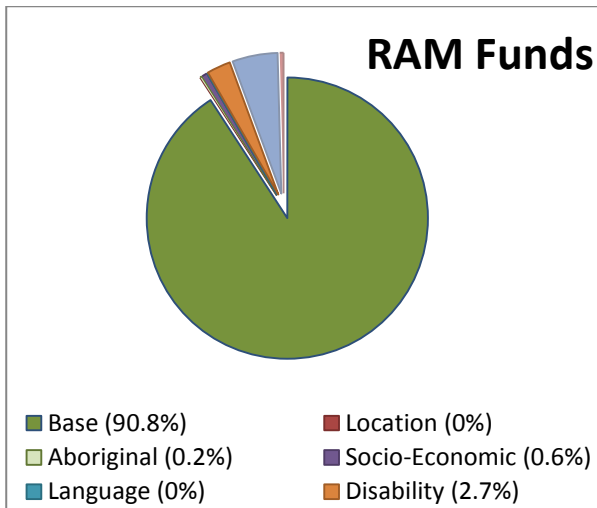


Science Experiments

Financial summary

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

Component	RAM
Base	394,120
Equity	15,462
Location	-
Aboriginal	1,033
Socio-Economic	2,651
Language	-
Disability	11,777
Targeted	22,496
Other	1,874
Total	433,952



**Financial Summary for the Year Ended 31
December 2014**

Opening Balance	(81,335)
Revenue	(496,688)
Appropriation	(468,303)
Sale of Goods and Services	(25)
Grants and Contributions	(19,137)
Investment Income	(1,418)
Gain and loss	-
Other Revenue	(7,806)
Expenses	531,279
Recurrent Expenses	531,279
Employee Related	467,088
Operating Expenses	64,191
Capital Expenses	-
Surplus/Deficit for the Year	34,591
Balance Carried Forward	(46,744)

Data source Schools Finance

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.



Canberra Excursion

School performance 2014

In 2014 the students were exposed to a variety of learning experiences to complement all key learning areas.



Science Performance

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.

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

Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

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.

Reading – NAPLAN Year 3

Five students in Year 3 completed the NAPLAN literacy test for 2014. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Five students in Year 3 completed the NAPLAN numeracy test for 2014. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

Reading – NAPLAN Year 5

Two students in Year 5 completed the NAPLAN literacy test for 2014. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Two students in Year 5 completed the NAPLAN numeracy test for 2014. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

Other achievements

Arts

Dance Group

Hérons Creek Public School students performed a jazz routine at the Camden Haven Arts Festival for Schools (CHAFFS). The students also performed as part of the mass choir.

Sport

The students at Herons Creek Public School are always encouraged to participate in the activities at school for sport and physical education.

The students had a very successful year in sport, with many individuals and teams achieving highly.

All the students participated in soccer, AFL and golf and hockey clinics that visited the school this year.

Our swimming program has continued this year in term four. The intensive swimming scheme was held in November for two weeks for all students. Our competent swimmers worked towards their swim and survive certificates.

Hérons Creek won the small schools handicap points score at the small schools swimming carnival in Wauchope.

Two of our students were awarded small schools age swimming champions- Annabelle Instrell and Mia Bales.

Our swimming relay team also achieved success achieving 4th place in the North Coast carnival at Coffs Harbour. Congratulations to Sara Asquith, Annabelle Instrell, Mia Bales and Piper Ward.

The Small Schools' Athletics Carnival was held at Wauchope in term 2 where all our students performed very well in all of the events.

Hérons Creek won the small schools handicap points score.

Mia Morson, Shaelei Beazley, Oliver Thompson and Mia Bales were awarded small schools age champions. Mia Bales represented the North Coast at the state carnival.

All students competed at the small schools Cross Country carnival in term two. Four of our students achieved first place Oliver, Austin, Claire and Mia . Herons Creek Public School participated in the small schools tennis gala day and achieved wonderful results.

All students participated in the small schools soccer gala day. Our Stage 2 team were undefeated all day.

Hérons Creek Public School participated in the small schools tennis gala day and achieved wonderful results.

The students at Herons Creek Public school should be applauded for their sportsmanship.

Other

Premiers Sporting Challenge

All students and staff participated in the Premiers Sporting Challenge where the school was awarded a Diamond Award for participation.

Premiers Debating Challenge

Our school entered a team in the Premiers debating Challenge. The team participated in a debating workshop prior to the competition.

Both teams performed well and should be proud of their efforts.

Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal perspectives were included in all units to foster empathy and understanding of issues. Our school is committed to the development of cultural awareness and promoting Aboriginal history. The students participated in a cultural awareness day.

Multicultural education and anti-racism

Multicultural Education is addressed across the curriculum and includes all students at Herons Creek Public School. As the school population is primarily Anglo-European background, school planning ensures that the students experience other cultures. Primary students completed a study of the Balinese culture.

A staff member is trained as an anti-racism contact officer within the school environment. It is their role to ensure that instances of racism are dealt with effectively, to ensure a continuing harmonious school environment.

Aboriginal background

The school received a small amount of funding. This funding was used to improve our Aboriginal student's literacy and numeracy achievements through the Quick Smart and Multi-Lit programs.

Socio-economic background

The school received a small amount of funding. This funding was used to improve our student's literacy and numeracy achievements through the Quick Smart and Multi-Lit programs.

Learning and Support

The school received a learning and support teacher allocation of 0.1. This allocation was used towards a teacher facilitating the Multi-Lit program.

Other significant initiatives

Active After Schools

The Active After- school Communities program is a national program that provides Australian

primary school aged children with access to free, structured physical activity programs in the after-school timeslot. Herons Creek Public School participates in this program two afternoons a week. The children were able to participate in sports such as learn to surf, paddle boarding, tennis, dance, skate boarding, golf, martial arts, triathlon and equestrian.

Respect and responsibility

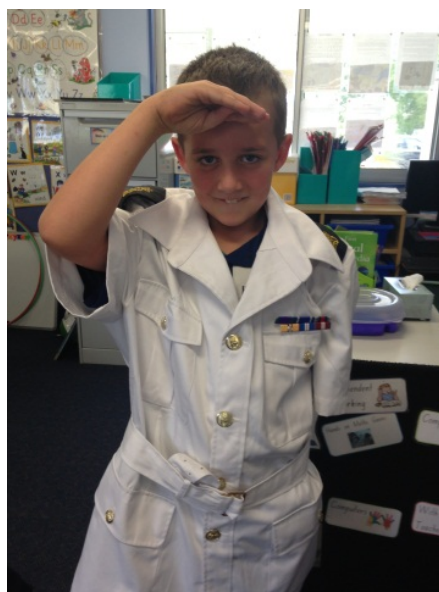
Students have been guided to show respect for themselves, others and the environment through explicit teaching and a range of classroom initiatives including social skills based on the Aussie five fair rules program.

A culture of caring for all school members is strongly encouraged and is modeled by all staff members. This culture is also strongly supported by the school community.

The students take part in the Friends for Life program and Positive Relationship Program.

Environmental Education

Environmental Education is a focus at Herons Creek Public School. We have an established vegetable patch, recycled bottle green house, composting bays and a chicken coup. All students are encouraged to recycle and compost all food scraps. This year we continued the construction of our sensory garden, establishing a frog friendly natural environment around our frog breeding pond.



School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- Staff, parent and student feedback on continuing and new programs such as Multi-Lit and QuickSmart.
- Analysis of student achievement data using the literacy and numeracy continuums including Count Me In Too and Best Start assessments, reading benchmarks and sight word checks.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1

Improve reading skills of students K-6 and improve teacher knowledge of the teaching of reading K-6.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- *Students will be reading at or above their chronological age in terms of comprehension.*
- *Implement parent workshops on reading and how they can support their children at home.*
- *School has a process in place to assist students with learning difficulties focusing on reading.*

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

Our achievements include:

- Most Year 3 and Year 5 students are achieving at or above the national average (exempt students excluded) for reading.
- All students benchmarked- 75 percent of students are reading at or above their chronological age.
- All students have shown growth in all aspects of literacy on the continuum.
- 100% of K-2 parents attended the L3 information afternoons held at school.

2014 strategies to achieve this outcome include:

- All teachers have completed training (Module 1) and implementing their new learning from Focus on Reading about the explicit teaching of comprehension, reading texts and vocabulary into the classroom.
- A range of teaching ideas are evident in classrooms.
- K-6 teachers collaboratively decide where each student is in relationship to the comprehension learning sequence and track student progress on the continuum.
- A staff member was trained in Reading Recovery for Small Schools and is incorporating these strategies into the identified students withdrawal lesson.
- Multi-Lit programs continue to be implemented as an intervention program for students experiencing difficulties in reading.
- K-2 teacher trained and implementing L3 philosophies K-2.
- L3 parent information afternoons were held highlighting the philosophies of L3 and how parents can support that at home.
- Parents encouraged to observe their child in a multi-lit lesson. Strategies were then provided to support their child at home.

School priority 2

Increase levels of overall numeracy achievements for all students.



Outcomes from 2012–2014

- *Continued improvement in numeracy skills across K-6 with specific growth*

being achieved in the sub strand of number to at or above the national level.

- *Increase students ability to apply appropriate problem solving strategies.*
- *Teachers have enhanced skills in the use of data to inform programming and planning for the teaching of numeracy.*

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Most Year 3 and Year 5 students are achieving at or above minimum standards for numeracy.
- K-2 staff continued to track students along the numeracy continuum.
- Evidence based data to support the growth of students in the Quick Smart program.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- TOWN, TEN and Count Me In Too programs continued. Our primary teacher was trained in Count Me In Too.
- Programs and practice reflect modeled, guided and independent teaching practice.
- Staff member employed to target students in need of numeracy support using the Quick Smart program.
- Staff continued to regularly track student progress on the numeracy continuum to monitor their progress.
- Parents encouraged to observe their child in a Quick Smart lesson. Strategies were then provided to support their child at home.

School priority 3

Improve student engagement in learning through quality teaching practice.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Technology will be integrated into all teaching and learning programs to enhance student engagement.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Programs and class visits indicated that technology was being used when appropriate

- Students making their own I movies using I pads.
- Teachers are now using technology to inform their teaching and for student assessment.
-

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- A staff member attended a using I pads in the classroom work shop. The apps used at the workshop were shared with other staff members.
- Students using I pads to engage them in learning.
- [Enter text here.]
- Students involved in a Robotics program with our Community of Schools. Our team entered the local competition.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

The opinions of staff were sought through a number of ways through staff surveys, teacher assessment and review meetings and discussions at staff meetings. All staff indicated that they were satisfied with the school operation and achievements in 2014 and will continue to focus on providing a quality learning environment.

A parent survey, informal discussion, P&C meetings were all sources for parent opinions about the school. They were all extremely satisfied with the operation and achievements for 2014. Some of the positives included

- I love the small, caring, supportive, big family environment.
- Staff and teachers always available to discuss issues.
- Opportunities are presented to all students not just a certain cohort.
- Diversity of opportunities for students.

- Great opportunities participating in Active After Schools.

Students were surveyed and said they love our pet rabbits and chickens, Active After School sports, our teachers, Quicksmart, our yummy healthy canteen and everyone is friendly and they feel safe.



Canberra Excursion



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School contact information

Herons Creek Public School

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School Code: 2157

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.

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>

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.

Nikki Hines Principal

Natalie Browne Classroom Teacher

Kerry Kolehmanien Classroom Teacher

Kerrie McKiernan School Administration Manager

Katherine Asquith P&C President

Mark Youngblutt School Education Director



Small Schools Cross Country