



# Herons Creek Public School

## Annual School Report



# 2011



## Our school at a glance

### Students

In 2011, Herons Creek Public School had an enrolment of 36 students from Kindergarten to Year Six drawn from families living in the Herons Creek and Camden Haven Community of Schools area.

### Staff

An increase in enrolment numbers saw the formation of two classes in 2011. A temporary teacher was also employed for approximately four days a week.

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

### Student achievement in 2011

#### Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Five students sat the NAPLAN test this year. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

#### Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Five students sat the NAPLAN test this year. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

#### Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Seven students sat the NAPLAN test this year. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

#### Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Seven students sat the NAPLAN test this year. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons

## Messages

### Principal's message

Herons Creek Public School takes pride in its welcoming environment and supportive teaching and learning programs which value every student and build on their strengths.

It has been my privilege to continue working with such a dedicated, committed staff.

It has been a successful and positive year for Herons Creek Public School.

The students, staff, parents and school community have worked hard as an enthusiastic team to promote the school and its welcoming, positive environment.

Our school has upheld our school motto

**'Excellence with Enjoyment'.**

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

**Nikki Ward**

### P & C and/or School Council message

Our school enjoys strong support from its parents and the local community. An enthusiastic core group of parents have been active in promoting the school and supporting its activities.

We have held a number of fund raising activities this year including two BBQ's at Bunnings Warehouse, a Mother's Day Stall and Father's Day Raffle.

All funds raised this year are supporting the building of a canteen.

This year our canteen successfully transitioned into a healthy canteen. It is run one day a week and the delicious menu option changes each week. Some of the favourites have been home made pizza, wraps, stuffed spuds, nachos and

burgers. Funds raised through the canteen are also going towards the new canteen structure.

### Student representative’s message

We have whole-heartedly enjoyed our year at Herons Creek Public School. We thoroughly enjoyed our role as School Leaders and taking responsibilities to learn for future development. We loved looking after the infants students and showing them how to act and speak at school.

As school leaders we have helped with fundraisers such as Crazy Hair Day for Cystic Fibrosis, National Bandana Day for Cancer and Jump Rope for Heart .

We have really enjoyed the activities we were able to do thanks to our brilliant and thoughtful teachers.

**Hannah Morson, Harrison Bean and Jacob Asquith**

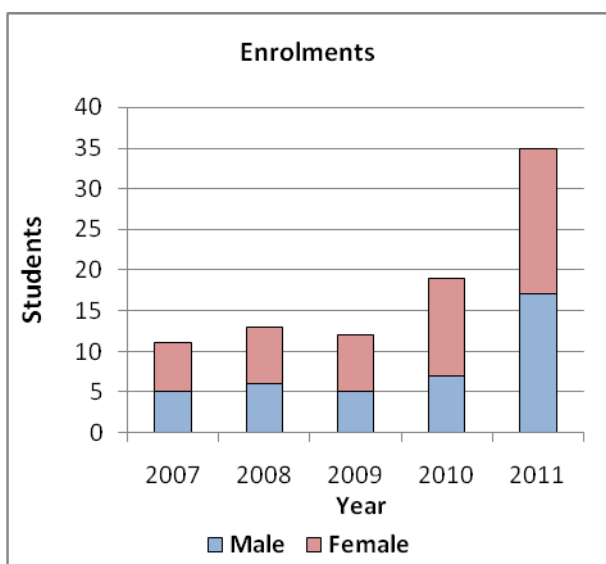
### School context

#### Student information

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

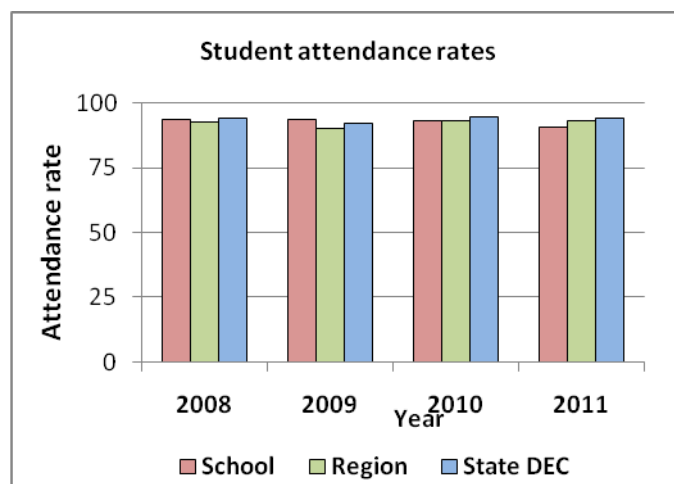
#### Student enrolment profile

Gender	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	5	6	5	7	17
Female	6	7	7	12	18



### Student attendance profile

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	
School	K		93.7	92.7	93.8
	1		97.9	91.0	89.7
	2		93.3	95.5	82.6
	3		89.5	94.7	90.9
	4		na	93.8	91.8
	5		93.9	98.9	87.6
	6		95.8	89.4	95.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>90.8</b>
Region	K		92.5	93.4	93.3
	1		92.3	93.2	92.9
	2		92.4	93.3	93.0
	3		92.6	93.2	93.1
	4		92.6	93.3	93.0
	5		92.4	93.2	92.9
	6		92.2	92.9	92.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>93.0</b>
State DEC	K		94.3	94.7	94.7
	1		93.7	94.2	94.2
	2		94.0	94.4	94.2
	3		94.1	94.5	94.4
	4		94.0	94.5	94.3
	5		94.0	94.4	94.2
	6		93.6	94.0	93.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>94.3</b>



## Management of non-attendance

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.

## Class sizes

Primary class sizes are included in the annual school report in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible. The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 Class Size Audit conducted on Monday 21 March 2011.

Roll class	Year	Total per year	Total In class
K-2	K	9	14
K-2	1	2	14
K-2	2	3	14
3-6	3	5	22
3-6	4	7	22
3-6	5	7	22
3-6	6	3	22

## Structure of classes

The student population was divided into two groups: K-2 class and 3-6 class. The 3-6 class was split into two numeracy groups, three times a week. Students joined together for verse speaking, singing, buddy reading, swimming, special theme days, assemblies and dance.



## Staff information

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

In 2011 we had 3 permanent staff members our Principal, our School Administration Manager and our General Assistant. We also had one full time temporary teacher, one part-time temporary teacher and one part-time School Administration Assistant.

## Staff establishment

Position	Number
Teaching Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	
Assistant Principal(s)	
Head Teachers	
Classroom Teachers	1.6
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	
Teacher of Reading Recovery	
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	
Teacher Librarian	
Teacher of ESL	
Counsellor	
School Administrative & Support Staff	.89
Total	

We have no Indigenous employees.

## Staff retention

All staff have been retained from 2010. We have an additional part-time teacher and part-time School Administration Assistant.

## Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100

## 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	30/11/2011
<b>Income</b>	
	\$
Balance brought forward	48137.78
Global funds	53539.31
Tied funds	39894.70
School & community sources	7247.37
Interest	2858.78
Trust receipts	5031.27
Canteen	0.00
Total income	<u>156,709.21</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	6254.87
Excursions	2643.11
Extracurricular dissections	1419.67
Library	2475.83
Training & development	7055.87
Tied funds	42889.08
Casual relief teachers	2309.84
Administration & office	20654.94
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	6118.88
Maintenance	4141.72
Trust accounts	5742.09
Capital programs	0.00
Total expenditure	<u>101,705.90</u>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b><u>55,003.31</u></b>

A full copy of the school's 2011 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 2011

### Achievements

#### Arts

##### *Dance Group*

Hérons Creek Public School students performed wonderfully at the Camden Haven Arts Festival for Schools (CHAFFS) and the District Dance festival concerts this year.

The students also performed as part of the mass choir on the CHAFFS concert night.

##### *Speech and Drama Eisteddfod*

All students participated in the Port Macquarie Speech and Drama Eisteddfod in the small schools choral poetry section. The students did a commendable job and achieved second place.

We also had a group of students who represented the school in the solo section. They did a commendable job, achieving five 1<sup>st</sup> places, one 2<sup>nd</sup>, one 3<sup>rd</sup>, a highly commended and an encouragement award.

#### 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 rugby league clinics that visited the school this year.

Our swimming program has continued this year with sport in term four. The intensive swimming scheme was held in December for two weeks for all students.

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- Jacob Asquith and Hannah Morson.

Hugh Rackley also achieved exceptional results in the pool. He was awarded the silver medal at the State Swimming Championship for 50m freestyle.

Our swimming relay team also achieved success competing in the North Coast carnival at Benora Point. Congratulations to Hugh Rackley, Jacob Asquith, Mekayla Newell, Maddison Ward and Hannah Morson.

The Small Schools' Athletics Carnival was held at Wauchope in term 3 where all our students performed very well in all of the events.

Hérons Creek won the small schools handicap points score.

Hannah Morson, Mia Bales and Sara Asquith were awarded small schools age champions.

Hugh Rackley was extremely successful in shot put and discus becoming a NSW State Finalist in the AWD category for shot put and discus at the State Athletics Carnival. He was also selected to represent New South Wales at the National Titles.

All students competed at the small schools cross country carnival in term two. Three of our students achieved first place. Four students performed extremely well and were selected to compete at the Zone Carnival in Kempsey. Congratulations to Hannah Morson, Ethan Morson, Piper Ward and Amber Diamond.

Hérons Creek Public School participated in the small schools soccer gala day with our K-2 team winning the competition undefeated. Our Stage 2 and Stage 1 teams also achieved wonderful results.

We also participated in the small schools tennis competition.

## **Other**

### ***Premiers Spelling Bee Competition***

Hannah Morson, Maddison Ward, Ethan Morson and Piper Ward represented our school at the Premiers Spelling Bee competition. All students performed exceptionally well with Piper and Maddison making it to the semi-finals.

Students were also involved in a number of curriculum based activities and excursions such as:

- Gymnastics Day
- Master Chef
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Major excursion to Aussie Bush Camp

- Anzac Day march
- Mexican Christmas sleepover at school
- The Gruffalo and My Grandma performances
- Easter Hat Parade
- Enrichment days at Camden Haven High School
- Kids Alive Show
- FM Radio Broadcast- the students host a two hour show.



## **Academic**

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.

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

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

### **Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**

Five students in Year 3 completed the NAPLAN literacy test for 2010. 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 literacy test for 2010. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

### **Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

Seven students in Year 5 completed the NAPLAN literacy test for 2010. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

### **Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

Seven students in Year 5 completed the NAPLAN literacy test for 2010. Owing to the small number of students detailed results cannot be reported due to privacy reasons.

### **Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

[Enter your text and one or two data tables for each of Years 3, 5, 7 and/or 9 from Electronic Data Summary Sheet as appropriate.]

## **Significant programs and initiatives**

### **Aboriginal education**

Aboriginal perspectives were included in all units to foster empathy and understanding of issues. The Aboriginal Liaison Officer visits were always very welcomed. The students completed Aboriginal art designs from traditional stories and made boomerangs during NAIDOC week celebrations. Staff completed the Cultural Awareness training. A bush tucker and sensory garden are being established.

### **Multicultural education**

Multicultural Education is addressed across the curriculum and includes all students at Herons Creek Public School. As the school population is

all of Anglo-European background, school planning ensures that the students experience other cultures.

Chinese language and culture lessons were introduced to all students, kindergarten to year six during 2010, led by a volunteer member of the community.

A staff member was 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.

### **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 program facilitated by the support teacher behaviour 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.

We revised our Anti Bullying Policy.

### **Music**

A talented student from Camden Haven High School provides the students of Herons Creek Public School the opportunity to learn the keyboard and guitar. Our students have found this a rewarding experience. We received a grant this year to spend \$1700 on new instruments.



## 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 three afternoons a week. The children were able to participate in sports such as learn to surf, circus skills, tennis, dance, mountain bike riding, martial arts, gymnastics and hockey.



## Dance Group

Hérons Creek Public School students performed an extract from Nemo for the CHAFFS concert.



## Speech and Drama Eisteddfod

All of our students entered the Port Macquarie Speech and Drama Eisteddfod in the group choral poetry section where they won second place.

## Environmental Education

Environmental Education is a focus at Herons Creek Public School. We have an established vegetable patch, recycled bottle green house, built composting bays and a chicken coup. All students are encouraged to compost all food

scraps. This year we began construction of our sensory garden.

## Reading for Life

The Reading for Life Program initiated in 2008 continued this year. It involved our students and some of the residents from a retirement home in Laurieton. The students read books aloud to the residents who visited. The texts were then discussed and great talking and listening interaction took place. The students also visited the Nursing Home throughout the year. In term one during Seniors Week we held a technology day, where the students tutored the residents in computer, interactive whiteboard and digital camera technology. The students also presented a creative and performing arts concert at Laurieton Hall for all local senior citizens.

## Camden Haven Community of Schools

Camden Haven Community of Schools is a learning community established to enhance the educational opportunities of all students attending Camden Haven High School and its feeder schools. In 2011 our students showcased their talents at the Camden Haven Arts Festival for Schools.







## Progress on 2011 targets

Literacy

Numeracy

### Target 1

**Enhanced quality teaching practices to improve levels of achievement for students in line with school targets in numeracy.**

Our achievements include:

- Professional development in TOWN and TEN math programs.
- Assessment and student data recorded along the numeracy continuum every five weeks.
- Implementation of fast math program K-6.

### Target 2

**Enhanced quality teaching practices to improve levels of achievement for students in line with school targets in literacy.**

Our achievements include:

- Professional Development in Accelerated Literacy and Focus on Reading.
- Improved benchmark levels for all students assessed to level 30.
- Focus on Reading (3-6) strategies explicitly taught to the primary class.
- Focus withdrawal groups formed.

## Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2011 our school carried out evaluations of Quality Teaching and Learning and Literacy.



## Educational and management practice

Quality Teaching and Learning

### Background

Ten questions were posed in the survey and every family was invited to participate in the completing of the survey. Staff were also invited to participate in the survey.

### Findings and conclusions

All of the surveys returned highly rated the quality teaching and learning that occurs at the school. Everyone highly agreed that there are high expectations for student success and that student learning is meaningful, enjoyable and challenging.

### Future directions

Hérons Creek Public School will continue to provide a supportive, challenging learning environment for all of its students.



*Clean Up Australia Day*

## Curriculum

Literacy

### Background

Nine questions were posed in the survey and every family was invited to participate in the completing of the survey. Staff were also invited to participate in the survey.

### Findings and conclusions

From the surveys returned we can conclude that all families are happy with our schools literacy program.

### Future directions

To offer literacy sessions and information to parents as to how to better assist their children and how reading is taught at school.



## Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2011 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 highly satisfied with the school operation and achievements in 2011.

The evaluation meeting, 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 2011.

## Professional learning

Throughout the 2011 school year staff were able to take part in professional development which included:

- Child Protection
- Emergency Care
- Sue Larkey Autism Workshop
- Active After Schools
- Live Life Well
- New Scheme Teacher
- Accelerated Literacy
- Focus on Reading
- Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN)
- TOWN Maths program



## School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department's planning documents.

### School priority 1

#### Outcome for 2012–2014

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

#### 2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Students will be reading at or above their chronological age in terms of comprehension

#### Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Year 3-6 teacher to implement 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.
- Teachers decide where each student is in relationship to the Comprehension Learning Sequence and track student progress on the continuum.
- A staff member to be trained in Reading Recovery for Small Schools.



*Students from 5/6 at Aussie Bush Camp*

### School priority 2

#### Outcome for 2012–2014

**Increase levels of overall numeracy achievements for all students.**

#### 2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Improved student performance in numeracy K-6.
- Teachers have enhanced skills in the use of data to inform programming and planning for the teaching of numeracy.

#### Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- TOWN and TEN programs to continue.
- Programs and practice reflect modeled, guided and independent teaching practice.
- Staff to train and implement Quicksmart Numeracy Program.
- Track student progress on numeracy continuum.



*Students resting after Cross Country Carnival*

## 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 Ward Principal

Natalie Browne Classroom Teacher

Riana Heslop Classroom Teacher

Kerrie McKiernan School Administration  
Manager

Jacque McLaren P&C President

John E Williams School Education Director

### School contact information

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School Code: 2157

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

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>

