School context statement

Murwillumbah High School was established in 1929 and has a long tradition of outstanding academic, cultural, creative, vocational and sporting achievement.

The highly qualified and experienced teachers at Murwillumbah High School are committed to the provision of a secure and caring environment that promotes the learning and development of all students using quality teaching strategies which are contemporary, engaging and challenging.

The school, which has approximately 550 students and 60 staff, offers a wide range of courses as well operating a Special Education Unit. In addition to this, the many other opportunities that students can experience, include: learning a musical instrument; competing in one of our representative sporting teams; performing in a musical or Arts Week; travelling to Japan or Europe; debating in one of the school competitions; playing in the school orchestra; joining the Environmental Group; acting in a drama production; entering State or National competitions; hosting Japanese students visiting the school... just to name a few!

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

Post-school destinations

Thirty nine students received early entry offers to university. Forty one confirmed offers were made to thirty two students for their first or second preference. 45% of our students will attend a tertiary institution in 2015 or have deferred their place at university for a gap year. Several students successfully applied for scholarships to assist in the educational costs. The scholarships range from $3,000.00 to $8,000. Twenty three students have moved into full time employment with four of these in apprenticeships or traineeships. Fifteen students are actively seeking employment while they attend TAFE on a full time study plan. The remaining students are employed in either a part time or casual capacity or seeking employment both locally and interstate.

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

Twelve students achieved awards of Cert III and thirty three students completed awards of Certificate II, or significant achievements toward these awards, across many areas of vocational training taught either at school or delivered by TAFE. One student completed her Pharmacy traineeship in Retail (Pharmacy) twelve months early, another completed in Warehousing and one completed his first year of his Primary Industries Apprenticeship training in Dairy Farming while gaining his HSC.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent Vocational educational qualification

All students in the Year 12 cohort successfully achieved and received the HSC.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers Adviser</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Aboriginal composition of the Murwillumbah High School workforce is 3%.

Teacher qualifications

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional learning and teacher accreditation

Professional Learning has been made available for all teachers during School Development Days and Whole School Staff Meetings and at a faculty level in how to use the Literacy Continuum to plot students according to their individual performance in Reading Comprehension against the markers on the Literacy Continuum for each cluster. Sample curriculum-based assessments have also been modeled and made available to all teachers via the school’s shared network drive.

The school also used Teacher professional learning funds to support beginning teachers and teacher development in syllabus implementation, quality teaching, developing effective welfare programs in collaboration with community agencies and working collaboratively with other Tweed 5 schools to implement shared approaches to programming, leadership development and assessment through collegial networks and shared whole-school professional learning.

The school expended $66,360.57 on Professional Learning for teachers. These funds were allocated to the following areas:

- ICT: $5384.74
- Literacy/Numeracy: $6943.42
- Quality Teaching: $8253.45
- Syllabus Implementation: $17958.09
- Career Development: $12956.98
- Welfare and Equity: $14863.89

Beginning Teachers

Murwillumbah High School had one beginning teacher in 2014 and the funding provided for this teacher was used to support the development of her skills. In particular mentoring and collaborative practices were used to provide structured feedback. The beginning teacher also had access to professional learning that focused on strategies to build student engagement, collaborative professional practices and the implementation of the teacher’s own professional learning plan.
Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>460314.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>621215.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>499266.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>15354.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>32100.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>1899320.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

Teaching & learning
- Key learning areas: 130091.93
- Excursions: 173129.27
- Extracurricular dissections: 11377.21

Library: 5748.25

Training & development: 21566.05

Tied funds: 463462.44

Casual relief teachers: 301341.58

Administration & office: 95460.17

School-operated canteen: 0.00

Utilities: 126846.62

Maintenance: 70621.97

Trust accounts: 31254.75

Capital programs: 0.00

Total expenditure: 1430900.24

Balance carried forward: 468419.92

A full copy of the school’s 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the school’s parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2014

Throughout 2014, Murwillumbah High School maintained its tradition of supporting students in achieving in the various aspects of their lives including academic, cultural, performance recreation and sport.

On Wednesday, 25 June, the Murwillumbah High School Senior Debating team competed against Sydney Boys High School in the State Finals of the CHS Hume Barber Senior Debating Competition. To reach the finals, the Murwillumbah High School team had won four debates to become the North Coast Champions and then won a further two debates to qualify for the State Finals, held in Newtown, Sydney. Two of these debates were held via a video conference.

In the debate against Sydney Boys High School, Brianna Morris-Grant, Mali Hermans, Haven English and James Taylor argued, ‘That the Senate should pass the budget’. The adjudicator was very impressed with the maturity of the arguments and especially praised the efforts of the Murwillumbah High School speakers who were all year 11 students, unlike their opponents who were all in year 12.

Although the Murwillumbah High School debaters were defeated by a narrow margin, it was still an amazing achievement to be one of the top eight teams in the state! The only time in the past 50 years that this competition has been won by a non-metropolitan school was in 2006 when it was won by Murwillumbah High School!

In term 2, year 11 students Brianna Morris-Grant and Mali Hermans graduated from Bond University Student for a Semester program that they participated in during semester 1. This program involved attending classes with university students at the Gold Coast Campus two days a week. Brianna completed a course on Writing for News Media where she had to find stories on campus and write them for the local newspaper. A number of these were published for Gold Coast newsreaders. Her final exam included attending a press conference where she had to write a story and then breaking news was released the next day requiring her story had to be updated. Her final result was a Distinction. Mali completed Contemporary Issues in Law and Society where legal and controversial issues and cases were discussed and debated. For her assignment she researched a famous person in law and gave a speech to her fellow students. She received a High Distinction.

In semester 1 year 12 student Samantha Free-Daly completed her unit of study with Southern Cross University through the Head-Start Program that provides an opportunity for year 11 and 12 students, who have the academic capability to succeed at university, to gain direct entry or advanced standing into a variety of courses offered. It takes great commitment to take on tertiary study at the same time as managing an HSC Program at school, so it is a real credit to Samantha that she completed the course.
During term 1, students from Murwillumbah High School’s Environment Group participated in a bush regeneration activity by Team Koala Inc. They restored part of an existing green belt that will improve feed availability, increase koala numbers and provide safe links to other koala populations in the area surrounding Cudgen Lake. Skye O’Brien, Asta Godden and Rhiannon Heighes-Ashby helped to plant and mulch 500 native plants in conjunction with workers from Tweed Shire Council, National Parks and Wildlife, Cabarita Dunecare, Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve, Team Koala and local residents. It was a very successful morning and the students were congratulated on their outstanding efforts and dedication to the plight of the koala in the local area.

The Career Market Day at Crystal Creek gave students and parents from primary schools in this area an excellent opportunity to see the links between learning, life opportunities and the world of work. The Careers Adviser, Ms Lawson and staff and students from PD/H/PE, 7M English and Music, represented Murwillumbah High School at the day. These staff and students engaged the primary students in activities, entertained them with music and talked to them about their aspirations for careers in the future and how studying at high school opened pathways and developed skills to help develop career options. Many local business personnel, emergency services and local employers also gave their time to the very successful Careers Market.

In term 3, Mali Hermans, was selected for the University of Queensland Young Scholars Program. The program is designed to nurture and develop high achieving year 11 students by providing academic extension and enrichment. It involves discovery, learning and engagement with UQ’s academic community, leading thinkers and like-minded students from across QLD and New South Wales sharing their thoughts on current global issues, career opportunities and study areas. The Program involves a five day Residential Camp at the St Lucia campus of the University of Queensland and follow up activities as well as ongoing networking for participants. Mali has also been chosen to attend the National Youth Science forum in Canberra, January 2015.

Murwillumbah High School had outstanding successes at this year’s Murwillumbah Show. One of the most significant achievements was, Tom Burgoyne, Cameron Watts and Josh Apps, winning first place the Schools Lead in Steers competition. The boys, who looked splendid in their sponsored shirts and hats, handled the steers with so much professionalism, they were invited to lead McDonald’s cattle in the dairy competition. A large group of Murwillumbah High School student were also volunteers at the show and were a huge help in it running smoothly. Agriculture teacher Ms Martin and Mr Anderson were very their students and were also very appreciative of the support from the following sponsors: Partridge family; Noel Graham Farm Machinery; Queen Street Vet Clinic; Crosthwaite’s Dairy; Campbell’s Produce; Get Smart Work Wear; and Richmond River High School Agriculture Department.

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 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 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

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.
NAPLAN Year 7 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

Percentage in bands:
Year 7 Reading

Percentage in bands:
Year 7 Writing

Percentage in bands:
Year 7 Grammar & Punctuation

Percentage in bands:
Year 7 Spelling
NAPLAN Year 7 – Numeracy

NAPLAN Year 9 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)
Higher School Certificate (HSC)

In the Higher School Certificate, the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).
Other achievements

Arts

Students and staff at Murwillumbah High School once again amazed the community with their annual Arts Week celebration (June 17 – 20), which this year had a Carnivale theme. The large variety of onstage performances and the works on display in the art gallery showcased the artistic, dramatic, and musical talents of the students.

All of the students and staff involved, including the back stage crew, did a huge amount of work leading up to and during Arts Week to ensure its success.

David Watts (year 10) was, this year, selected as the timpanist for the Junior Orchestra for the Australian Opera Ballet. The musicians for the orchestra were selected from across NSW, which clearly shows the quality of David’s talent. During term 3, David participated in two video conference workshops in which he was given special tuition in playing the timpani for the upcoming ballet.

At the start of August David travelled to Sydney for three days of rehearsal with the other members of the youth orchestra. They then performed on Friday night, 8 August, in the Opera House, playing the music for the ballet. David described the experience as unforgettable! “It was amazing being able to play at the opera house, experience the acoustics of the Concert Hall, feel the energy of the performance and work alongside professional artists,” he said.

Year 11 student Cody Anderson was chosen to be part of the stage crew at this year’s Schools Spectacular held at the Entertainment Centre in the last week of November. Cody excelled in the VET Entertainment course at Murwillumbah High School and the skills and experience he gained in doing this course were a significant factor in him being successful in the very competitive process of students applying to be part of the stage crew at this amazing event.

On Thursday 14 August, Ms McKenzie’s year 11 Visual Arts students participated in a virtual visit to the Sydney studio of successful contemporary Australian artist Wendy Sharpe – winner of the Sulman Prize in 1986, the Archibald Prize in 1996 and currently short listed for the 2014 Archibald Prize. Using the school’s video conferencing room Ms McKenzie and the students were able to not only see the studio but also listen to her discuss her practice with ARTEXPRESS curriculum consultant Wendy Ramsay and ask questions about her practice.

Sport

In late February Isaac Hough competed and NSW All Schools Triathlon held in Sydney finished with an impressive 14th place overall, which won a silver medal in the CHS schools division. Ella O’Brien also competed in the event and was placed 23rd overall in her division.

Ten students qualified for the CHS State Swimming Championships held at the Homebush Olympic Pool. The results were: Hayley Bendl (12 yrs) competed in seven (out of a possible nine) events: 50m Free – 11th; 100m Free – 11th; 200m Free – 12th; 100m Backstroke – 13th; 100m Breaststroke – 7th; 100m Butterfly – 7th; and 400 IM – 13th. Tom Vickery (13 yrs) competed in four events: 50m Free – 9th, 100m Free – 13th, 200m Free – 15th; and 400m Free 19th. The 13 years girls relay made up of Hayley Bendl, Kalani Bradbury, Claudia Crawford and Briana Graham reached the finals in 9th place. The 15 years girls relay made up of Tiani Freeman, Bianca Dixon, Madalyn Wylie and Ebony Morris were placed 25th. Stephanie Van Honk also qualified for the 50m MC Freestyle but was unable to attend.

Four MHS girls qualified for the North Coast Open Girls Hockey team – Emily Hetherington
(Captain), Adrianna Marshall, Tahlia Edwards and Jade Jeffery-Prestwich. Mrs Lofts, the coach, said it was the strongest group of players she had seen for a number of years. They played in the State Championship held at Orange in May.

After winning at Far North Coast and North Coast levels, the Murwillumbah High School Open Boys Volleyball team travelled to Sydney to play in the NSW CHS Volleyball Championships at Sydney Olympic Park during the last week of term 2. The boys performed extremely well winning six of the seven games they played. Unfortunately, the one game that they narrowly lost put them out of contention for the grand final. Despite that, they can be very proud of their achievements at this elite level, which placed them in the top five teams in the state!

Five students competed in the NSW CHS Cross Country Championship that was held at Eastern Creek in Sydney on 18 July. Each age race contained about 100 of the state’s best cross country athletes. Their results were: Hayley Bendl (12 years) – 66th; Brendan Thomson (14 years) – 71st; Ella O’Brien (14 years) – 13th; Isaac Hough (16 years) – 16th; and Lyndan Armytage (16 years) MC – 7th.

Two of Murwillumbah High students, Brendan Thomson and Kade Hill, competed in the U15 State Touch Footy Championships, in May. The boys were playing in the North Coast team that was coached by Murwillumbah High teacher, Mr Thomas, who said they played extremely well and made a major contribution to the team, which was a great achievement considering they were two of the youngest boys in the team.

On Tuesday, 26 August, Murwillumbah High School U16 Rugby League team played against an international U16 touring side from Wigan in England. The game was organised by Mike “Milo” Donnelly, the local National Rugby League (NRL) development officer. Throughout the game, which was played at Lennox Head, the teams were evenly matched and with fulltime approaching, Wigan was leading 18 – 16. Then, with only two minutes before the final whistle, Murwillumbah High School coached by Mr Nick Forrester, broke through the Wigan defence to score a converted try and won the game 22 – 18. Tom Platter and Sandon McCarthy were nominated as most valuable players for the Murwillumbah High School team. After the game both teams enjoyed a BBQ lunch and exchanged team training shirts and shorts. During the lunch the players enjoyed talking with each other and before leaving, the Wigan side donated a signed jersey from Leads, one of the top teams in the English Super League.

Eight athletes qualified to represent the North Coast Region at the NSW CHS Athletics Championships, held at the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC), 4 – 6 September. The results for the six students who were able to attend were: Hayley Bendl (12 years) 800m – final 8; Claudia Crawford (13 years) 200m – final 8; Ella O’Brien (14 years) 1500m – 14th, 800m – 5th in heat; Sarah Trevaskis (15 years) Javelin – 11th; Anna Trevaskis (16 years) Discus – 4th; April Whelan (Senior Para Athlete) Javelin – finalist.

On Friday, 7 November, 18 Murwillumbah High students competed in the North Coast Combined High Schools Surf Life Saving Carnival at Byron Bay. The students performed extremely well in the events, both in the water and on the sand, and displayed an outstanding attitude throughout the day. Special congratulations to Tom Vickery who was named overall Carnival Champion and Age Champion, and to Dane Gregg who was also named Age Champion.

Significant programs and initiatives – policy and equity funding

Aboriginal education

Equity funding was used to employ a teacher to run a targeted support program to help Aboriginal students improve their Literacy and Numeracy skills. NAPLAN results for these students showed they had made significant gains in these skills, with growth rates exceeding the state averages in Literacy and Numeracy. This teacher also worked with teachers in making accommodations and adjustments based on the students’ Personalised Learning Plans.

Equity funds were also used to operate a Homework Hub every Tuesday from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the Murwillumbah High School Library. This hub helped enhance research skills and improve the quality of Aboriginal students’ homework and completion rates of assignments. Individual tutoring was also provided for identified students.
In September 2014, four Murwillumbah High School students completed the Wollumbin Dreaming Aboriginal Youth Leadership program. This project, which was jointly sponsored by community groups, government departments and local businesses, gives Aboriginal young people the chance to work together, develop their leadership skills, share ideas, and have a voice in addressing issues that affect them. At the awards ceremony the boys gave an impressive presentation about the Homework Hub that operates in Murwillumbah High School’s Library on Tuesday after school each week. Two of the boys also spoke about their personal circumstances and challenges and their hopes for their future.

The Murwillumbah High School Deadlys group worked with Uncle Jimmy McDermott from the Family Centre, each Wednesday during term 1. Their activities focused on developing cultural awareness and developing effective relationship and teamwork skills. This is just one of the many ways that The Family Centre is involved with the school and has developed effective partnership to support student welfare and wellbeing.

Early in term 1 the Murwillumbah High School Deadlys travelled to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary to take on the challenges of the high ropes course. Everyone had a great day as they conquered their fears and completed the various parts of the course.

This outing was followed up with an even more exciting adventure when, at the end of term 1, twenty Deadlys spent two days at Emu Gulley (near Toowoomba) with local elder, Uncle Jimmy and teachers Ms Riley and Ms Paron. They had a great time at the camp doing a range of activities which included; team building, bush challenges at night, problem solving, learning about the ANZACS and completing challenges based on battles fought by the ANZACS.

It’s been another terrific year with the Titans 4 Tomorrow Academy, which has provided individual support and combined workshops for over 80 girls from Murwillumbah High School, Tweed River High School, Banora Point High School, and Wollumbin High School. An important part of the program is the High Performance Centre, which operates out the Murwillumbah School library and is run by Academy Liaison Officer, Tulsi Blacka. This centre gives students access to tutoring and develops their skills in using technology, researching, planning, writing and completing assessment tasks. As part of the program, former Titans players Clinton Toopi and Preston Campbell, along with elders from Bugalwena Health Centre, held a cultural workshop at Murwillumbah High School in term 2. Other workshops throughout the year covered topics such as: Financial Planning, Health and Nutrition, Managing Change, Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Social Media, Resume Writing and Interview Skills.

**Multicultural education and anti-racism**

Harmony Day is a time to celebrate all the different cultures that make Australia an outstanding place to live, and to acknowledge our differences, accepting one another as we are. Murwillumbah High School held the celebration in the Elliot Centre on 31 March with more than 15 different candles on the stage to symbolise all the different cultures at the school, each one then being lit by a student from a different race, background, or culture. There’s no need for alienation in our community, nor racism, discrimination, or anything of the like. We are all one at Murwillumbah High School.

In 2014, Murwillumbah High School once again welcomed visitors from Japan. In May, a group of 25 Year 9 students and three teachers from Saitama Heisei Junior High visited the school and spent the day with their Australian buddies doing a variety of activities which included a tour of the school, learning about each other’s cultures, practicing their communication skills and using the words of Waltzing Matilda to tutor the visitors in English. There were also several very entertaining performances by students from both schools with one dance item by the visiting students ending up with all the students from both the schools dancing on the stage together. For lunch the guests were treated to an Aussie ‘barbie’, pies, sausages rolls and Tim Tams. This was the 14th year that this very successful cross-cultural event has occurred.

In July, three teachers and twelve students from Hinohara Junior High School visited Murwillumbah High School. Also travelling with the group was the daughter of Hinohara Junior High School’s Principal. This was the eighth visit from Hinohara Junior High School’s sister school in Japan and...
the visitors enjoyed a variety of activities which included a barbeque picnic at Pottsville Beach, English lessons with Ms Williams, a Science lesson with Mrs Turnbull and an excursion to the David Fleay Wildlife Park, just to name a few.

Thank you to the host families whose generous and warm hospitality was vital in ensuring the students had such a memorable week.

Year 5 students from local primary schools visited Murwillumbah High School during October to take part in two fun-packed days of Connecting with Asia activities. These activities were: making shadow puppets; creating onigiri rice balls; Bollywood dancing; and learning to write their names in Japanese and decorating a traditional Japanese fan. The day was part of a broader transition program that introduces students who are in their final years of primary school to the high school experience. The feedback from the students and the visiting teachers was very enthusiastic. One primary school teacher said, ‘Not only do the students become familiar with high school, they also really start to get excited about it.”

On September 14, a group of 17 students, accompanied by Mrs Slattery and Mr Anderson, left for a two week study tour of Japan that included Japanese wonders such as the Golden Pavilion, Hiroshima and the Peace Park, the Great Buddha of Nara and Ninja castles. Other memorable aspects of the trip included, tatami mats, futons, indoor slippers, the politeness of the people, amazing food, bullet trains, the cleanliness of the country, vending machines, tofu ice cream and green tea. Even more memorable than all this though, was what the students experienced at Hinohara Junior High School and their home stays. These three days were spent participating in school activities and being immersed in the Japanese way of life. The special connections made with the Japanese students and their families were especially evident from the emotions displayed when it came time to leave. At the end of two hectic weeks and 24 hours travelling, the students and teachers arrived home, bringing with them new friendships, a host of amazing memories and a real appreciation of Japanese customs and culture. A special thank you to Mrs Slattery for all the work she did in organising the trip.

**Socio-economic background and Learning & Support needs**

Equity funding was used to employ a specialist literacy and numeracy teacher for an additional Year 7 class made up of students with significant deficits in their Literacy and Numeracy skills. These students were able to access a wide range of learning experiences, tailored to their needs. This resulted in increased engagement and participation in learning. NAPLAN results for these students showed they had made significant gains in their Literacy and Numeracy skills. Additional Student Learning Support Officer staffing was also paid for out of equity funds, which provided extra one-on-one assistance to identified students.

Equity funding was also used to provide educational resources for students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

**Other significant programs and initiatives**

**Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership - Commonwealth initiative**

In 2014 Murwillumbah High School continued to be the recipient of targeted funding under the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership (ILNNP) with the focus remaining as Literacy: Reading Texts and Comprehension. The target group for the school’s Literacy initiatives under the ILNNP program was Year 9 boys.

The school used resources provided by the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership (ILNNP) to implement a range of strategies in 2014 to improve literacy. These included the continued development of a whole school approach to Literacy incorporating the implementation of the Literacy Continuum K-10, teacher professional learning and the explicit teaching of the “Super Six” Comprehension strategies and the purchase of professional resources for teachers.

The employment of a Literacy teacher (0.8) and development and implementation of a targeted support program for the students at risk of falling behind in Literacy and Numeracy saw a number of students make significant gains in their Literacy capabilities. These students were those who were previously identified as “well below” and “below” in the baseline data collection for Literacy in May 2013. This teacher also worked with all teachers...
in making accommodations and adjustments to teaching and assessment practices to provide additional support for the targeted students and monitor their progress in Literacy and Numeracy using all the aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy continuums.

Murwillumbah High School’s Literacy initiatives as part of our involvement in the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership facilitated significant improvements in Reading Comprehension. In May 2013 19 of our 42 targeted students were ‘below’ or ‘well below’ with 7 students being placed ‘above’ or ‘well above’ on the Literacy Continuum for Reading Comprehension. By November 2014 the number of students who were ‘below’ or ‘well below’ had reduced to 12 with 10 students being placed ‘above’ or ‘well above’ on the Literacy Continuum for Reading Comprehension.

Overall 7 of the students in the target group moved 3 clusters along the Literacy Continuum for Reading Comprehension and 22 students moved 2 clusters along the Literacy Continuum for Reading Comprehension.

In 2015 Murwillumbah High School will continue its commitment to the improvement of Literacy outcomes for students. The school’s Literacy Coordinator has undertaken a comprehensive survey of staff capabilities and professional learning needs which will inform future directions.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

During 2014 Murwillumbah High School began laying the foundations for the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning strategy. Representatives from all the faculties formed a team to gather data and develop an timeline and lead the implementation of the school-wide strategy. In May, a cross section of students from years 7 to 12, worked in the Library to develop a collection of statements and strategies related to the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). They came up with five key responsibilities based on the word LEARN. It is really quite profound when you think about it, that if you had to find one word that sums up the purpose of education in general, and schools in particular, it is captured in the word LEARN.

Using the letters of the word LEARN the students came up with the following responsibilities for students and staff to focus on in all aspects of the day to day rhythm and hum of what happens at school. The maturity and insights of what the students came up with is impressive: L stands for LEAD – lead by example, resolve issues peacefully; E stands for ENGAGE – participate fully and do your best; A stands for ACCEPT – accept responsibility for your learning and accept people’s differences; R stands for RESPECT – treat people and their property with respect; N stands for NURTURE – be sensitive to the needs of others and encourage them.

Vocational Education and Training

The school continued to provide strong support for VET courses and School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. This includes both school delivered courses and courses delivered by other RTOs, including TAFE NSW.

Outcomes for students in terms of links to local employers are built through structured work placement.

An additional program of support through our Partnership Program with Connect provided mentoring support for our school based trainees and apprentices in the Dairy Industry, Warehousing and Pharmacy retail fields.
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:
- Tell Them from Me Student Survey.
- Focus on Learning Teacher Survey.
- National School Survey for parents.
- Analysis of NAPLAN and HSC data.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1
Quality Teaching and Learning

Outcomes from 2012-2014

Student engagement and attainment is improved in all aspects of the teaching and learning practices.
The new NSW Curriculum informs the revision of innovative and effective faculty programs.

Strategies are successfully implemented to provide for the needs and aspirations of students in the ‘top 25%’.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
- 39 students (over 50% of Year 12) gained early entry to University in 2014.
- Increase in high school completion rates by 2%.
- New NSW Curriculum implemented in Years 7 – 10.
- Increased enrolments of ‘top 25%’ students.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Continue Year 7 Selective Class.
- Individual case management of identified at-risk students.
- Strengthen partnership with Links to Learning.
- Mentoring support of Careers Advisers for students in Years 11 & 12.

School priority 2
Literacy and numeracy

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Student achievement in literacy is improved.
Student achievement in numeracy is improved.
Achievement of students with learning difficulties is improved.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
- Significant improvement in the numeracy growth data overall.
- Significant improvement in the literacy growth data overall.
- 70% of Year 8 boys improved their reading comprehension by two or more clusters on the Literacy Continuum.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Literacy and numeracy teacher employed to implement explicit strategies with target group.
- Professional Development in the use the literacy continuum to inform teaching and learning.
- Analysis and use of Smart data to individualise teaching programs.

School priority 3
Quality Aboriginal Education

Outcomes from 2012–2014

PLP’s used for all Aboriginal students in partnership with parents and caregivers.
Aboriginal students’ skills in Literacy and Numeracy improved.
Aboriginal cultural programs operating effectively.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
- All students have a PLP developed in collaboration with parents/careers.
- NAPLAN results for Aboriginal students showed growth rates exceeding the state averages in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Deadlys activities occurring throughout the year.
Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Specialist teacher employed to help Aboriginal students improve their Literacy and Numeracy skills.
- Titans 4 Tomorrow program.
- Cultural celebrations, workshops and excursions held throughout the year.

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 Tell Them From Me student survey indicated our students feel positively about their active engagement in sports but that other social-emotional aspects of school life could be enhanced. The positive learning environment in classrooms was rated similar to the state norms. The percentage of students who had aspirations to finish Year 12 was lower than the state norm.

The Focus on Learning teacher survey indicated that the teachers feel that the school is very inclusive, with a strong learning culture. Whilst collaboration and the use of technology are satisfactory, there is a need to improve in those areas. The survey also identified a need to improve peer feedback strategies.

The National School Survey for parents indicated that the parents are generally happy with the education and resources provided for the students at Murwillumbah High School. The survey did identify a need to improve the management of student behaviour.

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.

Warrick Simmons - Principal
Michael McNamara – Deputy Principal
Julie Bush – Head Teacher English
Oskar Chikosh – Head Teacher Mathematics
Candice Morris-Grant – Head Teacher Science
Margaret Bargwanna – Head Teacher HSIE
Tim Mulroy – Head Teacher Special Education
Julie Lister – Head Teacher TAS
Donna Riley – Head Teacher PDHPE
Carl Marshall – Relieving Head Teacher Admin
Bev Cooke – Coordinator CAPA/LOTE
Ian Armour – School Administration Officer
Nicole Morris – P&C Representative

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: