School context statement

Port Macquarie High is a dynamic learning environment that provides a diverse curriculum that allows students to pursue individual pathways. We have shared curriculum with Westport High and Wauchope High allowing students to study subjects not available at our school. We offer a variety of Vocational Education courses that allow students to get Australian Framework Certification. The school has dedicated teachers. They are a mixture of experienced and younger staff, so that experience and knowledge combine with innovation and enthusiasm. The school has a well-structured student wellbeing program that is run by caring and concerned staff. Parents can be assured that the school will address the individual needs of their sons and daughters. The school has an Aboriginal enrolment of 63 (8%). There is a variety of programs and activities open to Aboriginal students. Port Macquarie High has introduced a pastoral care program named Connect, focusing on developing each student’s personal skills. The school also has a values based program, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). The school’s agreed ethos is Proud – Motivated - Honest – Safe.

Our school achieves excellent academic results. We have a dynamic transition program that allows students to start high school with confidence. Once they are at school, students have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities. There are a variety of sports on offer with some students reaching Australian representative level. The creation of the Hastings Secondary College in 2015 will give more opportunities to create new teams. The school has a variety of creative and performing arts programs. The school also has public speaking and debating teams of a high standard. The school is involved in many community activities including the Anzac Day March, Harmony Day, NADOIC Week, Red Shield Day, Blood Donation, Biggest Morning Tea and Relay for Life. Our students volunteer for community events such as triathlons and support various primary schools with their swimming and athletics carnivals. Year 9 and 10 participate in the DEC’s Volunteering Scheme with some students achieving Black Opal level doing over 150 hours of volunteering.

Principal’s message

This has been my first year at Port High, what an amazing experience. Every morning when I park in the middle of the road outside the school I look towards the sea and marvel at the school’s location. I have come from a small high school at Wee Waa. I enjoyed being Principal there for six years but I have found Port Macquarie a great place to live. I enjoy having a Commonwealth Bank, a movie theatre, the Glasshouse, the walk along the Breakwall and being able to get a cappuccino after midday on a Saturday.

Port Macquarie High is a great school. I am impressed with the students and the teachers. We are lucky to have a mix of experienced and young teachers, the knowledge of one group combines with the enthusiasm of the other. The lessons I have observed have been engaging and entertaining. It is wonderful to see the Marine Studies and Oceanography students using the location as part of their studies. I have been impressed with our Agriculture Department and the wonderful achievements of our Show Team.

I was privileged to see them in action at the Wauchope Show. Mrs Napier runs the farm very well and gives our students opportunities they can’t have in other schools. I have also been impressed by the way our students have performed in the ICAS tests. We have some very talented students who are performing very well. The students here have many opportunities that they don’t get in other schools. I’ve been impressed by the schools’ dedication in the Creative and Performing arts. I was able to see our Music Students perform in the Hatch Band as well as other community events. One of the first things I experienced was the Bravissimo
Performance which highlighted high achieving Year 12 students, Port High was very well represented. I have seen many of our talented Drama students perform at the Player’s Theatre in High School Musical and The Gingerbread Lady. Our dance students have featured at Westport High, the Mid Coast Dance Festival and Schools Spectacular, which I had the privilege of seeing. We have a wide variety of ways for students to extend their talents and enjoy the thrill of performance.

Students at Port Macquarie High have many outstanding sporting opportunities. We have teams in a wide variety of different competitions and students can choose from a wide variety of sports.

I was particularly impressed by our City to Surf team. It was great to see the happy faces in the photographs. It is amazing that Mr Duck beat all the students and the other teachers.

My ultimate aim with our students is to help mould them into good human beings. One of the ways we do this as a school is to promote volunteering and community service. Port Macquarie High has an outstanding record with volunteering. I was proud to march with the school on Anzac Day. One hundred students and teachers volunteered for the Ironman. The school is the biggest blood donating group in our region. We have an SES Cadet program where students learn what it means to be an SES Volunteer. Volunteering is also evident in a variety of smaller scale activities such as collecting food for the local soup kitchen and selling items for Jeans for Genes Day. A reflection of the quality of our students is the nature of our student leaders. The Student Representative Council, under the leadership of Damien Huens and Jacynta Moylan, is a dynamic and proactive force in the school as witnessed by their recent work on trying to get student opinion on what time the new Hastings Secondary College should start.

We have started doing some innovative programs this year to promote student engagement and success. Year 10 did preparation for Year 11 when they finished their yearly exams. Year 12 had a program that focused on keeping them engaged after their trials are over. We have worked closely with Charles Sturt University this year. They have run a program for every year in the school and two courses at night for parents. The Senior Success Program has been an important part of the program. This sets up parents as mentors for students to help them cope with the challenges of the senior years.

One of the most demanding parts of this year has been the work on the creation of the new Hastings Secondary College. It is a wonderful opportunity to provide more for our students and renew our sense of pride in the school.

It is a privilege to be the Principal of Port Macquarie High. It is a great school which aims to help all students achieve their potential.

Lorraine Haddon

P&C Message

Well, what a year 2014 has been.

There have been so many things happening that it is difficult to recall them all. The main focus of the year has been assisting the school in transitioning to a college model, which at the beginning of the 2015 school year became a reality. We will become Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus in 2015. It is an
exciting concept that should deliver many opportunities for our students and staff and, to this end, we will continue to assist and support our school.

Our canteen supervisor, Sarah Younger, resigned and her position was appointed to Karen Litchfield, who has stepped into the job in a big way. Karen is ably assisted by Kylie Sherwood and Susan Emerton, and our little group of volunteers is starting to grow. Our canteen looks, and feels, fresh and vibrant, with a wonderful selection of hot and cold healthy food to entice the students to join the long line at the door at every lunch break. They certainly never seem disappointed.

The uniform shop has been very busy, especially at the Year 7 Orientation Day.

In August, a working bee was again held by staff, with many volunteer helpers in the school gardens and, by all reports, the day was a great success. We hope to put some more working bees on the calendar for this year.

During December 2014, I was very honoured to be asked to present a variety of awards at several formal awards ceremonies. I was extremely proud to represent the P&C and support our wonderful school community in 2015.

We have many things on the agenda with a huge focus on some enjoyable fundraising.

On behalf of the P&C, I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff in the front office. We wouldn’t be able to achieve half as much without the help and assistance you provide to us and we appreciate you all very much.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all existing members, and welcome to all new members. I look forward to working with you in the future and hope that you will find our P&C the fun, supportive parent network that our school needs and deserves.

Leanne Burbridge – P&C President

Student Representative’s message

This year the SRC has worked hard to accomplish many things within the community and our school.

Mr Huens and Mrs Moylan lead the SRC and together were able to fundraise to improve our school. Such as the improvements of the school toilets and helping in creating the amazing new lower quad mural. The SRC were also able to raise funds for individual athletes and sporting teams to compete locally, the SRC have organised the Canned Food Drive to support our local Soup Kitchen, they have supported Shave For A Cure and have also become actively involved with Project Futures.

The SRC have been actively involved in being a sounding board for the Hastings Secondary College initiative and attended both the Luminosity Youth Summit and the National Young Leaders Conference in Sydney.

2014 has been a very busy and successful year for the SRC and we look forward to another great year in 2015.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>468</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>362</td>
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Student attendance profile
Post-school destinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-school destinations</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seeking employment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE entry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>university entry</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
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<td>other</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 76 students attempted their HSC at Port Macquarie High School in 2014.

Of this group 37 students (49%) received offers from NSW Universities. The most popular university was Newcastle (46%) of students due to its diversity of courses and proximity to Port Macquarie. Charles Sturt University (22%) was the second most popular followed by the University of New England (11%). Other universities that students chose include: Southern Cross University, University of Western Sydney, University of NSW, University of Wollongong, Australian Catholic University and University of Sydney. The students have chosen a broad range of university studies with the three most popular fields being Health, education and Science.

The students who have sought permanent employment are heavily employed in the Retail, Hospitality and Trade Industries. Many students have chosen to stay locally. However, a significant number will move to the bigger cities.

A significant group of students have chosen to continue further education and training at TAFE in 2015.

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

The school continued to offer a range of Vocational Education and Training Courses including 240 hour Hospitality, Metal and Engineering, Retail Services and Entertainment was introduced. Primary Industries was delivered through shared curriculum at Wauchope High School’s Port Macquarie-Hastings Trade Training Centre Primary Industries Facilities. Construction was also delivered through shared curriculum at Westport High School’s Port Macquarie-Hastings Trade Training Centre Metal & Engineering Facilities.

TAFE delivered Stage 6 (TVET) courses included Automotive – Light Vehicle and Motorcycles, Electrotechnology, Engineering - Mechanical, Human Services – Aged Care, Information Technology: Multimedia Cert III, Tourism and Events, Community Services - Children’s Services, Animal Studies, Beauty Therapy, Nail Technology and Screen and Media.

Ninety seven students participated in School VET programs with 40.4% of Preliminary students and 44.7% of HSC students enrolled in SVET courses. Thirty eight Stage 6 students participated in TVET courses – a 16% increase since 2013. Four Stage 5 students participated in a range of TVET programs including the PPI program. The stable number of students undertaking SVET courses since 2013 may be attributed to our changing student demographics and transition from more academic aspirations to vocational career paths.

Additional TVET Special programs included White Card, Senior First Aid and Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee Courses which were all very successful.

Five students were involved in school-based traineeships – two Aboriginal Teachers in Training – Certificate III in Education Support, one Hospitality – Certificate II in Hospitality, and two Disability Services - Certificate III in Community Services - Disability Services.

VET HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Murray Kedward – Australian Vocational Student Prize Nominee 2014.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent Vocational educational qualification

HSC – Qualifications SVET students
Certificate II or Higher qualification – 57 %
Certificate I Qualification – 17%
Statement of Attainment Certificate I / II – 25 %

**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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>68.5</strong></td>
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</table>

The school has one Aboriginal Teacher and 2 School Learning Support officers.

**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>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>11%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Professional learning and teacher accreditation**

Professional learning occurred in the areas of Student Welfare, Quality Teaching and Career Development. The Australian Curriculum was being phased in from the beginning of 2014 and there has been a continued focus for professional learning on the implementation for new syllabuses this year.

Professional learning has also been provided for staff wanting to update their Senior First Aid qualifications. This is seen as an area of need due to our location (near water) and the number of overnight excursions operated by the school.

Throughout the year, Port Macquarie High School and Westport High School have been involved with professional learning activities, such as policy development, in association with the establishment of the Hastings Secondary College.

**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>
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<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>1893093.07</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>139938.12</td>
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<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>55647.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>1354185.11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>538907.96</td>
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**School performance 2014**

**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)
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

Visual Arts

2014 has been a year of change as well as student success in Visual Arts.

HSC

Ms Melanie Webb was responsible for the HSC Visual Arts students this year, who produced excellent artworks which were all sent for corporate marking due to the large volume of students electing to do photography. Students Louise Hopkins and Bryce Date were two outstanding students who achieved excellent school based results for their work.

Senior & Junior CAPA Showcases

The structure of the Senior and Junior CAPA showcases changed slightly this year and saw the artworks from both juniors and seniors displayed together across two nights. The artworks took up the majority of the back half of the MPC and were a colourful addition to the performances during the showcase.

Telstra Plein Air Workshop

Telstra sponsored a one day artist workshop which allowed students in Years 9 and 10 to attend Town Beach with paint, easels, brushes and the expert advice from Leanne Prussing. Prussing is a local artist specialising in landscape painting. There were 15 students who attended and completed a painting based on the ocean. The workshop was attended by local MP, Leslie Williams and local and state Telstra management teams.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)

Mrs Karen Noble was selected to sit on the advisory board of teaching and learning at the MCA in Sydney. Mrs Noble will assist in the development of online resources, virtual excursions and web-based learning while also attending conferences and workshops which aim to improve teaching and learning in Visual Arts through MCA based activities.

School Mural

Over the years, the wall that displayed the much loved mural of Port Macquarie High School surfer Marcus Brabant had deteriorated and eventually the render started falling off. The wall was re-rendered in 2013 which resulted in the original mural being covered over. The need for a new mural was obvious as the wall is a major focus during school assemblies. A survey was conducted with both staff and students to see what the focus of the new mural should be. Some said the surfer should return, while others wanted a new contemporary mural that reflected our school as it is today.

Local artist and former Port Macquarie High School student, Adam Murray, was contacted to get advice on how to approach such a huge task. Another local artist and expert on mural artworks, Simon Luxton, was also approached. Both artists came in to conduct a brainstorming workshop with Year 10 and student leaders from the SRC and to discuss their artworks and how they get inspiration. Ideas were refined and concepts were developed and the artists left with a better understanding of what the students wanted to see on the wall.
A few weeks later a design based on our school values was submitted and Adam and Simon came in to paint the mural over a period of two days. The words ‘Proud, Motivated, Honest, Safe’ are a focus of the artwork as well as aspects of our immediate surroundings and, of course, the ocean. The positive feedback from students and staff has been overwhelming and both Adam and Simon found it very humbling to be able to inspire the next generation of artists through their involvement with the mural.

A big thank you goes out to Adam Murray, Simon Luxton, Year 10 Visual Arts students and the student leaders from the SRC who were a part of the process. We’d also like to thank the students who were involved with the previous mural of Marcus Brabant and former teacher Jim Matsinos, who produced the mural that lasted over 20 years and became such an iconic image for Port Macquarie High School students.

Music

2014 has been another magnificent display of our student’s talents in Music. Ensembles such as Concert Band, Stage Band, Choir, Boys Ensemble, HATCH Band and numerous solo and duos have performed to high accolades.

Concert Band

Port Macquarie High School Concert Band have spent the year building their skills and repertoire with the welcoming of Miss Farmer, co-conducting the ensemble. The group have performed for large audiences at CAPA nights, Music showcases, School functions and have hosted touring schools Mosman High and Forrest High from Sydney. The ensemble are enthusiastic to grow and show their skills early in 2015.

Stage Band

‘The Meteors’ have said goodbye to some central members this year with the conclusion of the HSC. However, they have also welcomed new musicians. The ensemble has been an outstanding focus in Port Macquarie High School music program performing at CAPA nights, Music Showcases, part of HSC performance exams and numerous school functions. Members of the ensemble have also amazed delegates performing at the 2014 Principals Conference at Sails Resort. The ensemble is looking forward to showcasing their talents further throughout 2015.

Choir

The initiation of the 30 strong choir has been an incredible attribute to Port Macquarie High School in 2014. Students welcomed Miss Clare Farmer who extended their vocal skills within the first semester having performed at Sydney’s Town Hall as part of the Arts Unit ‘In-Concert’ performance. Students who attended the excursion were also part of a workshop with Australia’s leading Acapella group, Idea of North. Selected members also performed as part of the inaugural Hastings Secondary College Choir. Port Macquarie High School choir also performed at CAPA nights and Music Showcases, assemblies and ANZAC ceremonies.

HATCH Band

HATCH Band has once again performed for many school and community events in 2014. Highlights have been winning first place in Port Macquarie Music Eisteddfod’s stage band category and performing at the Big Band Blast.

Sport

There were a number of sports highlights in 2014. Individually, swimming again provided our best performance. Sam Harris, Ashlyn Dures and Caitlin Dewbery all performed well at state level with Sam going close to a medal.

In cross country our under 15 girls team of Molly Beaver, Molly Higgins, Tayla Davenport and Ashlyn Dures qualified for the State Carnival.

We had some Regional representatives in Soccer (Jess Sanderson) and Rugby League (Matt Fieldsend).

In team sports, Basketball again proved our best sport with the Girls Open team getting to the last 32. Other strong teams were in touch and soccer.

Agriculture

In 2014 we have been very fortunate to have Agriculture classes running for Years 8 to 12. The Junior Syllabus provides a Small Farm Animals
Semester course for Year 8 and a 200 Hour Agriculture course for Years 9 & 10 with senior students completing the 2 unit Preliminary and HSC course.

Years 8 and 9 participated in the North Coast Regional Cows Create Careers Competition again this year winning the Junior Section for the 4th consecutive year, taking the tally to 6 for the 7 years the competition has been running. The students won $500 for the school and $50 for each winning team member.

Thanks to the very generous support provided by Sean and Jodie Gleeson of Hannam Vale and Mr Glen Walker of ‘Kindee’ Stud the Cattle Team has been able to continue and flourish. The team has attended shows at Wauchope, Kempsey, Macksville, Wingham and Taree as well as Wingham Beef Week, Tamworth Beef Championships and the Scone Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza. Students participate in Parading and Cattle Judging of both live animals and carcase, essential for developing skills in cattle assessment for agricultural production and marketing. The students have won numerous ribbons with Kempsey and Taree Shows being the local highlights winning 29 ribbons at Taree Show alone. Students have the opportunity of working with different breeds of cattle including two Lowline cattle (small Angus breed) which provide a less intimidating alternative to parading the larger cattle.

Results for the Tamworth Beef Championships are as follows: Gabby Plumb of Year 11 and Emily Buchtmann of Year 12 received ‘Highly Commended’ ribbons for Parading in 16-19 years while Grace Rogers of Year 8 also received a Highly Commended ribbon for her Junior Judging and Oral Presentation in the 14-16yr age group. Emma Macintosh of Year 12 received a ribbon and $100 in Prize money for Third Place in the Junior Judging and Oral Presentation in 16-19 years. The team Junior and Senior Herdsman Awards for this event went to Emily Hunter in Year 9 and Sommer Gilson in Year 12 respectively.

Other excursions this year for Agriculture students have been the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Agquip and private farm visits for Senior Agriculture students.

Camps And Excursions

Schools Spectacular

Tuesday, the 25th of November, twelve dancers from Port Macquarie High School travelled to Sydney to perform in this years Schools Spectacular. As part of the “Aussie Rock” segment, we performed two dances among a cast of 3500 of the most talented singers, dancers, musicians and actors from around NSW.

Following the audition process, rehearsals at Grafton, tireless fundraising and dance practices during both sport and lunchtimes in the lead up to the event, we travelled down to Sydney in the school mini-bus - excited and ready to perform to an audience of thousands. This was followed by a rehearsal at Alexandria Basketball Stadium, further segment rehearsals at the arena, shopping, dinner in Chinatown and watching the breathtaking Australian production of the musical Wicked. We performed at the Qantas Credit Union Arena twice on both Friday and Saturday, an exhausting but amazing experience.

This opportunity to participate in a world-class arena production could not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Mrs Moylan. Her hard work, patience, organisation, dedication to her dancers and hair braiding ability cannot be surpassed. Further thanks to Mr Neilson, for driving the school bus to Sydney and back for us, Mr Harrison, for driving us to rehearsals, Mrs Haddon for her constant support and attendance at the show and to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts in order to provide us all with this unforgettable experience.

By Emma Piper
**Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp**

On Wednesday 15 October 2014 a group of 50 Year 7 students accompanied by Ms Wells, Mrs Maurer and Mr Tejcek attended the Great Aussie Bush Camp, located near Tea Gardens NSW. Over three days the students participated in numerous outdoor activities including the Giant Swing, dual flying fox and a mud filled obstacle course. The camp gave the students an opportunity to work as a team and face their own fears. It was also a chance for the Year 7 cohort to get to know each other and form new friendships. The students’ behaviour and willingness to participate was commended by the camp instructors. The camp was a great experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Competitions**

**English**

39 students entered the 2014 University of New South Wales English Competitions from Years 7-11. Each year grouping achieved at above the state mean.

This year has proved fruitful and interesting for our junior debaters. Year 10 was represented by Stephanie Mackedie, Rhys Marquez, Rachel Alger and Liam Eastwell. The Year 9 team was Lachlan Byron, Shaun Wilson, Ashley Carrick and Billy Axford. In Term 2 both teams were greatly rewarded with a one-day Interschool Debating Competition held at St Columba. This day proved successful as our students socialised and gained experience as they debated in a variety of rounds against St Columba and St Josephs Regional College. Our Year 9 debaters were in a tie by the end of the day, which attests to their determination and intellect. Year 10 missed out by a couple of marks. However, they worked as a team and enjoyed themselves whilst gaining experience. Port Macquarie High can be very proud of the way these students conducted themselves and they are a shining example as representatives of the school. I predict these debaters will prove to be formidable in 2015 in the DET Interschool Debating in Term 2.

**Sydney Morning Herald Plain Speaking Competition.**

Congratulations to our senior public speakers Kelsey Burbridge and Shanley Porto who competed in the Sydney Morning Herald Competition at Macksville High School in May. Each girl prepared an eight minute speech. Kelsey spoke about ‘The moral dilemmas of cloning’ and Shanley spoke about the arguments for and against ‘Drugs in sport’. The adjudicator was impressed with all prepared speeches. Our students displayed outstanding skill, motivation and pride representing this school.

**Legacy Junior Public Speaking**

Two of our outstanding Year 8 public speakers represented Port High at the regional final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition at Bishop Druitt College in Coffs Harbour in July. Both students presented excellent speeches on prepared topics. Miriam Woof spoke about, ‘Child marriage and the rights of children’, while James Jackson presented an interesting perspective on what makes Australia the ‘Lucky Country’. Both Miriam and James were wonderful speakers who represented our school with great pride and maturity.

**Youth of the Year Club Final**

Our two representatives for this international competition in August were Stephanie Mackedie and Toni Hurkett from Year 10. Both girls were wonderful entrants and scored very well in the criteria of an interview with three local judges. The Public Speaking section included an impromptu speech worth 10 marks and a prepared speech worth 15 marks. Their ability in this field was excellent and the judges took a long time to deliberate, as there was a split vote. The winner was Stephanie who will go on to represent us in the Regional Titles. Well done to both candidates.

**Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding**

**Aboriginal Education**

This year has seen an increase in activities for Aboriginal Education at Port Macquarie High School. The students have experienced a variety of exciting and valuable cultural programs. Teri Boyle, our Aboriginal Support Worker, has once again led the way with instigating school activities and contact with the local community. The number of Aboriginal Students is now sixty two. Once again the Close the Gap Day at the Birpai Land Council was popular. Students enjoyed the activities and mingling with family and friends.
This year our NAIDOC Week celebrations were greatly enjoyed by students. Our flag-raising ceremony on Monday 21st July was very successfully led by Emilyrose Cole. The whole school BBQ lunch was well received by everyone. At Tuesday’s Aboriginal Activity Afternoon students learned the Gathang language and games from Arlie, who they found very interesting. A spear-making workshop was run by Tony Clark and Uncle Bill O’Brien. Teri ran art activities that included boomerang painting for a collage which now adorns our school’s foyer. Special guests at these events included Dr David Gillespie, Uncle Bill O’Brien and Wayne Anderson.

The cultural trip to Rollands Plains, Blackmans Point and the Birpai Lands Council was an important history lesson for all students to connect with the local heritage. The Friday afternoon moviefest was a great way to be entertained to celebrate the end of NAIDOC Week.

A major theme this year has been the Recognition of Aboriginal Servicemen – particularly from World War One. This has greatly increased students’ understanding and perceptions of the past.

The “Write it Right” project supports schools to strengthen literacy support for Aboriginal students, particularly those who speak Aboriginal English as their main home language. Branston Bewer-Charles, support officer, provided support to classroom teachers in the development and delivery of teaching and learning strategies to improve standard English language and literacy for Aboriginal students.

Bianca Kahler and Tamara Scott provided tutoring for senior students through the Norta Norta program. Irrespective of their academic ability, most students were appreciative of their tuition and enthusiastic about the impact of Norta Norta on their learning. The outcomes of this program included improved learning outcomes, more positive outcomes, more positive attitudes to schooling, strengthened engagement with school, improved attendance and increased retention to Year 12.

The Djiyagan Dhanbaan (Strong Sister) movement offers our girls the opportunity to come together as a group where Gathang Language was introduced in song structure. The Sister Voice program enabled the girls to participate in exploring, writing and learning a song in Gathang Language. They have recorded and made a film as the final product. Many thanks to Arlene McInerny and Eliza Sayer who were our fabulous facilitators of Sister Voice.

Personal Learning Plans have been completed. Many thanks to Teri Boyle and Helen Cox. Most interviews have been carried out and paperwork returned. Aboriginal Leadership Awards were received by four of our Year 12 students including Jamaine Wilesmith, Jesse Jones, Dylan Beasley and Khade Barnett.

Efforts by Karen Moran from Wollotuka (Newcastle University) inspired students to apply for courses in 2015. Khade Barnett has received a scholarship for Newcastle University worth $2000.

Traineeships for Year 10 students have been a focus in Term 4. Thanks go to our Careers Adviser, Mark White, Year Adviser, Mick Sanderson and Teri Boyle for doing the background work to assist our students’ applications. Lochie Johnston was successful in gaining an ANZ Traineeship for 2015 and Emilyrose Cole gained an Allied Health Traineeship.

Our Aboriginal Education committee now includes Teri Boyle, Sue Carrington, Jan von Schoenberg, Kayla Doolan, Helen Cox, George
Smith, Amanda Leach and Nettie Riethmuller. Applications have been made for Federal Funding for the employment of a full time Aboriginal Liaison Officer and NAIDOC week. Many other cultural and awareness activities are being planned for 2015.

**Multicultural education and anti-racism**

At Port Macquarie High we have given our students access to multicultural influences through a variety of avenues. The school has a firm anti-racism policy whereby any breaches are promptly reported to the school anti-racism officer and counseling is given to all those involved. As with multi-culturalism, programming in a range of subjects includes activities aimed at promoting harmonious relationships between races.

Our LOTE faculty specialised in two languages in 2014; Indonesian and Japanese. Students were encouraged to communicate in the target language and participate in cultural activities such as dress ups in traditional clothing and taste testing lessons.

Our sister school in Japan, again visited Port Macquarie High School. Two teachers and seven students stayed for a week. They were billeted by Port Macquarie High School students and participated in school lessons, sightseeing visits around the Port Macquarie area and family activities. This program began in 1994 and is an annual event.

We were also visited by a group of students from Mukawa, a town on the Northern Island of Japan. They stayed for one week and were a mixture of junior and senior high school students. They also attended classes and were able to experience life in Port Macquarie. Sightseeing activities were also conducted.

**The Pastoral Care Program**

In 2014 the Pastoral Care Program, known as Connect, became a regular part of the curriculum at Port Macquarie High School. The program involved linking a teacher as a mentor to a group of students. The pastoral care teacher initiated guided discussions which focused on a range of topics during this first session of each day. Topics such as critical and creative thinking skills, emotional wellbeing, personal and social skills, and other student wellbeing issues were scheduled. The program was supported by a personalised school diary provided to every student by our school which contained further supporting information for each topic.

**Student Wellbeing Programs**

Port Macquarie High School offers an extensive set of programs to support all students. There are two Head Teachers specifically appointed to support our students. The Head Teacher Support co-ordinates the three designated support classes. The Head Teacher Welfare manages whole school programs. There are two Learning and Support Teachers who support both teachers and students and deliver specialist teaching programs. Students are further supported by five Student Learning Support Officers on site each day. There is also a highly qualified School Counsellor on site each day.

Port Macquarie High School strives to support the wide range of student needs present in our student population. Whole school programs are delivered which target identified areas such as anti-bullying and wellbeing issues. Events include; Friendship Day for Year 7 students targeting social skills and positive attitudes, whole year group camps, Love Bites, Brainstorm Production performances targeting Year 8 and 9 anti-bullying. A weekly Girls Group is conducted with trained volunteers. A new initiative for 2014 was the Respectful Relationships project for our Year 9 girls which was designed to address specific issues of this cohort.

The Chaplaincy Program continued to support students by providing an alternative, friendly and accessible chaplain to discuss issues that are causing concern.

The Learning and Support Teachers continued to develop the Study Centre in 2014. This room is available for one-to-one tutorials for students who need additional academic assistance, special exam provisions, specialist programs and as a study haven for students.

In 2014 the Off-Sight Learning Program, jointly funded by Port Macquarie High School and Westport High School, provided students with an alternative curriculum which was delivered in a non-standard classroom setting.
Equity Funding

Aboriginal background

In 2014 the school received $19,220.80 in funding for Aboriginal background. The use of the funding was decided on by the school’s Aboriginal Education Committee. Part of the funding was used to extend the hours of the NAPLAN Aboriginal tutor so she could do some community liaison work. This is vital work as the school does not have an Aboriginal Education Officer. Some of the other money was used to buy resources for programs with significant Aboriginal education content, so that quality of learning was improved. We subsided NAIDOC week and included workshops by Indigenous artists. Money was also allocated to support students in going to university open days such as those run by the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle. This program has resulted in three Aboriginal students enrolling at Newcastle University for 2015. The funding also supported a cultural visit to Rollands Plains, Blackmans Point and the Birpai Lands Council. Many students had not seen these important cultural sites.

Socio-economic background

In 2014 the school received $73,398 in low socio-economic funding. The funding was used in a variety of ways to increase the effectiveness of teaching and learning. This was done through professional learning in particular attendance at the Hawker Brownlow Conference in Melbourne. This conference focused on thinking and learning with many international presenters. A Hospitality Uniform Bank and a Calculator Bank were established to improve the effectiveness of classroom and school organisation. To increase the level of students’ participation the cost of travel for some excursions was subsidised including the Year 9 and 7 excursions. The funds were also used to purchase and train staff for the QuickSmart Numeracy Program to improve the quality of learning for students in Year 7 and 8. To increase student engagement several visits to the school by theatre and other performance groups. Student assistance was another major area of spending. This covered the purchase of uniforms and excursions.

Learning and Support

Port Macquarie High School has three support classes for students with special needs. There is a Multi-Categorical class designed to meet the needs of students with a variety of disabilities and diagnoses. There are two classes for students with mild intellectual disabilities. We have a junior class (students in Year 7, 8 and 9) and a senior class (students in Years 10, 11 and 12).

Students in all of these classes access the curriculum studying an individualised learning program designed to enable them to achieve their individual goals as determined by their personalised learning plan meetings, held with the student, parent(s), and school personnel. Students are supported by trained Student Learning Support Officers as required.

Students are encouraged to represent the school in athletes with disabilities events for swimming, cross country and athletics. Port Macquarie High School has been crowned North Coast Boccia champions for two years in a row. Select students have the opportunity to participate in a local Sailability program.

Students in their senior years have the opportunity to participate in a supported work experience program which aims at developing their work readiness skills. Many students have success in attending School VET classes on campus. Students also have the opportunity to attend a variety of Vocational courses at the local TAFE.

The 2014 Year 12 graduates were all successfully transitioned with favourable post-school options. One student gained fulltime employment and the other two students were placed in the ADHC Transition To Work Program.

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 surveys
- Parent focus groups
- Student focus groups
School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1
Engagement and Retainment
Outcomes from 2012–2014
- Support student access to a broad differentiated curriculum that meets students’ individual needs
- Raise student attendance
- Expand PBL practices

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
- A co-ordinated timetable and day structure with Westport High has been developed
- Shared curriculum has been planned with Westport High for the start of the college in 2015. Curriculum is to be shared on two lines. Students will be coming to Port Macquarie High for Chemistry, Physics, VET Entertainment, Music and Ancient History. Port Macquarie High students are travelling to Westport for Senior Science, Indonesian, Textiles, Society and Culture and Exploring Early Childhood.
- Senior and Year 10 students doing a variety of TAFE courses. In some cases Year 10 students have been accelerated into Year 11 courses.
- Attendance is still a concern. Attendance is now being monitored on a period by period basis using “Sentral”
- PBL has been evaluated and a revitalized program started.

School priority 2
Aboriginal Education
Outcomes from 2012–2014
- Improve all ATSI literacy and numeracy programs.
- Increase school completion rate and student attainment
- Create quality partnerships between home, school and community.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
- The “Write it Right” program continued to improve literacy. The chosen focus was extending the length of responses
- A Norta Norta Senior tutor was employed
- Girl’s speak program with a respect circle was run
- Resources for tutoring were developed
- Links with universities were strengthened with three students set to enrol at Newcastle University

School priority 3
Organisational Effectiveness
Outcomes from 2012–2014
- Expand effective well-being management systems for students
- Implement succession planning processes and practices
- Enhance staff well being

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
- “Edval” and “Sentral” were used to co-ordinate all the various aspects of school organization so that organisational effectiveness was increased. We purchased Sentral well-being module to enable easier individual tracking of all students.
- The TARS and EARS process was refined
- Year 7 Friendship Day was expanded
- Rewritten welfare and behaviour strategy
- A schedule was drawn up for the writing and evaluation of policies. Several policies have been rewritten.

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.
Port Macquarie High School is to become part of a college structure in 2015. As part of this process the opinions of parents, caregivers, students and teachers were sought as to what the starting time of the college day should be. This was done through each group determining what their own method of data collection should be. The parents and caregivers decided to do an online survey of parents followed up by phone calls. The students decided to have information sessions followed by voting. Staff had focus groups followed by voting. The responses were:

- The majority of the students wanted the early 8:15 start
- The parents by a very small majority wanted a later start
- The staff by a small majority wanted a later start

The results were combined with those of Westport High School, the other school that will be part of the college. The College Steering Committee reached a consensus position based on overall numbers. Hastings Secondary College will be starting at 8:15 in 2015 and finishing at 2:15 pm.

**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.

The school planning processes began with a “Dream Analysis” which focused on three aspects: what people valued about the school, what was their dream for the next five years and what they would like to see in a new school plan. The analysis was done with students, parents and teachers. For the students and parents the survey was followed up with focus groups. For the staff the surveys were followed up by analysis and discussion groups. The most popular responses to the first question were location, caring experienced staff, the individual approach to students, welfare and support of Aboriginal students and the quality of the students we have in the school. For the second question the most popular answers, in order were, student wellbeing, improving pedagogy, improving the physical environment, increasing expectations and values education. The most popular responses to the third question included, professional learning, commitment to learning outcomes and excellence, focus on gifted and talented, focus on curriculum development and student engagement and recognition of student achievement. A further question was posed to student focus groups and given to P&C and staff. Another major source of data was the Focus on Learning Survey made available by the DEC, this was a self-evaluation tool that focused on the eight drivers of student learning: leadership, parent involvement, collaboration, learning culture, data informing practice, teaching strategies, technology and an inclusive school. The school’s greatest areas of strength were being an inclusive school and having data inform practice. The areas for development were leadership, the support being given to teachers by executive and the use of technology as a driver of student learning. Smart data and school data were also analysed. Student enrolment has been declining. We believe that this is due to changing demographics and increased competition from the private sector. We are hoping that with the introduction of the Hastings Secondary College numbers may increase. Student attendance rates went up in 2013. Attendance is at state level and above regional average. 95% of our students completed the senior education. Our VET data was also analysed. The school offers four VET courses and accesses 13 courses through TAFE. Special VET programs were offered at school including White Card, Senior First Aid and prepare and serve Espresso Coffee. Of the 98 students completing Year 12 last year 33% gained a vocational education qualification. The triangulation of our data from students, staff and parents has given us some clear directions including:

- A need to focus on student well being
- A need to focus on pedagogy
- A need to focus on the development of leadership skills particularly for executive
- A need to focus on the use of technology to promote student learning
- A need to focus on increasing student expectations and engagement
- A need to focus on teacher professional learning.
- Continue with the close analysis of SMART date to focus teaching and learning.
The three strategic directions decided on are:

1. Developing the Hastings Secondary College
2. Engaging 21st Century Students and leaders
3. Empowering 21st Century Education

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.

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