

# Bucasia State School (1939)

## Queensland State School Reporting

### 2012 School Annual Report



**Bucasia State School**  
Oceans of Success | Live & Learn

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Webpages Additional reporting information pertaining to Queensland state schools is located on the [My School](#) website and the [Queensland Government data](#) website.

Contact Person Ms Belinda Eckford (Principal)

## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Bucasia State School is located in the Northern Beaches area of the Mackay district approximately 16km from the city centre. The school is situated among picturesque and well landscaped gardens and grounds. School enrolments are growing as the Northern Beaches area expands.

Our school community prides itself on the qualities and characteristics that make this school a unique and vibrant place to be a part of: Community & School Spirit, Academic, Cultural, and Sporting Excellence, caring and committed staff and a positive innovative learning environment are all valued elements of our school. Our school motto 'Oceans of Success – Live and Learn' encapsulates our belief that student learning and success is our core business with literacy and numeracy being our focus to ensure 'Oceans of Success' for students.

This school annual report will give details of our core business – teaching and learning and the manner in which the school is conducted, what we offer the school community the profile of our staff and the performance of our students.

A copy of the school annual report is available from the school office upon request.

### Progress to school goals in 2012

The priorities for the Annual Implementation Plan for our school were:

- Implementation of Australian Curriculum
- Reading, Spelling & Numeracy
- Closing The Gap
- Developing Teacher Performance – Differentiation & Feedback
- School & Community Partnerships and perceptions

The Australian Curriculum was implemented in English, Maths & Science according to Education Queensland's Curriculum Into the Classroom (C2C) with a particular focus on reading, spelling and numeracy.

Reading, spelling and numeracy were high on the agenda at Bucasia with a continuation of benchmark testing and NAPLAN analysis to identify class requirements over 12 months. The data was used to inform future planning and teaching of individual students to ensure a continuous learning experience for them and to inform parents who work in partnership with the school and their child to achieve individual learning goals.

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Closing the Gap – There was a huge focus in 2012 on ensuring students were at school and learning. Children were consistently checked for attendance and health as well as accessing additional assistance via teachers and teacher aides in particular literacy and numeracy programs. These focussed on basic skill such as sight words, early reading and numeracy.

Developing Teacher Performance to produce excellent results for students was a high priority with teachers actively involved with refining their teaching skills in explicit instruction using John Fleming's research as a basis.

School & Community Partnerships and perceptions including involvement with (Outside School Hours Care), Under 8's as a community project & Northern Beaches Network Group.

Implementation of Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support to ensure community, staff and students are 'on the same page' and student learning can be enhanced.

Embed 'Oceans of Success' throughout the school with our school motto of 'Living Together, Learning Together'.

### Future outlook

- Core Priority - Numeracy
- Productive partnerships with school community stakeholders
- High quality teaching practices
- Australian Curriculum implementation
- Core Priority - Closing the gap between the attendance and outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students

# Our school at a glance

## School Profile

Coeducational

Year levels offered in 2012: Prep - Year 6

Total student enrolments for this school:

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
2010	273	133	140	92%
2011	299	147	152	92%
2012	315	147	168	88%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection.

## Characteristics of the student body:

Characteristics of the student body:

Bucasia and the Northern Beaches in Mackay is a popular area for families to settle. Because of that, there is a large number of families living permanently in the area as well as a small transient population. Within the last 12 months the transience of the population has increased slightly as has our school population. Some of the families have work associated with the mines and others work within the city area. Therefore, there is a very mixed socio economic community.

Our school is a growing school with enrolments increasing each year. Because of the size of our school, we have some multi-age classes and focus strongly on developing community within the school and its surrounds. We have a special education unit attached to the school and this is a very important aspect of the school community as children learn to live with individual differences and to cater for them and adapt to them in their everyday life.

Our data reflects that students in this school meet the national minimum standards and also represent well in the upper 2 bands in NAPLAN in most areas. It is evident that there is more work to do in numeracy where our students' performance was not at a similar level to the nation. There was some very good teaching at all year levels, student engagement and parent commitment to individual student attainment to achieve these results. The school's strong commitment to literacy, numeracy and social climate (how the children live and learn within the school) underpin student success and continuing improvement. 2013 will be a year where there is a strong numeracy focus to address any shortcomings in teaching.

Strand	Year Level	This School						Nation		
		N	LL	Mean	UL	NMS%	U2B%	Mean	NMS%	U2B%
Reading	03	41	365	387.2	409	95.1	31.7	419.6	93.6	47.0
	05	23	444	473.0	502	87.0	30.4	493.6	91.6	31.3
	07	33	489	512.2	535	93.9	24.2	541.5	94.1	27.6
	09							574.8	91.4	18.4
Writing	03	40	396	408.1	420	100.0	37.5	415.8	95.3	46.6
	05	24	421	447.3	474	83.3	4.2	477.0	92.1	19.3
	07	33	467	494.0	521	81.8	21.2	518.3	89.9	18.3
	09							553.7	81.7	16.8
Spelling	03	41	378	396.9	416	100.0	29.3	414.3	94.0	43.8
	05	24	429	463.2	498	83.3	16.7	494.9	92.8	31.4
	07	33	493	517.6	543	84.8	18.2	543.4	93.2	28.6
	09							577.0	89.6	21.3
Grammar & Punctuation	03	41	360	381.4	402	92.7	26.8	423.9	92.9	49.7
	05	24	406	441.0	476	79.2	12.5	491.0	90.5	30.6
	07	33	483	514.3	545	90.9	15.2	546.2	95.1	29.0
	09							573.2	90.2	18.9
Numeracy	03	41	330	347.2	364	95.1	9.8	395.5	93.9	33.4
	05	24	411	442.2	474	83.3	8.3	488.7	93.3	26.7
	07	33	473	491.5	510	90.9	6.1	538.1	93.8	25.3
	09							584.2	93.7	22.8

# Our school at a glance

## Average Class sizes

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2010	2011	2012
Prep – Year 3	23	23	19
Year 4 – Year 7	27	24	21

## School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents		
	2010	2011	2012
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days	15	5	<5
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days	0	0	0
Exclusions	0	0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment	0	0	0

## Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The School's Vision is: "Oceans of Success – Making Waves at Bucasia"

The successes we are looking for are expressed in the qualities of a lifelong learner. It is therefore a Curriculum for life. The qualities of a lifelong learner, while future focussed, are embedded in the everyday lives of our students.

Through the implementation of the school curriculum plan we ensure that the planned learning experiences and assessment tasks enable our students and Teachers to achieve "Oceans of Success".

At present, as with all Queensland schools, Bucasia is engaging with the National Curriculum in English, Maths & Science.

Our other Curriculum areas are based on Integrated Units formed from the Essential Learnings in the Education Queensland Curriculum. They are organised according to Health & Lifestyle (I am a healthy and informed citizen), Communication & Technology (I am a creative citizen), Cultures & Community (I am an informed and democratic citizen) and Investigating our World (I am an informed eco-citizen).

In 2012 the school undertook as its core teaching pedagogy, explicit instruction which focuses on explicitly teaching students the skills they need to access literacy and numeracy. Each skill is broken down into its components and these are taught to students following a particular formula (I do (teacher models), we do (teacher checks for understanding) and you do (children demonstrate learning). In addition to this, all children participate in 'warm ups' where teachers focus on transferring learning from short to long term memory.

## Extra curricula activities

- Instrumental Music
- Arts focus
- National Academic Competitions – Maths, English, Science, Writing, Spelling.
- ICT (Technology / computer based skills) integrated throughout all subject offerings.
- School Choirs.

- Student excursions and camps
- Student Council – supporting the school, community, Australia and international Aid.
- Eisteddfod
- Music camps
- Community Involvement Projects eg: Bucasia's Got Talent, Wakkakirri
- Interschool Sport

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

Computers are available in each classroom, all of which were connected to the network. In addition there is a computer lab situated in the in the resource room and another in the new library. Classes are booked in for weekly lessons where the school based ICT (Information & Communication Technology) program is followed.

There are interactive whiteboards in each classroom that are used to engage students and use the ICT resources that are available for maximum learning. Students use computers as a tool to develop language and literacy skills as well as to enhance learning in numeracy. This is through the use of specific software and items such as learning objects. The school subscribes to Mathletics & RAZ Kids so that learning is accessible from home and the classroom. Many of the teachers have websites, Edstudios and learning place sites that students can access while at home so the classroom is beginning to be seen as 'without walls'. Lessons are designed to enhance student's learning and to stimulate further investigations in subjects.

There are ipads available in many of the classrooms where students access 'apps' to enhance learning on an individual and group basis. Mathletics and RazKids are available on the ipads.

Six classroom teachers hold digital pedagogical licences which is a competency they have proven in teaching digitally. Students in these classrooms have the added benefit of teachers with a high level of computer competency and demonstrated ability to teach using digital devices and medium.

All teaching blocks are connected to the internet and now have a minimum of 6 computers in each double teaching area.

## Social climate

Our school acknowledges the importance of positive relationships and communication between all stakeholders.

We also value the recognition of positive social behaviours and endeavour to do this in the following ways:

- Weekly "Student of the Week" Class awards presented on Parade.
- "Good Ones" awarded for being 'caught' practising our S.T.A.R. rules.
- "Blue Star Cards" awarded to individuals who demonstrate the "S.T.A.R" qualities of – Safety, Teamwork, Attitude, Respect.
- Additional recognition for those who achieve the goals of 5 and then 10 STAR cards over time. This takes the form of a presentation on the final celebration night of the year. In 2012, almost a quarter of our school were awarded the 'Mega Star' certificate and medallion.
- Social Justice committee meets weekly to ensure student welfare and special needs are catered for. Particular attention is paid to students with particular learning needs in every area. This also includes extended learning challenges and the social development of all students via Class Camps and targeted social skills programs.
- Our School Responsible Behaviour Plan was updated to reflect the changes in society, particularly in regard to internet safety and cyber bullying.
- The School Chaplaincy service to support Student and Parent Social Needs was embedded within our school. This operates on one day a week with a lunchtime club to support values learning. The school successfully applied for a grant to support the chaplaincy program for 2 days a week commencing in 2013 for a 3 year period.
- Bucasia State School has a strong commitment to promoting a safe school environment and actively engages with anti-bullying strategies on all levels including bystanders, cyberbullying and victimology. It accesses the support of local police programs that focus on student, staff and parent education to assist with this.
- Our school focuses on Schoolwide Positive Behaviour and meets regularly to review data collected regarding student behaviour and to sharpen the focus on teaching skills in the areas identified. These skills are taught weekly and advertised via the newsletter, on parade and actively taught in the classrooms.

# Our school at a glance

## Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

Staff and student overall responses were similar to the state. Student satisfaction with the school is high.

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
their child is getting a good education at school	86.2%
this is a good school	90.0%
their child likes being at this school*	96.8%
their child feels safe at this school*	90.3%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school*	80.0%
their child is making good progress at this school*	83.9%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best*	100.0%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work*	90.3%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn*	87.1%
teachers at this school treat students fairly*	90.3%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns*	96.8%
this school works with them to support their child's learning*	87.1%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously*	86.2%
student behaviour is well managed at this school*	83.9%
this school looks for ways to improve*	90.0%
this school is well maintained*	86.7%

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of students who agree that:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
they are getting a good education at school	93.9%
they like being at their school*	87.5%
they feel safe at their school*	98.0%
their teachers motivate them to learn*	93.6%
their teachers expect them to do their best*	100.0%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	87.0%

## Our school at a glance

teachers treat students fairly at their school*	89.6%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns*	83.3%
their school takes students' opinions seriously*	85.4%
student behaviour is well managed at their school*	83.0%
their school looks for ways to improve*	93.5%
their school is well maintained*	89.6%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things*	83.3%

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of school staff who agree:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
that they have good access to quality professional development	85.2%
with the individual staff morale items	94.5%

\* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

<sup>#</sup> Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to changes to the School Opinion Surveys in 2012, comparisons with results for previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

### Involving parents in their child's education

At Bucasia State School we pride ourselves on being a school that offers the parent community maximum involvement. We have a strong and vibrant P & C who are focused on providing the best educational experience possible for all the students at the school. We are supported by and actively support the local community in a range of ways including, excursions, performances, individual and group, and student fund raising for and with the local community.

We have:

- Special class events promoting student work with a parent/family audience.
- Parent assistance and involvement in school community events eg Optiminds, "Rock Pop Mime", Wakkakirri

Preparation and school camps.

- Informal and formal parent / teacher interviews.
- Volunteer Parent / family helpers in classrooms.
- Education Week activities, displays and performances
- Parade performances of children's learning achievements
- School camping
- School based discos, movie nights, gardening club

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities return and is reliant on the accuracy of these returns.

Electricity continues to be expensive, due to the air conditioning throughout the school, despite the addition of solar power panels in the previous year. Air conditioners are not used in terms 2 & 3 each year and staff and students focus on minimal wastage of electricity to attempt to reduce the costs associated with electricity. In addition the school successfully submitted two separate grants for solar power inverters to be installed. These have been installed and despite our school growing, it is hoped we can reduce our environmental footprint in regard to electrical usage and costs.

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2009-2010	128,981	1,254
2010-2011	135,887	759
2011-2012	146,572	17,617

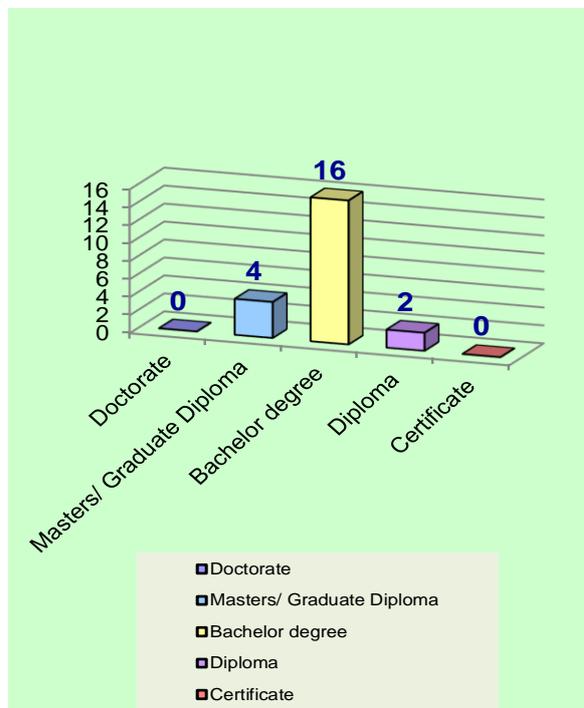
# Our staff profile

## Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2012 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	22	12	<5
Full-time equivalents	19.4	8	<5

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters/ Graduate Diploma	4
Bachelor degree	16
Diploma	2
Certificate	0



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2012 were \$17800.00.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Reciprocal Teaching – teachers observing teachers for professional learning and collegial coaching
- Cyber Café – Using ICT's for learning and digital pedagogies.
- Explicit Teaching – Engaging with John Fleming's research as the key method of instruction

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2012 was 100%.

# Our staff profile

## Average staff attendance

	2010	2011	2012
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	95.4%	94.9%	95.3%

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 89.7% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2012 school year.

## School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our income details, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

**Find a school**

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector  Government  
 Non-government

Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select **<GO>**. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting '**School finances**' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

## Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2010	2011	2012
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	90%	90%	93%
The overall attendance rate in 2012 for all Queensland state Primary schools was 93%.			

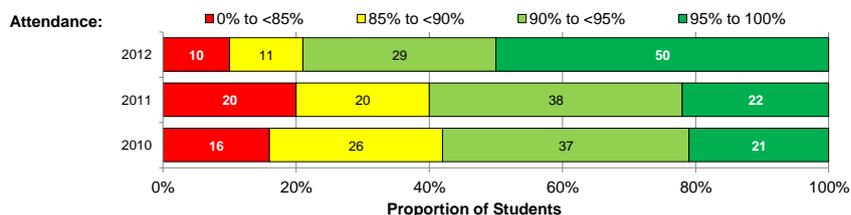
### Student attendance rate for each year level (shown as a percentage)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
2010	89%	91%	91%	92%	91%	88%	89%
2011	89%	91%	92%	90%	90%	89%	90%
2012	92%	94%	92%	94%	94%	95%	92%

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

### Student Attendance Distribution

The proportions of students by attendance range.



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

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

At this school rolls are marked in the morning and afternoon so that utmost accuracy is maintained. Parents are required to supply a reason for student absence and if children are absent for a couple of days without reason, the school will contact the parents via a phone call. If this situation persists the school will initiate a series of formal letters with a view to resolving the issue. This forms part of our legal duty of care.

The importance of regular school attendance is regularly advertised and commented upon. Children are encouraged and rewarded for attending school regularly.

# Performance of our students

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

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If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

## Achievement – Closing the Gap

There is a gap between the achievement of non-indigenous and indigenous students at this school. The school has focussed on attendance with conscientious and consistent attention to students' attendance rates with a view to improving student learning outcomes. This has generally been received well by our supportive indigenous community; however indigenous student attendance rates are slightly lower than that of the non-indigenous population. This is particularly true of students in particular families.

In all years, indigenous students generally performed at a lower level than the non-indigenous students according to NAPLAN testing. Additional support in various areas has been introduced, including the addition of a Community Education Counsellor who attends the school weekly, embedding indigenous culture into the school curriculum and extra resources to support student learning. The exception to this was year 7 writing where our indigenous students outperformed their non-indigenous peers.

The school focus on embedding indigenous perspectives into the curriculum and celebrating the diversity of cultures in our school has resulted in a very supportive indigenous community who work in partnership with us to achieve 'Oceans of Success' for all.