


# Dimbulah P-10 State School

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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Schools are becoming more complex places and we find parents need a variety of sources of information to find out what happens in a school. We are sure the information in this annual report will be of value to everyone.

As parents you make a vital contribution to the education of your children. School success is closely linked to what happens at home. We also know, from research, that children from homes where parents read to, and with their children, become the successful readers at school. You can help your child in many ways including:

1. Visiting the school and getting to know the teachers.
2. Coming along for parent interviews, seminars and open days.
3. If you have questions or concerns discussing them with the teacher or Principal.
4. Joining other parents who help in class activities in which they have an interest.
5. Attending information afternoons held throughout the year.
6. Supervising your child's homework and discussing with him or her what is happening at school.
7. Reading to your children regularly and have them read to you.
8. Joining the Parents and Citizens Association. The Association exists to improve education in our school and is not just about fundraising .

We produce a school newsletter each fortnight. Ensure that your children give one to you to read. They might like to read it to you.

This School Annual Report features achievements and successes from 2008. More information about Dimbulah P-10 State School can be found on our website or by visiting our school.

Our school strongly values working closely with parents and students to create strong partners in a supportive learning environment. If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards

Shirlee Gallo, Kathy Colhoun and Tuki Brown

Administration Team

# Our school at a glance

## Future outlook

Our future outlook focuses on three areas as identified in our school annual review;

- Improving our numeracy and literacy standards across the school
- Improving the performance of our boys
- Continuing to create learning communities through establishing strong leaders

We look forward to working with our whole school community in achieving positive results particularly in the above areas.

## School Profile

Dimbulah is a small rural community situated 110 km west of Cairns, in the Mareeba Shire. The community consists of a diversity of cultural backgrounds, the predominant ethnic group being Italian. Most people are employed through agricultural and related industries including tobacco, mangoes, tea tree oil, sugar cane, market gardening and beef cattle. A small number are employed in local service industries, with some of these commuting to Mareeba.

Dimbulah is part of the Priority Country Area Program (PCAP). A particular focus in the school using PCAP funding is the camping programs and cultural activities. The Parents and Citizens Association is supportive and very involved in the affairs of the school.

Dimbulah State School provides a wide variety of learning experiences for students through curriculum programs in all key learning areas. Participation in academic competitions e.g. Westpac Maths, NSW Science and English and sporting competitions is a feature of the enrichment programs offered by the school. Support a-writer, Support-a-reader and Mathematics intervention are also offered across the school to support our students in their learning.

Dimbulah State School offers a full range of Junior Secondary subjects. Most primary classes feature multi-age or composite classes with integrated work units across the eight key learning areas. Italian is also the primary LOTE. Our school also prides itself on the implementation of the years 6 to 10 program and our senior Option Programs.

The School's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students focuses on the provision of a safe and supportive learning environment, which has been developed through a collaborative and consultative process with all members of the school community. The school has also adopted the "**You Can Do It**" values education program – Confidence, Getting Along, Organisation, Persistence and Resilience.

Dimbulah P-10 State School is a co-educational school with 189 students enrolled in 2008. The class breakdowns in 2008 were:

Prep/1

Year 2

Year 3/4

Year 5

Year 6/7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

# Our school at a glance

## Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Middle Phase of Learning Options including Art, Cooking, Dance, Basketball, Physical Training, Sewing in Excellence, Cake Icing, Web Design, Game Maker, Glass Making, Construction, Robotics, , Pottery and other subjects according to interests.
- Middle Phase of Learning curriculum offerings – Manual Arts, Home-Economics to year 6/7 students
- P-10 Technology lessons
- Year 7 transition program – linking to our secondary
- Robotics –linked to certain curriculum subjects
- Learning Connections
- Whole School Intervention Program
- Flying Start Transition Program (4 year olds into prep—year 7 into year 8 and year 10 into year11)
- Extra English support classes for secondary students
- Literacy and numeracy support across our middle year classes (focus on NAPLAN preparation)
- BEACON Program – SOS (Supporting our Students Program)
- Boys' Education focus across the curriculum
- Getting ready for Earning – VPG Program

## Extra curricula activities

- Student Council
- Opti-minds Program
- Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country Programs
- Camps and Excursions
- Cultural and Social Activities
- Religion Classes
- Options
- Lunch time technology focus
- PCAP related activities such as camps, musicals, art workshops
- Recycling Focus – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle aluminium
- After school tutoring
- After school sports training
- Breakfast club
- HRE days

# Our school at a glance

## How computers are used to assist learning

At Dimbulah P-10 State School we are committed to ensuring positive learning outcomes for every learner in a challenging, supportive and equitable learning environment.

We believe the full integration of Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs) into the curriculum will contribute to the development of our students and staff as life long learners. To achieve this goal we continue to develop ICT skills in our students and staff.

We will empower staff and students to *explore, create, analyse and reflect* upon the roles and use of ICTS in global society. ICT classes start from Prep and continue into year 10. Specialist secondary staff also teach ICT lessons from Prep to year 10. ICT is also offered as an Option for our years 6-10 classes.

## Social climate

Our school prides itself on creating a safe and supportive school environment. Our school opinion surveys indicate that parents, staff and students feel that this school is a good school and that students feel safe at our school. We also strive on creating strong partnerships and alliances with community, industry, government departments and other educational institutions and agencies. These partnerships include;

- Adopt an Ambo and Adopt a Cop programs
- Queensland Health Links via SBYHN (nurse), Family Planning, and Director of Nursing
- School Based Chaplain
- Department of Sports and Recreation
- Close ties with local sporting groups
- Support and promotion of Dimbulah Community Centre
- Links with Dimbulah Chamber of Commerce, Dimbulah Lions, Dimbulah Mutchilba Historical Society, Mareeba Shire Council Representatives
- Senior citizens support
- Close association with primary feeder school for our exiting year 10 student students- Mareeba State High
- Supportive relationship with Mutchilba and Chillagoe State Schools
- Cluster Principals network-Mareeba SS, Mareeba SHS, Biboohra, Mt Molloy, Mutchilba, Chillagoe
- Links with Dimbulah Kindergarten
- Indigenous Elder Support and Awareness Program- Djungun elders Ron Archer Bar Burrum elder Tom Congo
- PCAP funded activities; Transition year 7-8 and Walsh River sporting ties with local schools

## Involving parents in their child's education

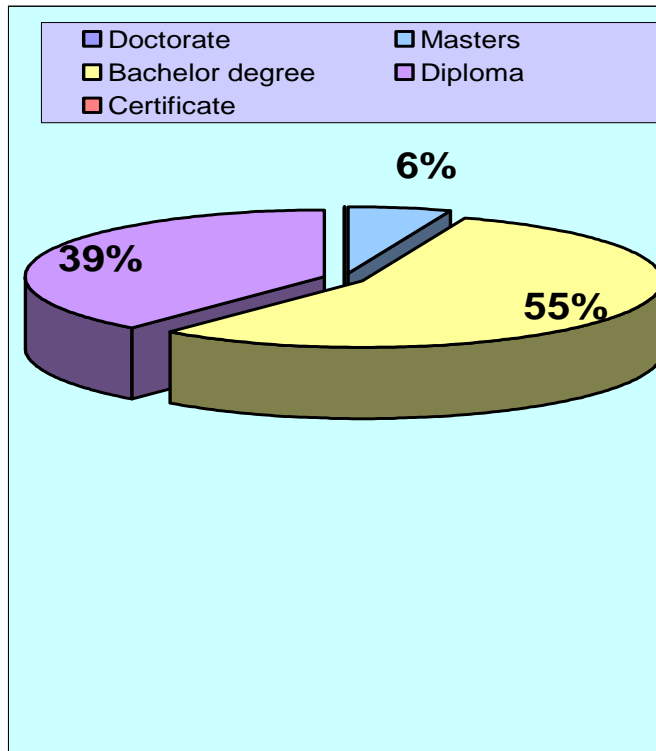
Our school encourages an 'open door policy' with parents. Formal parent teacher interviews are held twice throughout the year for our students. At this time parents are also issued with a mid semester report card. Formal child progress reports are issued twice yearly at the end of each semester. We have a very active and supportive P&C that is involved on a daily basis in our school. We have a meet and greet afternoon at the beginning of each year. Our newsletter is a great way to keep parents involved in what is happening in our school and encourages parents to become involved in specific school projects. We also plan many social functions that enable parents to feel comfortable about approaching members within our school. Social functions include:

- Fancy Dress Ball
- HRE days
- Carols by Candlelight
- Sports days

# Our staff profile

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor degree	10
Diploma	7
Certificate	0



## Expenditure on, and teacher participation in, professional development

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$10 008.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - First Steps Numeracy and Reading
  - One School Training
  - Smart Schools – ICT Certificates
  - P-3 Literacy Training
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

## Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 98% in 2008.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 91% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

# Performance of our students

## Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 90%.

## Key outcomes

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.

Domain	Measures	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	362	440	530	518
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	92 %	67%	100 %
Writing	Average score for the school	401	446	517	503
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	74 %	95 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	365	437	530	515
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	67 %	95 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	372	452	504	493
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	74 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	369	437	536	534
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	89 %	100 %

## Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	88%
Writing	88%
Number	88%

# Performance of our students

## Value added

Our school prides itself on the leadership opportunities that we offer to our students. Opportunities range from student council, leadership camp, Beacon program, Charter Signing, PCAP, and a huge range of programs that enable our students to shine.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Percentage of students, and of parents and caregivers, satisfied that they are getting a good education at school

Parents – 79%

Students – 78%

Percentage of parents/caregivers satisfied that the school is a good school

90%

Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale in the school

82%

We believe that our parents, students and staff are overall satisfied that this is a good school with effective programs that support our students.