

# Mackay North State High School

## 2007 School Annual Report

### School Details

PO Address:	PO Box 8333 Mount Pleasant QLD 4740
Phone:	49631666
Fax:	49631600
Email:	the.principal@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
Website:	www.macknortshs.eq.edu.au

### Principal's Foreword

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of Mackay North State High School is to meet the needs of all of the different students enrolled in our school, as they pursue the highest level of educational attainment that they can achieve.

This will be achieved by –

- Creating a safe, tolerant and disciplined environment for students
- Preparing young people to be active and reflective Australian citizens
- Developing the skills and desire for life long learning in students
- Supporting students to become active in community, economic and political life
- Building students' confidence in their relationships with other cultures in Australia and abroad.

#### **Future Outlook**

- Managing growth – Our school has seen a steady growth over the past three years even with an enrolment management plan in place. We strive to meet the challenge of maintaining a shared vision with such a large staff, parent and student body. Having consistent and united values and beliefs for our school will support us in meeting the operational challenges associated with a larger school.
- Middle Phase of schooling – We understand the need for succession planning for staff in the First Year Centre, and will need to consider our staffing and curriculum development for the Middle School.
- Senior Phase of schooling - Over the next three years, we will need to review our progression of programs from Years 10 to 11, and manage the increasing flexibility required to meet the goals of ETRF in the Senior Phase.

# Mackay North State High School

## *Our school at a glance*

### **School Profile**

Total enrolments:	1520
Year levels offered:	8 -12
Structure:	Co-educational

### **Curriculum offerings**

#### ***Our distinctive curriculum offerings and Extra Curricula Activities:***

- Our school has a strong instrumental music program which involves over 200 students in tuition and membership of a large number of ensembles or bands. The signature ensemble is the Marching Band which is a unique group in Queensland incorporating percussion, woodwind and brass along with a choreographed banner routine. With its 120 members, it is the largest school marching band in Australia and is sought after for performance at major events. Students from this group have been invited to be part of the Marching Band for the Beijing Olympics.
- Other Performing Arts activities also include – Rock Pop Mime, Fanfare, school musical, choirs, Rock Eisteddfod, entries in Eisteddfodau and competitions, and school concerts. These events are well supported by staff, parents and community members.
- Our school has a strong sporting tradition with many opportunities for team or individual sports for all year levels. The annual Sports Awards Night is a special part of our school calendar, recognising the success and achievements in sport each year. These extra-curricular activities build on the embedded compulsory study of HPE and special health programs led by our School Based Youth Health Nurse as our response to the 'Smart Moves' initiatives.
- Academic competitions such as the Australian Mathematics Competition, debating and Optiminds are available for our students.
- Our school has received wide recognition for its Anzac commemorative tours which are organised every two years for Senor students to visit Gallipoli, France, Belgium and Thailand as part of their studies in Modern History.
- Our Special Education students are given the opportunity to take part in the athletics competitions for students with disabilities, life skills excursions and activities

Parents, in the Opinion Survey, reported a level of satisfaction with the variety of school activities at 86.1%

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 70.2%

#### ***How computers are used to assist learning:***

- Each year, our budget allocation reflects the high priority placed on maintaining up to date hardware, software and networking for our staff and students. The efforts put in to this area are reflected in the high satisfaction rate in the annual School Opinion Survey where students' satisfaction with access to computers and the internet rates higher than state and like school means.
- We are continuing to build up our computer facilities for staff and students. Currently, we have 430 computers which are housed in ten dedicated computer laboratories, as well as some smaller nodes of computers in the First Year Centre, music, art and the library. Some classrooms are set up as presentation rooms with data projectors permanently in place in ten rooms and most rooms in the school are networked.
- Students may choose from a range of subjects which use technology, however, the use of computers is embedded across most subjects. E.g., the use of graphics calculators in mathematics, the presentation of assignment work by students using Power Point presentation or the work with cutting edge software in Computer Aided Design in Manual Arts.

# Mackay North State High School

## *Our school at a glance*

### **Social climate**

\*The welfare of students and social climate of our school is underpinned by a network of student support. Members of the Administration team all take responsibility for designated Year levels and work closely with the Year Coordinators of their Year level. Year level activities to build school spirit and a sense of identity within their year level are led by this team, as well as monitoring the behaviour, welfare and progress of these students.

\*Heads of Department support the teachers and students in their faculty and assist with class-room related issues, identify under-achieving students and ensure that the curriculum programs meet the needs of their students.

\*The Student Council is led by five Year 12 students who are elected by the student body. Along with the Home Group and Year Level representatives, they provide an active leadership to the students and contribute to fundraising, supporting charities and provide input into school decision making.

\*Students and parents report that the wide range of extra-curricular activities which are on offer for our students are a significant addition to our school's social climate. Through sport, cultural activities and Student Council, our students work cooperatively with students from different year levels and different backgrounds. This adds value to their educational experience.

\*Guidance Officers support students through counselling, assisting students to set positive goals and by referral to other support agencies when appropriate e.g. the Youth Support Coordinator, Youth Pathways Program and Youth Mental Health officers.

The school has a Community Education Counsellor, two part time Chaplains, a School Based Youth Health Nurse, and School Based Police Officer - all part of the network of support for students.

41.3% of students reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

63.9% of parents reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

### **Involving parents in their child's education**

Parent input is encouraged and fostered in many different ways. The P&C is active in establishing a register of skills and interests, and this is useful for the school's operations. Involvement in decision making concerning curriculum matters may occur in a variety of ways. E.g. parent membership on small committees, parent surveys and wider requests for input into issues raised and publicised in the newsletter.

General communication with parents and caregivers occurs through fortnightly newsletters which are also published on our website. Parents are encouraged to phone or email the school with specific concerns and there is a dedicated absentee phone number to make the reporting of student absences more convenient.

Parent Opinion is sought through the annual School Opinion Survey, through special purpose surveys in the newsletter and through phone calls on specific topics. Overall, we receive strong support from our parent body and have continued to maintain a good reputation in the community.

A range of forums is used to encourage parent participation in school activities and in their children's education. These include –

- Monthly Parent and Citizens meetings
- Projects Committee meetings
- Volunteer work in the Tuckshop and library.
- Attendance at school functions such as the Easter Fair, ceremonies, cultural and sporting events.
- Individual meetings and contact.
- Letters of congratulations at the end of Semester 1

# Mackay North State High School

## *Our school at a glance*

### **Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school**

72.2% of parents expressed satisfaction that their child is getting a good education at school.

Students reported their level of satisfaction at 72.7%

Parent responses to the Opinion Survey question about this being a good school indicated a level of satisfaction at 86.1%

77.5% of staff members reported that they were satisfied with the morale in the school.

### **Value added**

Detailed information is provided from the Queensland Studies Authority concerning results from the Queensland Core Skills Test and a suite of measures of achievement for Year 12 students. These are carefully monitored by staff and presented to parents. Results in 2007 show steady progress of students with consistent OP rankings when compared to the State figures.

- Our intake of students each year comes from our major feeder schools in the North Mackay area, with a smaller numbers of students enrolling from other Mackay state schools, some non-Government schools and new arrivals into Mackay. We receive detailed information from our primary feeder schools concerning the abilities, skills and special needs of our incoming Year 8 students each year and we attempt to build on this foundation in order to prepare our students for their post-school options of further education or training and employment.

- Our QCS preparation is very thorough and is reviewed each year with input from staff and students. We are continuing to maintain strong results for the QCS test, with school means higher than the state mean. Detailed information is provided from the Queensland Studies Authority concerning results from the Queensland Core Skills Test and this is carefully monitored by staff and presented to parents. Results in 2007 show steady progress of students with consistent QCS results when compared the State figures.

- Year 12 results in Authority subjects are tracked to make comparisons with state results and over time. The QSA provides information concerning subject enrolment trends and mean Levels of Achievement for our school and for the State. These are carefully analysed and shared with staff and parent groups and indicate steady progress in the Senior years.

- The state destination survey and our internal polls both indicate a high level of satisfaction with schooling and the majority of students leaving for further education or training or employment in a career of their choice. With 89% of those applying for tertiary entrance receiving an offer and an increasing number of students achieving traineeships or apprenticeships, the future of our graduates is looking secure.

- Students with learning difficulties are supported with in-class support and with dedicated Learning Support. Specialised Maths and Literacy programs have been designed for students in Years 9 and 10. These programs are assisting these students in improve their literacy and numeracy.

- Special Education: Numbers of students in the Unit vary each year, however, the value added for these students is significant. Life skills, work experience programmes and school based apprenticeships and traineeships have helped to prepare them for life after school.

### **Student attendance**

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 88%

# Mackay North State High School

## Our Staff Profile

### Qualifications of all teachers and school leaders

Highest level of attainment

Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school

Doctorate

0

Masters

8

Bachelor degree

73

Diploma

18

Certificate

1

### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$47896

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Productive Pedagogies Project: We used a day off campus for the Management Team to begin a continuous improvement cycle project. Each faculty has reviewed its operation in order to take one particular aspect of operation to focus on for 2007. They will continue to plan and review in 2008 with a review of progress and the resetting of goals.

2007 saw the continued support of syllabus improvements with many staff attending QSA in-services across several faculties.

A member of the administration team attended the ACER conference in Melbourne.

Our Professional Learning budget has continued to support faculties wishing to develop their curriculum with a wide range of staff attending local, state and national conferences.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 76.5%

### Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate in 2007 was 88%

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

95% of staff were retained by the school from the end of the 2006 school year for the entire 2007 school year.

# Mackay North State High School

## *Performance of our students*

### **Key outcomes in the senior phase of learning**

#### ***Apparent retention rates Year 8 to year 12 (Feb to Feb)***

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 8 student cohort:

#### ***Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2007***

Total number of Senior Certificates awarded:

Percentage of Overall Position (OP) -eligible students with OP 1-15:

Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification:

Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP-eligibility or awarded a VET qualification:

Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer:

#### ***Post-school destination information***

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2007 Year 12 cohort's post-school destinations survey, Next Step 2008 – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be posted to our website by early September.