2008 Annual School Report
Croppa Creek Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Messages

Principal's message

Croppa Creek Public School is a small school located 65km north east of Moree via the Newell Highway. The school continues to strive to ensure that the community’s values and beliefs are reflected in its learning environment.

We also endeavour to ensure that our students are aware of and committed to being active and empowered members of the community. It is our sincere hope that Croppa Creek Public School students grow to be life long learners who contribute positively to our country.

This report represents a snapshot of the achievements of our students in 2008, progress of our school plans for 2009 and an overview of school programs. 2008 has been a most successful year for all involved. An emphasis on literacy and numeracy has seen the school continue to achieve commendable results in the National and in-class assessments.

A focus on the creative and performing arts has allowed all students the opportunity to perform showcase their work in the Art Extravaganza and various school performances. Students have achieved personal bests in the sporting field with excellence encouraged and rewarded in academic areas.

We have achieved much in the physical school environment having had classrooms and office areas painted inside and out, drinking water is now available at school through installation of a water filter and new bubblers, a new sports court and sheds built and a memorial paved area around our vegetable garden. Our library has been upgraded to an enviable standard and we have purchased a large amount of new sporting equipment.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Merydyth Raue

Principal

P&C message

We started the year welcoming our new principal to the school Mrs Merydyth Raue. Mrs Raue has brought music back to the students of Croppa Creek. The interschool action with Yetman, North Star and Tulloona has been fantastic. It’s great to see the students getting the chance to play and learn music with other children. Mrs Raue has done great things this year with the students. Her commitment behind the scenes is just as important as the great things we see up front. She is always there for any student or parent any time with anything. It’s been a pleasure working with her.

The P&C have done an excellent job this year. We have catered for functions such as

- Anzac Day Breakfast.
- Sarah Stora concert
- Book Week and Athletics Carnival.
- Cooking at the Croppa Creek Bowling Club

We have had some very productive working bees

- Clean up Australia Day
- Work for the multi purpose court such as pulling down fences, cleaning up around the court and beautifying the area.
- New sport sheds with the laying of the cement
- The laying of the pavers for our environmental learning area.

We have helped the school out with some donations

- 50/50 with the school on the new sports shed.
- $100 per child for the excursion to Armidale.
- $25 per child for swimming lessons at Goondiwindi.
- The travelling irrigator.
- Presentation night.

We have also changed our sports shirt to a more modern and less expensive design.

Thank you to our canteen coordinator Anthea O’Sullivan, and uniform coordinator Angela Mitchell. Angela Mitchell and Angela Swan did a fantastic job with their Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls.

We have purchased many things on our wish list this year. The members of this P&C are a great bunch of people and I am very proud of what we have achieved this year. The dads have been great when called upon. It’s been a pleasure being your president again this year.

Karen Fordham

P&C President

P&C paving working bee.
Student representative’s message

This is our final year at Croppa Creek Public School and we are both sad to leave.

We have had lots of opportunities in our small school. In term 2, we had a basketball court built and a lot of work done inside our library.

We had a student teacher from the University of New England, Miss Ryall, who helped us with our preparation for athletics carnivals.

Mrs Forsyth helped us learn about the country Mexico and the Country Women’s Association came to our school for a ‘Mexican Fiesta’. Mrs O’Sullivan told us about her time living in Mexico and we had a special lunch.

We participated in the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition which was held in Moree and competed against many local schools.

Throughout the year we were given different opportunities to mix with other children our own age by spending time with students from Yetman, Tulloona and North Star Public Schools.

We have really enjoyed our time at Croppa Creek and feel it has a lot to offer for a small school. The teachers and parents work together to achieve the best for the students at the school and to give us opportunities we will treasure for a lifetime.

Kym Ryan and Kirra Locke
School Captains 2008

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

The table below shows our enrolments for the last 5 years. There had been a steady decline in numbers but 2008 was unusual catering for 26 different students over the course of the year. Some of these were short term or temporary enrolments. We expected to start the 2008 school year with 10 students but had 12 and reached a maximum class size of 19 during term four.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

Our semester 1 attendance rates for 2008 were above regional level but lower than last year as evident in the table below. Our attendance rates were even lower in semester two so the district’s home school liaison officer has been involved with families to improve these rates for 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

In 2008 our positions were filled by full-time, part-time and casual staff.

Staff establishment

We are very fortunate to have committed staff working at our school.

Croppa Creek PS is classified as a PP6. The school had 1.31 teaching positions allocated in 2008.

This included one teaching principal and 0.31 casual classroom teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Principal</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary teacher RFF</td>
<td>0.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary General Assistant Direct Scheme</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School Administrative Manager Level 1</td>
<td>0.496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff attendance

Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. Our School Administration Manager, Mrs Monica Milen took 6 months long service leave during the year and was temporarily replaced by Mrs Kathryn Penfold who did a commendable job.

Teacher qualifications

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

Financial summary

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary:</th>
<th>30/11/2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>171 114.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>56 532.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>28 386.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>8 052.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>8 861.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>273 032.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**            |            |
| Teaching & learning        |            |
| Key learning areas         | 12 197.45  |
| Excursions                 | 706.00     |
| Extracurricular dissections| 1 328.92   |
| Library                    | 1 412.56   |
| Training & development     | 7 753.26   |
| Tied funds                 | 120 431.82 |
| Casual relief teachers     | 16 360.60  |
| Administration & office    | 29 506.38  |
| School-operated canteen    | 0.00       |
| Utilities                  | 8 083.38   |
| Maintenance                | 8 887.13   |
| Trust accounts             |            |
| Capital programs           |            |
| Total expenditure          | 206 667.50 |
| Balance carried forward    | 66 365.01  |

Tied funds are those that can only be spent on specific programs. The school benefited greatly from the Australian Government's Investing In Our Schools Program. A new multi-purpose court was built and our library resources updated.

The school is an extremely sound financial position. A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2008

Students at Croppa Creek are provided with opportunities to represent the school and region in both the sports and arts fields.

Achievements

Croppa Creek Public School is very proud of its achievements throughout 2008.

We are also very proud of the attitude of our students generally in how they care for each other, how they operate within our school, and the role they have played in the wider community. Students have planted trees, shrubs and vegetables in the new ‘environmental learning area’, participated in the Clean up Australia Day and raised money for Jeans for Genes Day and the Cancer Council.

Most students participated in the ANZAC day service held at Croppa Creek Memorial Hall and in the live radio broadcast from Croppa Creek Shop.

Arts

Student Artwork was collected and mounted throughout the year and we held our second Croppa Creek Arts Extravaganza in Term 4 which was attended by parents, extended families and the wider community. This event showcased the students’ fabulous paintings, drawings, sculptures, craft, multimedia pieces and studies of famous artists. Items were purchased by local families and business owners.

We were all very proud that our whole class weaving artwork came first in the Annual Warialda Show.

Each student entered the solo verse speaking in the Goondiwindi Eisteddfod. All students participated exceptionally well and many students received placings and certificates.

Although we also entered our choir in the Goondiwindi Eisteddfod, we had to withdraw due to eisteddfod timetabling and distance / time involved in travelling to Goondiwindi multiple times that week.

Our Education Week Concert consisted of poetry, music, drama, signed choir and percussion performances by all students.

For our end of year Presentation Night, the students performed in dance, music and drama for the community. Mrs Fordham choreographed a country dance and Mr Raue led the recorder and guitar performances. Students enjoy drama and presented the musical play ‘Chester’s Cool School Band’.

Sport

At Croppa Creek Public School we aim to provide a well-balanced range of sporting opportunities for our students.

Using Investing In Our Schools grant, we built a multi-purpose court on which students have been able to play basketball, tennis, netball, handball and participate in a variety of other activities.

Amber Whibley represented our school at the McKechnie Shield Swimming Carnival in Moree.

Six students from years 2-6 represented or school at the cross country held in Gravesend this year.

The Macintyre Athletics carnival was held in Boggabilla in 2008. Kym Ryan and Kirra Locke were selected to participate in the Heferen Shield in Moree. Kym and Kirra performed extremely well. Their families travelled to Tamworth so that
the girls were able to represent our region in shot-put and discus.

In term 3, we held our annual Croppa Creek/ Tulloona Athletics Carnival. Our students all achieved well.

A special sports and fitness day run by students and staff of Warialda High was held at North Star PS and also attended by students from Yetman.

Term 4 saw a successful swimming program where several students received water safety awards.

One student in Year 5 sat for the NAPLAN examinations. To maintain confidentiality, it is not possible to comment on the Year 5 NAPLAN results in this report. Individual student’s results have been discussed with parents and will be used to help plan strategies for improvement on an individual basis.

**Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

This year we have had a total of 11 Aboriginal students in our school. At the end of the year, 6 of our 17 students were Aboriginal, equating to over 30% of our school population.

Croppa Creek Public School is committed to enhancing the knowledge and understanding of all students about Aboriginal Australia.

Aboriginal perspectives have been taught through the Key Learning Areas with activities and programs to promote understanding of cultural diversity and Indigenous Australia.

Highlights of the Aboriginal education program this year were the specific art lessons linked with greater awareness of Aboriginal culture, NAIDOC celebrations day at Croppa Creek Public School with Yetman PS and review of our Prime minister’s historically significant apology to the Aboriginal population of Australia.

Acknowledgement of Country was done for the first time at our school's presentation night and is now part of special assemblies.

A range of strategies including targeted intervention for individual students and in-class support has ensured that those students most in need of support have received help with literacy and numeracy. Additional funding through Out Of Home Care (OoHC) and Gwydir Shire Council has allowed us to support these programs.
Multicultural education

Classroom teaching programs that contain multicultural perspectives are effective in promoting cultural tolerance.

Each year, we study the geography and culture of a specific country celebrating our similarities and differences culminating in a special presentation day of the students’ learning and catering provided by the ladies of the Country Women’s Association. This Year we learnt about Mexico.

The school celebrated Harmony Day with a special gathering and art activities.

We also participated in a special technology project through the Country Areas Program (CAP) involving the students from a school in Wales. A Wikispace was set up for students and teachers in our schools to share information and interact with each other.

Multicultural perspectives will continue to be included in classroom teaching programs. The school will continue to look at a variety of ways to promote cultural awareness. This will include visits to the school by people from a range of cultural backgrounds and countries.

In 2008 the new Principal was trained as an Anti-Racism Contact Officer.

Environmental Education

Our school is developing a School Environmental Management Plan that will be completed in 2009.

Croppa Creek Public school has been involved in activities revolving around environmental education in 2008.

We participated in Clean Up Australia Day and we have an ongoing gardening program lead by Mrs Fordham which sees children growing fruit and vegetables at school.

The installation of a new water tank to collect rainwater from the play structure shelter will help increase environmental awareness and contribute to our school’s water supply. Water management strategies have been discussed with the Department of Education and Training’s Assets Management Unit and local plumbing contractors. We are hoping to develop a plan for much more effective use of our current tank water in the near future.

As part of our 4 day excursion to Armidale this year, we attended a recycling plant and discussed how we could develop environmentally friendly programs in our school and in our community. Implementing these ideas will be one of our targets in 2009.

Respect and responsibility

Croppa Creek Public School reflects the expectations and values of its community. Respect and responsibility are held in the highest regard as values that should be demonstrated by all school community members. The school has developed, and implements each year, learning programs to encourage students to demonstrate these qualities and attributes.

Programs include:

- Clear communication of expectations of appropriate playground and classroom behaviour.
- Identified values emphasised in weekly assemblies and in our Citizenship Awards.
- Personal Development sessions for Drug Education, Child Protection and Life Education.

In term 4, a personal development program provided for the stage 3 students was held at Yetman Public School and run by nurses from Community Health. This program related to growth, personal development and sex education which followed on from the Life Education Program earlier in the year.

Students experiencing difficulties socially were identified by staff and a special ‘mini olympics’ for all students was run by our school counsellor, Marilyn McMaster and Deb Byron. Students were encouraged to practise specific social skills whilst competing in fun activities within an Olympic theme.

Learning to take responsibility for their own health and diet is an important part of our curriculum. The school has implemented the Healthy Canteen Policy which guides the sale of food to students at school functions, sports days and excursions. We have a daily ‘crunch and sip’ snack break at 10am which encourages students to develop healthy eating habits to be maintained throughout their lives.

Country Areas Program

The Country Areas Program provides additional resources to support students and staff in schools.
in isolated rural (and therefore disadvantaged) areas. Identified schools receive consultancy support and additional funding.

The additional funding has allowed the school to:

- Enhance our technology program by employing staff and buying additional resources;
- Attend a variety of excursions important to a well rounded primary education;
- Provide interschool visit opportunities for sporting, creative, social and academic activities.
- Learning Opportunities for Teachers (LOFT) training for staff.

In 2009 we intend continuing these programs.

Mr Burling teaching our students how to edit their voice recordings using ‘Audacity’ software.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

To improve students’ capacity to write effectively using the correct spelling and grammar for a range of purposes.

Strategies to achieve this target included:

- Spelling and editing for a purpose and a real audience;
- Providing additional, individual and whole school support programs across all aspects of spelling and editing; and
- Explicit teaching and learning programs involving a weekly spelling rule.

Our achievements include:

- In school assessment data reveals improved stage outcomes by all students and that generally students are more consistent using the correct spelling of words and editing their own writing.
- Student growth in NAPLAN literacy from yr 3 to 5 much higher than regional average

Target 2

To improve student capacity K-6 to have a greater understanding of place value and use successfully mental strategies successfully when solving problems using the four operations.

Strategies to achieve this target included:

- Explicit teaching of skills in the number strand especially in division and multiplication;
- Provision of additional, individual and whole school support programs in number;
- Provision of more practical hands on tasks;
- Regular assessment to ascertain acquisition of core knowledge to achieve stage outcomes;
- Continuation of the implementation of the Count Me In Too / Counting On program;

Our achievements include:

- Improved levels of understanding by all students;
- Students demonstration of mathematical understanding using concrete material;
- Developing skills of students evident in SENA 1 and SENA 2 assessments.

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2008 our school carried out evaluations of Creative Arts and OH&S procedures.

Occupational Health & Safety Procedures

Staff and students were surveyed to gain their understanding of policies and procedures in place. A survey put together by the Department of Education Media Unit was used.

Findings and conclusions

Students and staff were generally unaware of proper OH&S procedures in the school and school documentation was not readily available.

Future directions

To improve our knowledge and understanding of mandatory OH&S requirements, we will:

- Develop / update school manual containing necessary information and outlining OH&S procedures & information.
• Allocate time in 2009 staff development days for OH&S training
• Ensure that all staff have up-to-date CPR & first aid training.
• Set up a staff OH&S noticeboard.
• Practise emergency procedures at least twice a year including evacuations and lockdown.
• Notify parents of these practises and encourage discussion of home emergency procedures.
• Organise/attend farm and fire safety days and participate in the Life Education program each year.
• Organise Junior First Aid Course in 2009 for all students.

Mr Lawrie Timmins, Rural Fire Service volunteer on our 2008 fire safety day.

Curriculum

The school evaluates an area of the curriculum each year as part of a cyclic process. This year the school chose to evaluate the key learning area of Creative and Practical Arts.

Background

An analysis of our Creative and Practical Arts program was undertaken. Staff and students were surveyed on the teaching and learning of Creative Arts in the school and parents interviewed at the beginning of the year.

Findings and conclusions

The analysis found:
• Art is taught each week. Outcomes regarding identifying artists purpose had not been sufficiently met until 2008 when artist studies became the focus for 1 in every 3 art lessons.
• Drama is timetabled weekly and taught by casual teacher who works on Thursdays.
• Music had been taught in 2007 briefly by a specialist teacher due to limited skills of staff and timetabling. Current Principal has good music skills and all students are now participating in weekly music lessons. They are learning to sing, play percussion and recorder and have borrowed guitars from a neighbouring school for short term use.
• Generally students enjoyed music and were interested in learning to play a musical instrument but at the beginning of the year all had limited performance skills.
• All parents felt Creative Arts was an important part of the school curriculum but not as important as English or mathematics.
• Many parents felt that performance skills of students were low and were happy with a more focussed music program being introduced this year.

Future directions

In 2009, the school will continue to focus on improving creative and practical arts by:
• Purchasing a class set of guitars.
• Employing additional staff with music skills for whole and small group tuition.
• Training staff in maximising the teaching opportunities of Musica Viva performances.
• Ensuring that CAPA is given appropriate emphasis in the school timetable.
• Preparing a whole school drama and music performance each year for presentation night.

Professional learning

In 2008 staff participated in the following professional learning activities:
• CPR and emergency care training
• Introduction to the smartboard
• Accelerated Literacy
• Preparation for NAPLAN
• Working with Connected Outcomes Groups units
• Child protection update
• Anaphylaxis training
• Learning Opportunities for teachers (LOFT)
• Rock and Water Boys Education
• Ralph Pirozzo – Thinking Tools
• Musica Viva
• Anti Racism Contact Officer training
• Enrolment and attendance policies and procedures

School development 2009 – 2011
A 2006 to 2008 management plan was first developed at the beginning of 2006. A new plan for the next three years (2009-2011) has now been developed.

Targets for 2009
Our targets for 2009 are based on the evaluations conducted in 2008 and areas of improvement as identified by staff and community.

Target 1
*Improve student outcomes in numeracy*
Strategies to achieve this target include:
• Professional learning in the use of SMART data to inform teaching.
• Professional learning in the use of DET resources to assist with teaching and learning.
• Changing staff timetabling and Principal release time in order to group students effectively for mathematics. This will enable much more intensive instruction targeted to individual students.
• Purchase of mathematics software for smartboard and individual use.

Our success will be measured by:
• An improvement of student achievement in school assessments and NAPLAN.
• Teaching programs which are explicit, well-planned and cater for the learning needs of all students.

Target 2
*To Improve student achievements in writing.*
Strategies to achieve this target include:
• School-based assessment and NAPLAN data used to target students who require support, extension and consolidation.
• Implementation of PM Writing program using explicit teaching and the purchase of quality resource materials and student texts.
• Weekly comprehension activities (Blue and Green Reading Boxes) which are reading recovery levelled and cover all basic text types.

Our success will be measured by:
• In school assessment data revealing improved stage outcomes for all students.
• All students performing at or above the New England Region’s aspirational targets.

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.

Merydith Raue  Principal
Karen Fordham  President P&C
Monica Milen  Senior Admin Manager

School contact information
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School Code: 3717

Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

Our new sports shed!