

## Our school at a glance

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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

In 2008, Beerwah State High School again demonstrated it is an outstanding school that is at the forefront of educational reform. Our enrolments increased for the second year in a row and this is a great sign of confidence in the quality of education provided at Beerwah SHS. This year the School Council completed the development of a long-term plan for the future of our school. After the consultation and research the new Partnership Agreement was endorsed and will now provide a blueprint for the future direction of our great school.

One of our key focus areas was to review the structure of our middle school and how we go about teaching in the middle phase of learning. Staff worked long and hard to align our curriculum and learning programs with QCARF (Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework).

In the senior phase of learning the development of comprehensive Senior Education and Training Plans was integrated into the Year 10 curriculum and further development took place in our provision of flexible and individual pathways for senior students. A refinement of the SET planning process and the BEACON (No Dole) program enhanced the opportunities being provided to our Year 10, 11 and 12 students.

The school is a key partner in the launch of SCIPPS – Science Centre for Innovative and Professional Practice of Science. This innovative project links four key schools with the University of the Sunshine Coast to lead science across the district, particularly in the area of biotechnology. The focus on student achievement resulted in one of the highest levels of tertiary admission for Beerwah students with 98% receiving a tertiary offer of their choosing. As well as this fantastic milestone, 100% of eligible students achieved certificate of Post Compulsory School Education. 100% of Year 10 and 11 students have a SET Plan.

Beerwah State High School has Excellence programs for Music and Athletics which have outstanding outcomes. In 2008 Beerwah State High School won the district athletics championships for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The Music Excellence programs have resulted in more students being chosen for state honors than any other Sunshine Coast state school.

In the area of Information and Communication Technologies, we completely rebuilt the school's network, implemented the new MOE (Managed Operating Environment) and significantly increased the number of computers in the school.

We continue to have a great relationship with our coalition schools and the appointment of a Family Liaison Officer has helped to further enhance communication across the Glasshouse Coalition of State Schools.

The best part of the year was of course the way in which people in our community work together. When there continues to be turbulent times throughout the world we are able to demonstrate that people can resolve conflicts peacefully and maintain respect. We have spent more time in interviews with parents than ever before. Every parent of all our year 10 students and all of the incoming students are now required to attend an interview where future plans for the student are discussed. This process, though time consuming, is vital to improved relationships between home and school. Honest and open communication is critical to continuous improvement and we encourage feedback from students, parents and the community.

### School Profile

Beerwah State High School is a public co-educational secondary school situated in the Caloundra City Council municipality and located on the outskirts of Beerwah, drawing students largely from eight primary schools in the Glass House hinterland. In 2008, there were 1052 students enrolled from Year 8 to Year 12. The increase in enrolment continues steadily as the school attracts students due to the range of quality programs.

### Curriculum offerings

The curriculum is structured around a middle school (Year 8 and 9) and a senior school (Year 10, 11 and 12). In the middle phase of learning the curriculum is KLA based and aligned with the Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework but still has elements of the Life Tasks.

A Life Task is an integrated, planned sequence of learning activities aimed at increasing intellectual engagement and promoting local and global connectedness for all students. The Life Task approach is outcomes based approach integrating learnings from the eight national Key Learning Areas.

Beerwah High School has joined with seven nearby state primary schools to form the Glass House Coalition of State Schools. The seven schools have developed a common curriculum framework and cooperative planning to provide for a seamless learning journey from Year 1 to Year 12.

A specialist Athletics Excellence Program operates from Years 8 to 10 and a specialist Music Excellence Program operates from Years 8 to 10. A pre-vocational Trade Skills Acquisition program is offered to students at risk in Year 10. A range of alternative education support programs is also offered for students during the middle years. Human Relationships Education, particularly through *Program Achieve* is incorporated throughout the curriculum.

Beerwah State High School offers 38 subjects in the senior school. The curriculum allows students to pursue multiple pathways including a rigorous academic program, a contemporary arts program or a skills based vocational program.

Year 11 and 12 students attend school four days a week. On the non-timetabled day, students have a range of options. They are encouraged to participate in school based traineeships or work placement.

As one of the learning outcomes all students are expected to achieve by the end of Year 12 is experience in, and understanding of the world of work, students are also encouraged to find paid part-time employment. This day also provides an opportunity to revise, study and to do assignments. At certain times during the year, the school holds tutorials of workshops and extension activities.

The needs of gifted and talented students are provided for through various enrichment programs offered by studies areas. Such activities include Days of Excellence, Opti-Minds Challenge, Debating, Public Speaking, Mathematics, English, Computing, Geography and Science Competitions, and extended opportunities in a variety of study areas. Beerwah High also has a Gifted and Talented links program with Sunshine Coast University. Special Needs teachers assist students with specific learning difficulties (for example, difficulties in reading, spelling or an inability to cope with basic Mathematics) by collaboratively designing and implementing educational programs more suited to a student's individual needs. Students identified with special needs may receive in class support, individual support programs, withdrawal sessions or individual student help with class work and assignments.

Several intensive support programs cater for students in Year 8 who have weaknesses in either literacy or numeracy.

Many opportunities exist for student participation in a range of extra-curricular activities. Beerwah High has a strong tradition of involvement and success in sports. A variety of sporting activities are offered to male and female students - an important aspect of which is that most are team sports. There are six interhouse events during the year - Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, Triathlon, Run The Corridors and Cheer Cup. Other activities include discos held once a term, the annual Battle of the Bands, public speaking (Rostrum, Jaycees, Apex and Lions), the annual musical production, dance and drama showcases, instrumental music program, Interact Club and Student Council.

#### *Value Added*

Beerwah SHS has a range of opportunities that expand the options for students.

In addition to the standard curriculum offerings the school such as:

- Athletics excellence program for students from Years 8 to 12
- Music excellence program for students fro Years 8 to 12
- Girls Shape Program
- Peer Skills program
- Rock and Water program for Year 8 boys
- Mentoring program
- FOCUS program girls in Year 9
- Trade Acquisition Program for Year 10 students seeking to move into apprenticeships and work after Year 10.
- The school employs a VET coordinator on a full-time basis to manage Structured Work Placement Programs where students are in business and industry one day a week, Year 10 Work Experience and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SAT
- The Student Services department facilitates many opportunities for students to engage in a range of programs that allow them to expand their learning and develop networks/relationships with agencies and program providers that are external to the school.

#### *Social climate*

Beerwah State High School uses a house or sub-school structure as the focus for student welfare, developing positive student-teacher relationships, managing student behaviour and ensuring the maintenance and development of a supportive school learning environment.

The primary reason for adopting this structure is the commitment of the school to ensuring quality student-teacher relationships. Positive relationships based on students and teachers knowing each other, relating to each as people and caring about each other lead to improved behaviour, better self esteem, more focused learning environments and improved learning outcomes.

Students belong to one of the four houses in the school and Each house has three Heads of Department, who along with approximately twelve house teachers, oversee the welfare for the students of the house. Heads of Department oversee the welfare of approximately 80 students from Years 8-12 within their House The Head of Department Student Services is responsible for coordinating student care and welfare activities and leading a range of specialist support personnel.

### *Parents and the community*

Our community actively participates in the life of the school through the Parents' and Citizens' Association, School Council, committees, canteen helpers, Library volunteers and voluntary tutoring in reading. A monthly newsletter is mailed to each family. Student progress reports are provided at the end of each term and parent teacher interviews take place at the end of term one. Parent evenings are held early in the year for parents of students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Year 10 parents participate in interviews with key school personnel as part of the development of the Senior Education and Training Plan and also for subject selection. A Subject Selection Expo is held for parents of students entering Years 9, 10 and 11. Parents of Year 12 students play an integral part in their graduation celebrations during the final week of schooling. An Academic, Vocational and Cultural Awards Evening and a separate Sports Awards Evening are held in term four to celebrate student effort and achievement.

Our school actively participates in the community by staging musical and other artistic performances, through work experience programs and school based traineeships, supporting established community events, often with one of our four bands, by providing volunteers for local charities and service club projects and through providing resources for local events.

## Our staff profile

### *Qualifications of all teachers*

Highest Level of Attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctrate	0
Masters	2
Bachelor Degree	73
Diploma	13
Certificate	0

### *Professional engagement in 2008*

The Principal is supported by two Deputy Principals, a Registrar, ten Heads of Department and two Heads of House in providing a comprehensive leadership structure for supporting students and managing all services. Staff turnover each year is less than 10%.

Staff are receptive to and involved in performance and development structures which focus on continuous professional improvement.

Staff are involved in collaborative decision making processes. In addition to the School Council, committee structures exist which provide an avenue for staff involvement in decision-making. Staff take a prominent leadership role in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment related matters. The staff are very experienced with a wide diversity of interests and talents. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the staff is their commitment to involve themselves in co-curricular and extra curricular activities.

In 2008 the following was achieved

- 92% of workforce engaged in learning and development activities.
- 10% of general component of school grant budget was expended on learning and development for staff.
- 75% of school workforce was satisfied with access to professional development opportunities that relate to school and systemic initiatives.
- 80% of staff members satisfied with morale.
- Staff averaged less than 5 days absence per year, which is better than like schools and also better than the state average. Data shows that staff had a 96% attendance rate in 2008.
- Beerwah SHS had less than 10% staff turnover.

## Key outcomes in the senior years

<i>Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12</i>	2008
Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of their Year 10 enrolment cohort.	86%

<i>Outcomes for our Year 12 Cohort of 2008</i>	
Number of students awarded a Senior Statement	129
Percentage of OP-eligible students with OP 1-15	67%
Number of students awarded a QCE	97
Number of students awarded one or more VET qualifications	40
Number of students who are completed a SAT	33
Number of students receiving a QCIA	0
Percentage of QTAC Applicants receiving an offer	97%
Number of students who received an OP	83
Number of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET	75

### *Other key outcomes for 2008*

#### **Education and Training Reforms for the Future –**

- Expanded vocational education options
- Introduced a program for pregnant teenage girls
- Implemented the QCE
- TAP (Trade Acquisitions Program) extended in Year 10
- **81%** of students achieved SA or better in at least three QSA subjects
- 100% of eligible students achieved certificate of Post Compulsory School Education.
- **96%** of students in full time study or employment.
- 100% of Year 10 and 11 students have a SET Plan.
- **95%** continue across the key juncture Year 10 to 11
- **120** School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships

- Vocational Education Reference Group meets once per term.

## **Middle Schooling**

- Continuation of the Life Tasks Curriculum that won a Showcase Award for Excellence
- Aligned to QCAR framework
- Addressing middle phase of learning
- Focus on Assessment and planning for consistency across faculties
- Team focus of teaching staff in planning and delivery of curriculum in the middle years
- Appointment of a HOD Middle Schooling
- Literacy and numeracy programs introduced (SRA and Enrichment)

## **Information and Communication Technologies.**

- Complete rebuilding of school's network
- Implementation of MOE (Managed Operating Environment)
- **74.1%** of students satisfied with the way computers are used for learning
- **60%** of parent s satisfied with the access their children have to computers.

## **Supportive school environment – productive partnerships and relationships**

- 80% of parents and caregivers satisfied that this is a good school.
- 80% of students satisfied that they are getting a good education at this school
- 905 of parents are satisfied that the school provides good learning opportunities for their children.
- 85% of staff are satisfied that they get on well with students.
- 100% validation of EAPs.
- The average attendance rate for students in 2008 was 90%

## **♦ The P – 12 Glasshouse Coalition of State Schools.**

- Continued to meet regularly as an principals group and staff across the coalition
- Shared philosophies of teaching and learning strategies
- Shared moderation and planning

## **♦ High quality grounds and facilities.**

- ♦ 90% parents are satisfied with the school grounds and buildings.
- ♦ 90% of students are satisfied with the school grounds and buildings

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results		
Domain	Measures	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	562
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008 89%
Writing	Average score for the school	553
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008 88%
Spelling	Average score for the school	558
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008 83%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	558
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008 85%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	566
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard	2008 96%