Principal’s message

The 2010 school year was busy and exciting for students and staff at Nowra High School. In all areas of school activity Nowra High students have continued to excel. The physical environment of the school was improved and facilities for teaching and learning were enhanced. The school enrolment was maintained at 1100 students and the school employed 109 staff as either teachers, School Administration Officers or School Learning Support Officers. The school also employed a Youth Worker through the Federal Government Chaplaincy Program and a Defence Transition Mentor funded by the Australian Defence Force.

In 2010 students in Years 7 and 9 completed the National Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. Once again our students in Year 7 performed above state average in Literacy and Numeracy and students in Year 9 also performed above state averages and demonstrated above average growth on the results they achieved when they were in Year 7 in 2008.

The 2010 School Certificate results were excellent – 62 Band 6 results – above state average results in every subject. In English 44% of students gained a Band 5 or 6 compared to 36% statewide, in Science 46% of students gained a Band 5 or 6 compared to 40% statewide, in History 25% of students gained a Band 5 or 6 compared to 18.5% statewide.

In the last two years a most significant change in the way Nowra High School provides instruction for young people has occurred. All students in Years 9 and 10 have been issued with laptop computers. By the beginning of next year all students in Year 9, 10 and 11 will have their own computer and all staff members will have been issued with a computer. Teaching staff have been trained in the use of the computers in the classroom and the school now has a wireless network installed in all teaching spaces and the library.

Complementing the laptop and ICT program in the school has been the installation of data projectors for use with laptop computers in twenty four classrooms and science laboratories. The Nowra High School P&C has to be acknowledged for providing half the funds to complete this project. The P&C contribute to the effectiveness of the school by donating funds to purchase equipment and resources the school would not be able to afford otherwise. In the past three years the P&C has helped purchase a school bus, air conditioning in the library and administration buildings, and this year, the data projectors.

During 2010 a small group of staff, coordinated by Ms Curtin and Mr. Hunt, have been implementing the Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS) program. The PBS program promotes the values of Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Learning. Students have been given explicit instruction on the benefits of the program and what is expected of them. The feedback from students and staff has been very positive and the program will continue to be implemented over the next three years.

Last year the school implemented the Centre for Excellence program which recognised the quality of the learning achieved by students at Nowra High School. A Highly Accomplished Teacher (HAT) has been appointed along with an Educational Paraprofessional. Schools included in the Nowra High School C4E project include Shoalhaven and...
Bomaderry High Schools and Nowra and Illaroo Road Primary Schools. The program supports beginning teachers, assists established teachers with NSW Institute of Teachers registration and provides mentoring support for trainee teachers.

In 2010 Nowra High School had students competing in Athletics, Netball, Volleyball, Swimming, Triathlon, Football, Basketball, Rugby League and Rugby Union, Australian Rules and Cricket at regional, state and national levels. Students took part in Tournament of Minds in August, the statewide chess competition, The Illawarra Dance Festival, Southern Stars, Schools Spectacular, public speaking and debating competitions, Lions Youth of the Year, Science Fair and ICAS statewide tests.

Special mention needs to be made of two young Nowra High School sportspeople. Mitchell Bricklebank was awarded a CHS State Blue as a referee in Volleyball and at the National Championships he was awarded the Jim Lester Scholarship valued at $5000 to develop his skills as a Volleyball official. Kaitlin Bryce was awarded a Regional Sporting Blue for her performances at regional, state and national level in Netball. Kaitlin is now a member of the Australian all schools U15 team.

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.

Wayne Pryce - Principal

P & C message

In 2010 the Nowra High School P&C worked productively with the school’s executive, teachers, staff and students to maintain our reputation as a desirable place to learn.

The P&C continues to be responsible for the operation and finances of the canteen and the supervision of canteen staff. The success of the canteen is highlighted by the healthy bottom-line of the canteen’s profit. The success of the canteen can only continue with the hard work of our canteen volunteers and more volunteers will always be very welcome. With enough people, an individual’s contribution need only be a few hours each term.

This year’s profits from the canteen went directly into supplying air-conditioning for the administration building, which is usually where the first point of contact with teaching staff and the executive happens for many parents. Other areas where canteen funds were directed include the fitting of data projectors in the newly refurbished science classrooms and the purchase of electronic whiteboards.

Another fundraising event for the Nowra High P&C was catering for the regional Tournament of the Minds competition. Phyllis Cane and her team organised and provided tasty snacks and drinks to students and their parents from 68 competing teams. This day returned to the school additional funds which will help finance projects not able to be considered within the constraints of the school budget. The day also highlighted how parents and carers, who are unable to attend the P&C meetings, were able to contribute to the well-being of the school by volunteering for canteen or barbecue duty.

Merit selection panels continued in full swing again last year with many of our members acting as parent representatives on merit selection panels for a variety of vacant executive, teaching and administrative positions. With staff turnover continuing at a pace, through retirement and professional advancement, the committees have been very busy finding suitable replacements. Merit selection panels are another opportunity for parents and caregivers to contribute towards the school community.

The P&C Executive meets in the school library at 6.30pm, week 4 and week 8 of each school term. Everyone is welcome to attend the Executive meeting where correspondence is received and the Treasurer’s report presented. The general meeting of the P&C follows at 7.30pm where reports are presented by the Principal, the
Student Representative Council as well as the various committees with which the P&C are involved. The P&C has representatives on the Curriculum, Finance, Welfare and Extension committees and members are encouraged to be involved in these aspects of the school.

Michael Dunne - P&C President

Student representative’s message

The SRC year began with the annual “Conframp” conference to both bond with our new SRC members and to establish our goals for the year. The SRC continued to run its weekly Juice Bar in summer. Discos now feature senior students Dylan Booth and Brayden Hampstead as DJ’s. This proved effective in increasing attendance of discos.

As usual, the SRC and several other students represented the school at the ANZAC Day Ceremony in Nowra and Greenwell Point. The Captains and Vice Captains also met with local member Joanna Gash for a lunch to discuss the importance of leadership in schools.

For the first time, four senior students represented the school at the Wollongong University Elevate Leadership Program. The program ran over four days, one per term, where students learned a variety of leadership skills and met several community leaders. Senior students also attended the three day Gilmore Youth Leadership Forum with other local school leaders. Year 10 and 11 students attended the National Young Leaders Day in Sydney in term four and four senior girls attended the Shoalhaven Women’s Business Luncheon to meet with local business women.

Rose Vucic and Ethan Dunne were selected by the SRC to represent Nowra High School at the Illawarra and South East Regional SRC camp where both were successful in being selected onto the Regional SRC. Also, the motion that Rose and Ethan took to the regional camp on behalf of Nowra High was accepted by the region.

Rebekah Brindle – Vice Captain

School context

Student enrolment profile

Student attendance profile

Management of non-attendance

Student attendance rolls are marked in roll call each morning at 9.00 am. An absence sheet is produced and distributed to all staff at the beginning of period 2 each day (10.00 am). If a student is away from class and not recorded on the absence sheet teachers record the name of the student. The Head Teacher Administration, with the support of office staff, follow-up unexplained absences seeking an explanation.

If absences become excessive parents/ carers are contacted. If the attendance issues are not resolved the school counsellor service and the Home School Liaison Officer become involved.

The school has trialed using an SMS service to advise parents/ carers when a student is absent. This facility was expanded in 2010 for students who have a record of poor attendance or fractional truancy.
The proportion of students staying on at school to complete the Higher School Certificate has increased significantly from 2008. This increase in retention to the end of formal schooling occurred before the introduction of the “New School Leaving Age” in 2010. In 2008 53.8 percent of students completed the HSC in 2010 61 percent of students completed thirteen years of schooling—an increase of 7.8 percent.

**Post-school destinations**

One hundred and forty one students studied HSC subjects in 2010. Two of these students were completing a Pathways program. One hundred and eighteen students completed courses which lead to the granting of an Australian Teritary Entrance Rank. Fifty six students were offered a place at university. Forty percent of students completing their HSC at Nowra High School progressed to study at university in 2011. Of the fifty six students entering university in 2011 thirty three are studying at Wollongong University.

**Destinations**

- University: 56
- TAFE: 24
- Employment: 23
- Apprenticeship: 9
- Traineeship: 7
- GAP Year (Organised): 6
- Defence: 5
- Private College: 5
- Open Technical Education Network: 1

**Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training**

Fifty four percent of Year 12 students completed vocational or trade training in 2010 at either TAFE (TVET), school (SVET) or with a private provider Aeroskills Training Inc.

**Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification**

Ninety seven percent of Year 12 students gained their Higher School Certificate in 2010 after completing studies at Nowra High School.

**Staff information**

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

**Staff establishment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly Accomplished Teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Tutorial class</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Learning Support Teacher</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers Adviser</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>105.4</td>
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</table>

Three members of the Nowra High School staff are Indigenous.

**Teacher qualifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All teaching staff meet the professional 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.

Date of financial summary: 30/11/2010

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>$571,546.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>$714,940.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>$590,497.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>$368,763.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$30,501.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>$141,161.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,417,412.63</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>$200,876.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>$123,892.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>$139,202.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>$21,680.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>$1,533.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>$567,635.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>$144,297.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>$200,686.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$125,579.37</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$40,439.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>$238,662.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>$43,811.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,848,297.63</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>$569,115.00</strong></td>
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</table>

A full copy of the school’s 2010 financial statement is tabled at School Finance Committee budget meeting held in December 2010. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2010

Achievements

Performing Arts

The following students auditioned and where successful in gaining a placement in the Illawarra and South East Regional Performing Company. Dancers – Grace Stranger, Rebekah Douglas, Maddi High, Tanika Joines, Nicole Matheson. These students represented Nowra High School as part of the Company that were specialized dancers in Southern Stars, Schools Spectacular and Talent Storm placing first in the state for Talent Storm. Brock Lette represented Nowra High School in the Performing Company Vocal Ensemble as a featured soloist in Southern Stars at the Win Entertainment Centre.

Jack Harnwell, Ryley Gillen, Aaron Strickland, Grace Stranger and Tiffany Greco were successful in gaining positions in the Illawarra and South East Regional Performing Ensemble which tours the State each term.

Nowra High School participated in the South Coast Regional Dance Festival, Southern Stars and Schools Spectacular with students from Years 7 through to Year 12 being represented.

In HSC Dance Alicia Molony, Katie Earby and Brittany Kennedy were all nominated for HSC Callback, continuing the tradition of exceptionally high marks in HSC Dance.

In HSC Music the following students achieved Band 6 results; Brock Lette, Zac Newton, Molly Tremlow and Cassandra Anderson, who also gained a personal nomination for Encore. Elective students also maintained active involvement in Regional Music Camps, State Dance Camp and participated in the Moss Theatre Ensemble.
Sport

Kaitlyn Bryce was selected in the Australian Under 15 Netball team which will travel to New Zealand in 2011. Kaitlyn was captain of the NSW All Schools team and was named “Most Valuable Player” before gaining selection in the National side.

Matilda Potter gained selection in the Australian Under 13 Girls Football team that travelled to Vietnam in 2010 for the ‘Festival of Football’. Matilda was a member of the local Southern Branch Soccer Team and has been kept busy with training camps at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Cameron Avery, Alex Richardson and Christian Avasulu made the CHS Boys Volleyball team that recently contested the National Championships in Canberra in August. Mitchell Bricklebank represented NSW at the same event after his selection as a referee for the Volleyball championships.

Jacob Dolan was selected in the Junior Waratahs Rugby Union squad after exceptional performances recently for the NSW Country Schoolboys team. He has been a prominent member of Shoalhaven Rugby Union Club and has been selected in the squad for the Cronulla Sharks Harold Mathews team.

Alan Tonacia was also selected in the NSW Country Schoolboys team. Alan, along with Tom Horton were representatives and key players for their Under 17 Illawarra Rugby team as well as regular contributors to the Shoalhaven Rugby Club’s First Grade side.

David Pratt, Courtney Howlett and Kyal Sinclair all starred at the State Cross Country Championships held in Sydney recently, claiming gold, bronze and bronze respectively. In August David travelled to the National Championships in Brisbane where he competed against the best young runners in the country.

Jack Goodsell was selected in the squad for Lloyd McDermott Indigenous Rugby Team. Jack, along with utility Jordan Thomas, made significant contributions to Nowra High’s progression into the final rounds of the Wiburd Shield Schoolboy Rugby Union Competition.

Will Ozolins was selected in the CHS Boys Basketball team after solid performances for the South Coast team at the Regional Finals.

Angus Clark and Emmanuvel Rerekura (Rugby Union) gained Illawarra Rugby Union representation that toured New Zealand in 2010. The boys are Shoahaven Rugby Juniors and part of the successful Nowra High Junior Boys team.

Mel Dinnie (Year 10), Hayley Page (Year 8), Rose Vucic (Year 8) and Nathan Burney (Year 7) were all successful at the Regional Athletics Carnival in Canberra and all gained State Selection for the Combined High Schools Carnival held at Homebush.

Sporting Award recipients for excellence in their chosen sport for 2010 were:

- **Rowing:** Alex Richardson
- **Touch Football:** Leanna Boyes, Jordan Thomas
- **Hockey:** Alexz Crawford
- **Rugby League:** Mitchell Daley
- **Volleyball:** Lawrence Peters, Danika Jess
- **Soccer:** Danni McLeod, Jordan McDonald, Laurin Dolan, Harry Peters
- **Tennis:** Carl Stubbs, Katherine Teague

**Sportsman of the Year:** Beau Black

**Sportswoman of the Year:** Kaitlyn Bryce

**Most Outstanding Individual Achievement:** Will Ozolins

**School Blues**
- Beau Black - Australian Rules Football
- Will Ozolins - Basketball
- David Pratt - Cross Country
- Alan Tonacia - Rugby Union
Kaitlyn Bryce - Netball
Christian Avasulu
Cameron Avery - Volleyball
Alex Richardson
Mitchell Bricklebank - Volleyball Refereeing

Shoalhaven Zone Blues
Kaitlyn Bryce - Netball
Will Ozolins - Basketball
Alex Richardson - All rounder (Rowing, Volleyball, Swimming)

South Coast Blues
Kaitlyn Bryce - Netball

Combined High Schools (CHS) Blue
Mitchell Bricklebank - Volleyball Refereeing

Pierre De Coubertin Award for Academic and Sporting All rounder
Lachlan Lamont

Helen Fuller/Mal Mow Award for Outstanding Contribution to South Coast School Sport
Will Ozolins - Basketball Harriet Elleman - Swimming

Academic
In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9).

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7
NAPLAN results for 2010 indicate that Nowra High School students perform well above state averages in reading, slightly below state averages in grammar and punctuation and spelling and below state averages at Band 9 level in writing.
**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7**

Year 7 students performed below state averages in numeracy in the 2010 NAPLAN tests at Band 9 level and slightly below state averages at Band 8 level.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9**

At Year 9 level Nowra High students performed well above state average level in reading and writing. Students performed below state average level in Band 10 in spelling.
Nowra High students performed well in the NAPLAN numeracy assessment being only slightly below state average at Band 10 level.
School Certificate

In the School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

Nowra High students achieved outstanding results in all subject at School Certificate level which is clearly indicated in the graphs below. All subjects achieved well above state and similar school averages.

Year 7 Area
Computer Skills

Performance in Computing Skills is reported in three Bands, Highly Competent, Competent and Competence Not Demonstrated.
Higher School Certificate

In the Higher School Certificate performance is represented as the average mark achieved by students from Nowra High School in 2010 compared to the average mark achieved by Nowra High School students over the years 2006 to 2010, to the average mark achieved by students in the Similar School Group and to the average mark achieved by students at all schools in the New South Wales.

The following graphs represent the performance of students completing the Higher School Certificate at Nowra High School in 2010. Graphs are included for all subjects which had more than 10 candidates complete the course.

Violeta Gilabert achieved an outstanding result in Extension 2 English gaining full marks and eighth in the state.
Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 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. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

Percentage of Year 7 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>91.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>93.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>91.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>81.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Year 9 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above minimum standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>88.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>94.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

In 2010 seven Indigenous students completed the Higher School Certificate, twelve completed Year 11 and a further eleven completed Year 10 and gained the School Certificate.

During 2010 Mr. Larry Green, Aboriginal Education Officer, implemented a breakfast club, improved liaison with the Aboriginal Medical Service and was able to engage boys in the Men’s Group. With increased assistance making subject selections an increased number of students have elected to continue their schooling past the
School Certificate to complete the Higher School Certificate.

Year 7 and 8 students are supported in class with literacy and numeracy through the Norta Norta program providing funding to hire an In Class Tutor. Pre and post program testing indicated that all students involved in the program achieved significant improvement in their literacy and numeracy scores.

**Multicultural education**

Nowra High School provides a learning environment which is inclusive of all. Teaching programs in PDHPE, History and Geography place an emphasis on our place in the world as a country and the nature of our multicultural population.

The school has appointed and trained an Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO). Nowra High School works consistently to eliminate racism and bullying. This direction for school development is supported by the school Welfare Program and the school Anti-Bullying program.

The school has a small number of students from Language Background Other Than English and an ESL program is established for these students.

**Respect and responsibility**

Students at Nowra High School are given an extensive range of opportunities to develop respect for themselves and others and to recognise their responsibilities.

Students are involved in peer tutoring, peer support and peer mediation. Students also take an active role with our Head Teacher Welfare in formulating the Nowra High School Anti-Bullying program and participate in the Hands Across NSW welfare initiative for rural communities.

The school’s Discipline and Welfare Policies have been evaluated and redrafted to incorporate values which support the explicit adoption by students of respect and responsibility consistent with the Positive Behaviour for Success program.

**National partnership programs**

**Centre for Excellence Program**

Nowra High School was nominated for the Centre for Excellence (C4E) program for 2010 and 2011. The C4E program is part of the National Partnerships Program funded by the Federal Government concentrating on teacher quality. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of teaching in partner secondary and primary schools. The Nowra High C4E partner schools are Bomaderry and Shoalhaven High Schools and Nowra and Illaroo Road Primary Schools.

In 2010 a Highly Accomplished Teacher along with an Educational Paraprofessional were appointed. Thirty three teachers completed an orientation course for registration with the NSW Institute of teachers. Teachers from Nowra High School and partner primary schools have developed a stage 3/4 curriculum project integrating Science, Geography and Technology into a continuum from year six into year seven. High value literacy and numeracy teaching strategies have been developed and shared with partner schools along with strategies for implementing laptop computers into classroom practice.

The C4E program has also lead to the development of strong links with the University of Wollongong and the Highly Accomplished Teacher from Nowra High has taken a leading role in the pre-service training of beginning teachers.

The C4E program is a very successful educational initiative being implemented by staff from Nowra High School.

**Extension Education Committee**

Nowra High School offers a wide range of extension activities for gifted and talented students. In 2010, the school’s teams in Debating, Tournament of the Minds and Mock Trial were highly successful in regional and state competitions. Nowra High School again hosted the Regional Tournament of the Minds.

The Nowra High Junior Debating Team won the zone competition and were runners up in the
Illawarra and South East Region competition. Jasmyn Newton won the District final of the Legacy Public Speaking Competition and competed at the State finals held in Sydney. Orion Leppan-Taylor and Alannah Mangnall competed in the Regional Finals of the Plain English Speaking Awards.

Twenty students from Nowra High attended the State Debating Camp held at Batemans Bay which again demonstrates a commitment to public speaking and debating at Nowra High.

With funding assistance from the P&C students entered the ICAS competitions in 2010. A goal for 2011 is to encourage greater participation in these external assessments of academic achievement.

Talented Science students were accepted for holiday workshops at Sydney and Wollongong universities, while Sam Adhikary received the inaugural Victor Chang Award for Science Achievement in Year 11.

Head Teachers again mentored selected Year 7 to 10 students to help them develop sound study habits, encourage their achievement of excellence, and to obtain useful feedback on school programs.

Two new initiatives introduced to Nowra High School in 2010 were the Arts Festival and Science Fair. Both events encouraged the extension of students by giving them a competitive forum in which they could demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding. Judges from the community were invited to assess the quality of the students’ work. In 2011, these events will be extended to students from both local primary and secondary schools.

Progress on 2010 targets

Target 1

*Increase the number of teachers accredited by the NSW Institute of Teachers to 10% of all teaching staff.*

Our achievements include:

- Eight members of the teaching staff have successfully complete accreditation at professional competence level which represents ten percent of the Nowra High School teaching staff.
- A further 6 staff members are registered with the institute and are progressing toward accreditation at either Professional Accomplishment or Leadership level.

Target 2

*In spelling in Year 9 NAPLAN increase the percentage of students gaining a Band 8 and 10 by 1 percent and decrease the percentage of students gaining a Band 5 and 6 by 2%.*

Our achievements include:

- The percentage of students gaining a Band 8 increased by 1.6%, Band 9 increased by 1.1%.
- The percentage of students gaining a Band 10 fell by 0.8%.
- The percentage of students gaining a Band 5 and 6 rose by 1.2% and 0.9% respectively.

Target 3

*Increase the retention rate for Year 10 students 2008 to the completion of the Higher School Certificate in 2010 to 65%.*

Our achievements include:

- Retention rate from 2008 to complete the HSC in 2010 increased to 60.9% The retention rate in 2008 was 53.8%
- The retention rate for the School Education Group Nowra High belongs to was 59% and the state average retention rate was 62.7%.
- The school made significant progress toward achieving a target retention rate of 65% in 2010.
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 2010 our school carried out evaluations of the timing of the Trial Higher School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Mathematics.

Educational and management practice

Timing of the Higher School Certificate Trial Examinations

Background

The Trial Higher School Certificate examinations were moved to the last two weeks of term 2 for 2010. There was concern raised that the timing was not beneficial for all students although moving the examinations from weeks 5 and 6 term 3 removed clashes for students completing major projects and final HSC examinations.

Findings and conclusions

When students and parents were surveyed regarding the timing of the Trial HSC 51 students and 14 parents responded. 32% of students preferred weeks 9 and 10 term 2 while 31% preferred weeks 1 and 2 term 3. 42% of parents preferred weeks 9 and 10 term 2 and a further 14% preferred weeks 1 and 2 of term 3.

Significant additional findings related to the timing of the HSC Trial in 2010 were a 2% improvement in the attendance of year 12 students in term 3 compared with previous years and in almost all subjects there was an improvement in the average performance of students despite an increase in retention rate of 9% from 2008 to 2010.

In term 3 students were on task, engaged and attending until the end of the last week of term.

Future directions

After careful consideration of the survey results and feedback obtained from students, parents and staff it has been determined that the Trial HSC will be held in weeks 1 and 2 term 3. This timing will allow students to study during the winter vacation and removes the clash between the trial and final HSC examination and the submission of major works.

Curriculum

Higher School Certificate Mathematics 2 Unit

Background

The results achieved in the 2010 Higher School Certificate Mathematics 2 Unit course were disappointing compared to results achieved in previous years.

Findings and conclusions

The number of students gaining a Band 6 result equated to 3.5% of the cohort compared to 19% statewide, Band 5 14% compared to 29% statewide, Band 3 35% compared to 14% statewide and Band 2 14% compared to 5.5% statewide.

This analysis of results indicates an over representation of students achieving Bands 2 and 3 and an under representation of students gaining a Bands 6 and 5.

Future directions

The mathematics staff, year adviser, careers adviser and deputy principals will provide appropriate and timely advice to students at subject selection time to ensure that students select a level of mathematics which meets their needs and capacity.

Recognising the cumulative nature of mathematical knowledge and the need to reinforce skills the school will provide an increased range of study skills guides and past examination papers for student use. These resources will encourage students, with the guidance of staff, to engage in cyclic revision of each content area in the syllabus.

Parent and student satisfaction

In 2010 the school sought the opinions of parents and teachers about the school.

In a survey of students conducted at the end of term 4 2010 82% of students indicated they enjoyed coming to school, 94% said they felt comfortable approaching teachers for assistance,
75% said they were challenged at school, 88% of students indicated that interactions between teachers and students was positive either always or almost always.

In a survey of parents conducted in term 4 2010 95% of parents indicated that the school always or usually expected students to do their best, 97% believe that the school always or usually provides clear information about student achievement, 82% indicate that the educational needs of students are met always or usually, 82% believe the discipline system used in the school is fair, 79% believe the school communicates effectively with parents and students, 83% believe the school leadership gets the best from students and staff, 93% indicate that the students are the school’s main concern and 89% believe that the school encourages everyone to learn.

Professional learning
All staff at Nowra High School participated in professional learning in 2010. All Professional Learning was undertaken in line with the Nowra High School Plan and the Illawarra and South East Region plan.

Funds were expended in the following areas;

- Beginning Teachers $1500.00
- ICT $4856.78
- Literacy and Numeracy $5912.00
- Quality Teaching $3385.47
- Syllabus Implementation $3925.16
- Career Development $6112.08
- Welfare $6228.73
- Total Expenditure $31920.22

A further $16342 was allocated for the training of staff for the use of Laptops in the classroom as part of the Digital Education Revolution.

School Development 2011

Targets for 2011

Target 1

*In Mathematics 2 Unit increase the percentage of students gaining a Band six and five by three points and decrease the percentage of students gaining a Band 3 by five percent.*

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- introduce the Applied Mathematics course as a third option for students wishing to study Mathematics for the HSC.
- the provision of enhanced timely and appropriate advise to students at decision time when students are making subject selections to ensure students are attempting courses which meet their needs and capacity.
- providing tutorial support for students leading up to the HSC examinations.

Our success will be measured by:

- The percentage increase in the number of students gaining a Band 6 and a Band 5 result in the HSC.
- The percentage decrease in the number of students gaining a Band 3 result in the HSC.

Target 2

*Improve the rate of attendance by 2 percent to match the state average 90 percent.*

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Appoint a staff member to be responsible for improving student attendance rates.
- Ensure all records are accurately maintained and employ the support of the Home School Liaison Officer.
- Establish an attendance committee to monitor the effectiveness of attendance policies and practices in place at Nowra high School.
• Introduce awards for excellent attendance to be issued at each reporting period at school assemblies.

Our success will be measured by:

• A reduction in overall absences Year 7 to Year 12 by 2 percent

• Reduce absences in each year by the following percentages – Year 7 – 1.9%, 8 – 0.9%, 9 – 0.8%, 10 – 3.0%, 11 – 2.9% and 12 – 1.7%.

• The number of awards the school can make for excellent attendance over a year.

Target 3

Implement the Positive Behaviour for Success Program at Nowra High School with a 25% reduction in referrals for misbehavior in playground areas.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

• implement the PBS program for all years including training for staff on the recognition of positive behaviours which attract PBS merits.

• explicit instruction and training for students regarding the behaviours acceptable and consistent with Nowra High School PBS values.

• continued recognition of excellent behavior consistent with PBS values through awards, Its News to Me and assembly presentations.

Our success will be measured by:

• a 25% reduction in the number of referrals for playground misbehaviour

• an increase in the number of staff members distributing Positive Behaviour merits

• a reduction in the number of days lost to suspension for playground related incidents

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.

School contact information

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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: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr

Multipurpose Hall