School context

Berrigan Public School services a small rural community of approximately 1500 people. For over 100 years this school has provided quality public education to the children of Berrigan and the surrounding district. During that time the school has been characterised by happy and friendly students, enthusiastic and professional staff and supportive and committed parents.

The school has four classrooms, a library, hall, administration block, canteen, covered outdoor learning areas and a very large playground with great facilities provided by a very supportive and hard working Parents and Citizens Association. As a school we strive to meet the individual needs of every student in academic, social and physical domains.

The school provides a comprehensive curriculum, with quality teaching and learning programs and there is a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, technology and our environment. Best Start, L3, Reading Recovery and Accelerated Literacy are programs that operate in our school to enhance Literacy skills. The school provides opportunities for children to develop a range of skills in sporting activities, excursions and cultural pursuits culminating in a Kinder to Year 6 drama production.

We endeavour to promote a strong partnership between home and school to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. There is strong support from the local community, whose members generously share their various skills, knowledge and talents with both staff and students. The school plays an important role in the community by being involved in public speaking competitions, CWA and community presentations, attending ANZAC marches and visiting the local hospital and day care centres. We strive for and maintain a happy, friendly environment.

Principal’s message

Congratulations to our 2013 school leaders, you did a magic job, hosting our Presentation Night. Thank you to all the parents, carers and friends who came to help us celebrate our achievements of 2013. One of the most commented on highlight of the night was the strong singing of the National Anthem, both verses and no musical accompaniment. The students sounded amazing and every student knew all the words and sang with pride and feeling. Congratulations to all our prize winners and special congratulations to our Dux, Sarah Cameron.

Finally congratulations to our 2014 School leaders, Kaila Luscombe and Rory Thornton, captains, and Dana Karakai and Sam Morrow, vice captains; you have big shoes to fill but I am sure you have the ability to do so. Good luck in 2014.

Each and every student in our school has a right to feel proud of the progress they have made this year; not every student will receive an award tonight but every student has made their teachers extremely proud of their effort and progress this year.

My opening statement ‘Education is the most important thing we can give any child’; this is the philosophy that drives my staff and as one of them stated, ‘you only get one chance at education, so we as teachers need to ensure that all students in our care get the best chance’.

I would like to acknowledge my team of teachers who are very committed to their profession and our students. Thank you, Gillie Arnold, Meredith Stevenson, Robyne Sneddon, Kathryn Tait, Jo Cameron, Gemma Brockie and our latest addition Juliette Martin. Your dedication and commitment are the reasons why our students have the BEST teaching/learning experiences. I know balancing a teaching program, professional development and overall student welfare is sometimes very challenging and, somewhere in there you need to find family and me time. But you are a great team, who work well together, and I know how lucky Berrigan Public School is to have you all.
The next team I need to acknowledge is the SASS team led by Barb Fox. This team is often referred to as the quiet achievers of the school. They do a wonderful job, supporting both our teachers and your children. With more and more work load being moved to schools these people are worth their weight in gold, ask any teacher! Thank you Barb Fox, Simone Fox, Jenny Fruend, Alli Yelland and Bec Ware for the magnificent job you do and the wonderful support you give. Steve Dalgliesh and Nellie Loats are also two very valued staff members and they are the reason why our school looks so fantastic.

The other body that needs our thanks and recognition is our very supportive P & C, led by President, Keith Phillips. This very proactive group of people is a huge asset to our school. They have provided us with additional resources and programs; including sponsoring our Kinder Orientation Program and our Annual School Drama Production. The P & C are also the driving force behind our very successful Father’s Day Breakfast. We are very lucky to have such a strong partnership between the P & C and the school, and this can be attributed to Keith and his great team.

We have had many highlights this year and looking back through our newsletters and our photos of the year of 2013 we have fitted so much into 12 months. Our students have been very lucky to have been offered such a wide range of experiences, academic, sporting and cultural. They have been involved in so many activities to broaden and strengthen their overall development both in and outside the classroom.

This year a major classroom development has been the introduction of the L3 Literacy Program into our K, 1 & 2 classes. This program has been very beneficial to our students and staff; even though only Mrs Arnold and Mrs Stevenson did the training, they have passed their knowledge onto the rest of the staff and we see facets of the L3 program drifting into all classrooms.

Another big teaching change is the introduction of the new National Curriculum. The staff are already working with both the English and Mathematics curriculum; being involved in numerous professional development sessions and bringing new strategies into the classrooms.

As you are aware there are lots of changes in the Education Department and I have had many discussions with the P & C regarding these. It will be a time of change and it will impact on our school and the broader learning community. It will be challenging times and as a school community we need to ensure our students and staff are not disadvantaged because we choose to live and work in a rural environment.

To our year 6 students, ‘Good Luck’. You have been wonderful ambassadors for our school and we know you take away many wonderful memories of your time at Berrigan Public School. You are about to embark on another stage of your journey through life, take up the challenges, enjoy the ride and remember to ‘Play Your Part’ and ensure you make the most of every day and every opportunity.

In closing I once again would like to thank the parents for entrusting their children into our care, enabling us to have the best job in the world, teaching and learning with their children.

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.

Gayle Andriske
Principal
Thank you so much to my small but hardworking P & C Committee for another really successful year, what a great group of people you are to work with! Special mention to Jo Peters our canteen coordinator….thank you for keeping the hordes fed and watered!

It has been another busy year with lots of fundraising activities and events.

A major highlight was our production of “Fee Fi Fo Fum” which the P & C were delighted to sponsor. Helen Dickie does a superb job with our children and what a wonderful production it was this year. I don’t think she is allowed to retire until my son Jack hits Year six which is another 11 years away!

Thanks to all the families who have helped with the pub raffle on each Friday fortnight during the football season. It has continued to be a wonderful fundraising activity and we are immensely grateful to the Federal Hotel for giving us this opportunity. I am sure that the volunteer parents managed to enjoy a quiet beverage or two while selling the raffle tickets! We are really hopeful to continue on with it next year.

Other successful activities included the show catering, district athletics carnival, chocolate drive, Halloween fun day, our fabulous raffles but my personal highlight again this year was our third….so I think it is officially annual now….Father’s Day Breakfast. It was great to see so many of our school families with their special guests there, some who don’t get to the school that often and I hope everyone puts it in their diary for the Thursday before Father’s Day again next year.

I’ve been reliably informed that the pressure is on to come up with a Mother’s Day event so the P & C are hopeful of running a Mother’s Day gift stall next year.

It has been a great pleasure to assist the school with a variety of new equipment, books, IT assistance, Kinder Orientation and you might have noticed our fabulous school sign out the front kindly donated to us by the Department of Education and refurbished by the P & C.

I am happy to report that it looks like our fundraising has covered our spending….I think that means it has been a successful year.

Luckily we have no families leaving BPS this year but we would love to see some new ones involved at our monthly meetings. It is never a long meeting and it would be great to hear some new voices.

Good luck to those students moving on to secondary education - a small but dynamic group….lots of girls and some very obedient boys! All the best and no doubt the school will miss you. Personally I’ve got two down .....only three to go!

Thank you to Gayle and all the staff for another successful school year. Let’s hope 2014 brings more educational highlights and a bit of extra government funding!!!

Keith Phillips, President P & C

Student representative’s message

My name is Kate Arnold and I am the 2013 girl school captain. I like to think a leader is confident, a good public speaker and someone who helps others. I hope that is what Mason, Annabelle, Milly and I have achieved this year.

We have all had such fun and a great year; holding assemblies, hosting special days and nights like tonight, doing the morning teas for the classes that behave at assembly and even doing jobs like opening the toilets and standing up to bullies (these are not our favourites).
Being voted as captain by the students has made this year one of my best years at Berrigan Public School; thank you for giving me the privilege of leading you.

As school captain we have to help teachers and peers, do a lot of public speaking and help in many other ways, even temporarily blinding ourselves whilst setting the message on our brand new sign!! I think the school should invest in some sunglasses for next year’s captains.

Being a captain is a great experience and it has been even better sharing this role with 2 other girls and Mason; I am sorry Mason if we have been bossy, but 3 girls onto 1 boy……what do you expect?

The teachers here are so great at keeping the school moving, teaching us all we need to know and creating a safe environment. But also they are so lucky to have awesome students like all of us who help them. We all know the teachers need something special to help them deal with us all….for some it is coffee….for others it is red liquorice, I bet they are looking forward to a holiday and some peace and quiet.

Good luck to the 2014 school captains, I hope you have an amazing year like we did……and just remember badge or no badge you are all still leaders, do us proud Berrigan Public.

My name is Mason Peters, for those who don’t know I am Berrigan Public School boy captain for 2013.

I have been at this school for all of my 7 primary years. I remember starting in kinder with Mrs Arnold such a long time ago.

As I said I have been here for 7 years that’s such a long time, but in those seven years I have done and learnt so much.

Last year when I was in Year 5, 5/6 got to have Mrs Tait again as our teacher. We had her in 1/2, then Mrs Stevenson in 3/4 and Mrs Arnold in Kinder.

In Year 2 I can remember Mrs Tait ringing mum up so she could come to the school to talk to her, I thought ,’Oh no, I’m in deep trouble’. But it was exciting news, Mrs Tait wanted me to swim in the relay swimming team with Tom and Zeke who were the school captains two years ago and Lachie who was an awesome swimmer, and little grade two, ME. We made it all the way to Albury.

I have been swimming champion from Year 3 to Year 6, just like my big brother Tyson, who was also vice-captain.

I have been involved with peer support where students and leaders participate in activities with all the students, K to 6.

One of the great rewards that captains give is a special morning tea for the best class who listens in Friday assembly to each year level.

I have learnt about leadership, responsibility, being a good role model and most of all fun.

The last and most important thing in my primary years is that I was lucky to be elected the only boy school captain with the three girls, Kate, Annabelle and Milly.

So I will finish with…..“Primary school is the most fun time of my life and next year I’m the new Kindy”.

Kate Arnold and Mason Peters
Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

Enrolments have remained stable over the past six years. Numbers are impacted with matters such as families moving to seek employment and the availability of rental properties within the township of Berrigan.

Student attendance profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>92.5</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>95.3</td>
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<td>92.8</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>95.8</td>
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<td>96.5</td>
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<td>94.6</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>95.5</td>
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Management of non-attendance

Attendance at school is a high priority at Berrigan Public School.

Strategies to improve the students’ attendance rates include: monitoring of attendance data, information regarding the importance of attendance published in the weekly newsletter, follow up with parents and careers of absent students, letters of concern sent to parents whose children are exhibiting a high rate of absenteeism and referral of students to the Home School Liaison Officer for additional support as required.

Workforce information

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

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>3.336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.417</td>
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The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

There are no Indigenous personnel employed at the school in 2013.
Teacher qualifications

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
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Financial summary

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

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<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>Global funds</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching &amp; learning</strong></td>
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<td>Key learning areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1822.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Utilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trust accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>232565.30</td>
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<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>115638.73</td>
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School performance 2013

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

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.

Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name (Berrigan Public School) in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

Other achievements

Looking back through our newsletters and our photos of the year of 2013 we have fitted so much into 12 months, our students have been very lucky to have been offered such a wide range of experiences - academic, sporting and cultural. They have been involved in so many activities to broaden and strengthen their overall development both in and outside the classroom.

A full copy of the school’s 2013 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meeting of the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
Major highlights in the arts are:

The Annual School Drama Production - This year the students performed ‘Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum’, directed by Mrs Helen Dickie. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students, from Kindergarten to Year 6 to perform on stage, in front of live audiences, dressed in costume and full make up. Mrs Dickie's tuition and high expectations enable our senior students to perform at an exceptional level and their growth during the term is amazing. Our very supportive P & C financed our drama program and production.

Aspire Me’ Art and Drama Camps - Our Year 5/6 students were given the opportunity to participate in the S.W. Riverina Regional Art and Drama camps working with local artists and drama coaches. At the conclusion of both camps students were able to showcase their achievements at an art exhibition in Deniliquin and a drama production in Oaklands.

Monologue Program - Our Year 5/6 participated in this program, coached by Mrs Helen Dickie. ‘Monologues are thoughts of a person spoken out aloud and involves telling a story’; it is performed without support from other actors or sets. Congratulations and accolades were given to Mrs Dickie and our Year 5/6 students on the excellent presentation of their monologues.

Lion’s Club Public Speaking - Congratulations to our 13 students who presented speeches at the Lions’ Club Public Speaking Competition. The standard and delivery was excellent. Max Cameron from Year 4 won the Year 3/4 section and travelled to Finley to represent Berrigan Lions’ Club at the district level of the competition.
‘Aspire Me’ School Spectacular Excursion - Two of our Year 5 boys, Rory Thornton and Sam Morrow, were part of the ‘Aspire Me’ School Spectacular Excursion. Along with 36 other students from 14 schools across our S.W. Riverina region, Rory and Sam travelled to Sydney. In Sydney, they participated in numerous creative arts activities and the excursion culminated with the students being part of the audience for the 2013 School Spectacular.

Major Excursions this year were:

Albury Excursion for Year 3/4/5/6 Students - All of our Year 3 to Year 6 students travelled to the Albury Entertainment Centre to see the live performance of ‘Emily Eyefinger’. This excursion complimented our English and PD Learning areas.

Year 3/4 Excursion - Year 3/4 students had the best time visiting Phillip Island for their 2013 excursion. From the time the bus departed Berrigan Public School at 6.45am on Tuesday until they returned at 7.00pm Thursday night, the students were very busy. The resort’s grounds were beautiful and featured 3 giant swings, low and high rope courses, flying foxes, swimming pools plus numerous initiative courses and a favourite with our students the ‘Circotron’ experience. The students also experienced a walk along ‘The Nobbies Boardwalk’, seeing the blowhole and the spectacular seas as the winds blew. They saw Seal Rocks, home to Australia’s largest Australian fur seal colony, drove past the Grand Prix circuit, saw the Penguin Parade, a fascinating experience watching the penguins return from the sea at sunset, and also fed the pelicans at San Remo.

Year 5/6 Excursion - Our Year 5/6 students had a very full week visiting their state capital, Sydney. They travelled with the Year 5/6 students and staff from Jerilderie Public School. They visited the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney Aquarium, IMAX Theatre, Sydney Observatory, Sydney Tower Eye and Taronga Zoo.

Wonga Wetlands - Our K/1/2 students travelled to Albury to visit Wonga Wetland. The day was very interesting. They went bird watching, bug hunting and then after lunch were real scientists. They found some tiny water bugs called macroinvertibrates!!
Sporting Highlights for 2013:

Sports House Captains and Vice Captains for 2013 - Momalong captains, Dominic Johnson and Kaila Luscombe, vice captains Sam Morrow and Dana Karakai. Algudgerie captains, Imogen Cameron and Lachlan McLennan, vice captains Sarah Cameron and Bailey Thornton.

BPS Swimming Carnival - Congratulations to Algudgerie, the 2013 champion swimming sports house. 2013 swimming champions: Junior girl Lucy Phillips; Junior boy Nick Arnold; 11 years girl Amelia Alexander; 11 years boy Lachlan McLennan; Senior Girl Annabelle Phillips and Senior boy Mason Peters.

Cross Country Carnival - Our cross country this year was a joint venture with Jerilderie Public School. 2013 Cross Country champions: 8/9 years Lucy Phillips and Nick Arnold, 10 years Allyssa Thornton and Max Cameron, 11 years Dana Karakai and Josh McQualter, 12 years Imogen Cameron and Mason Peters.

Athletics Carnival - It was a great day and our K/1/2 students had a lot of fun participating in their mini carnival. 2013 Athletic Champions:- Junior Girl - Lucy Phillips; Junior Boy – Nick Arnold; 11 Years Girl - Amelia Alexander; 11yrs Boys - Allan Gardiner & Josh McQualter; Senior Girl - Imogen Cameron and Senior Boy - Mason Peters. Algudgerie was our champion athletics house for 2013.
Finley District Representatives:
Swimming - Lucy Phillips, Nick Arnold, Milly Alexander, Kate Arnold, Sarah Cameron, Annabelle Phillips
Tennis - Josh McQualter, Sam Morrow, Imogen Cameron
Netball - Kate Arnold, Kaila Luscombe, Imogen Cameron
Cross Country - Lucy Phillips, Alissa Thornton, Max Cameron, Josh McQualter
AFL - Mason Peters, Josh McQualter, Sam Morrow
Athletics - Lucy Phillips, Shae Fennell, Allan Gardiner

Riverina Representatives:
Swimming - Lucy Phillips
Tennis - Imogen Cameron

JeriBerries State Knock Out Competitions - Our students combine with Jerilderie Public School students to compete in the State Knock Out Competitions. This year we competed in softball, cricket, netball, tennis and AFL. Our most successful team was the cricket making the quarter finals before being beaten.

Hip Hop Dance Program - Students from K-6 received instruction from dance tutor, Kendal, an instructor from the Activate Group.com.au. It was wonderful watching the growth and development of all the children’s’ dance skills.

AASC (Active After School Care) - This is a free activity sponsored by the Australian Government and once again our school participated in this program. Mrs Rebecca Ware was the coordinator and coach for AASC this year and she was assisted by the school staff. There was a variety of activities offered to the students including aquatics, frisbee, golf, soccer, dance, basketball, lawn bowls and athletics.

Golf PE Lessons - Supplementing our AASC program on golf we were very lucky to obtain the services of Mr David Brockie, a professional golf instructor, to work with our students on the skills and strategies of golf. Golf is a very popular game as a sport, hobby and even a professional career, if your talent and perseverance indicates potential.

Student Leadership Highlights and Activities:
Wind Surfing - The Year 5/6 students travelled to Yarrawonga to participate in a day of windsurfing. This excursion is a leadership activity designed to develop the skills of trust, confidence, team work, responsibility and respect.
Young Leaders Day - Our school captains and vice captains travelled to Melbourne and joined many school leaders from across the state at the Young Leaders Day. The National Young Leaders Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values among young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multi-media presentations and interactive learning that seeks a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves as others well. Guest speakers this year included Dan Jackson, Ruben Meerman, Creel Price and Sussan Holmes.

Peer Support - The whole school participated in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week during Term 2. Our leaders had a 2 day training session in the Peer Support Program. Two peer leaders from Year 5/6 facilitated a small group of 8-10 younger students, who worked together through a number of structured activities.

Remembrance Day - Our school leaders conducted a Remembrance Service in our school. They informed the students about the Vietnam War, the part the Navy plays in Australian’s defences, why we wear red poppies on Remembrance Day and the Christmas Truce that occurred in the First World War. The Last Post was played followed by a minute of silence and the National Anthem. Our school leaders also represented the school at the Berrigan Remembrance Service.

SRC/ Fundraising Activities:

SRC Fundraising for Diabetics - 'Guess the Number of Jelly Babies in the Bottle' activity was part of the SRC Diabetics fundraising effort for the month of May. The SRC also sold packets of jelly babies at recess and lunch. All together the students raised $635.00.
**Genes for Jeans** - Congratulations to our SRC, who initiated the Genes for Jeans day at school. They raised $96.15 on the day.

**Dress-Up Day** - What a wonderful day our students had on SRC Dress-up Day; someone commented on how much our students love to dress up. Nearly 100% of our students participated in the day and had a great time. A bonus, the SRC raised enough money to buy a new broom for the sport’s shed.

**Footy Colours Day** - A very successful fundraising day was held by our senior leaders. They began the day by inviting our students to come to school dressed in their favourite footy colours. The students were asked to donate a gold coin towards the Cancer Foundation and the students raised $78.25. The leaders held a footy tabloid afternoon for all students, K-6.

**Halloween Day** - What an interesting and fun day-fantastic costumes, brilliantly decorated patty cakes and great sausages. The Year 6 students raised money to purchase their farewell gift for the school, which was presented on Presentation Night-a new school banner.

**Crazy Hair Day** – We had a wonderful turn out of students and staff with crazy hairstyles. There were lots of magic photos taken and lots of great follow-up, both verbally and in written forms. The school raised $118.20 for the Leukaemia Foundation, a great effort!
Mufti Day - A fundraising Mufti Day was generated by four of our senior students; Kate Arnold, Annabelle Phillips, Millie Alexander and Sarah Cameron. The girls asked permission to sell cupcakes, which they cooked and decorated, to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. They also asked if the children could come in casual clothing, so we had a Mufti Day. The cakes sold for a dollar each and students donated money to the cause. This was a wonderful initiative of the girls and they are to be commended.

School and Community Programs and Activities:

CWA - Year 6 are to be congratulated on their presentation at the CWA International Day. The country for this year was Morocco and even a major technological drama didn't stop the class from performing. Well done Year 6.

Writing Group - The school is extremely lucky to be able to finance an extension writing program for students in our school. Mrs Gemma Brockie worked with students from Kinder to Year 6 every Tuesday in Term 4. This program was very successful.

Creative Catchment Kids Program - Our students Rory Thornton, Sam Morrow, Sarah Cameron and Imogen Cameron have all been involved in writing a book about someone from the community who is involved in Environmental Activities. The person the students chose was Mrs Maree Ryan. The students travelled to Deniliquin to celebrate the release of their book and to share it with other schools. The students under the guidance of Mrs Simone Fox have done a marvelous job.

Lunchtime Activities - Mrs Fruend had her special lunchtime fun activities program again this year. She opened the hall to our students at lunch time and the students were able to participate in activities like lego, block building construction, iPad activities, drawing, colouring, music appreciation, movies, puzzle activities and the list is ever expanding. This year included a very popular talent quest. This is a very popular program and it provides students with alternative activities to participate in at lunch time.

Kindergarten Transition - Our Kindergarten Transition Program was a wonderful program sponsored by the P & C. It provided a great opportunity to introduce prospective 2014 Kindergarten students to our school. It ran every Friday in Term 4 for two hours.
Father's Day Breakfast - We had a wonderful Father's Day breakfast and what a fantastic job the P & C did providing for over 100 guests. Thank you to everyone - P & C, students, staff and parents for making this a very special occasion at Berrigan Public School. Not only did the Dads get breakfast, they were entertained by a slide show featuring every student's reasons why Dad, Pop, Uncle, Stepdad etc. was a special person to them. The visitors also received a beautiful, individualised placemat designed by the students as well being entertained by the students' rendition of the song 'My Dad Snores'.

Bike-a-thon - What an event! We had some amazing students riding around the track, which was approximately 3km, not just once, but numerous times. Congratulations to all our students, 100% participation, a fantastic effort! Bonus, we raised $1145 with student sponsorship.

Education Week Celebrations - As part of our celebrations for Education Week we had an 'Open Classroom Morning' on Wednesday 31st, where parents, grandparents & friends were invited to visit our school. The theme for the year was 'Sharing Our Stories' and the classes decided to share their 'stories' or class activities with both the parents and their school mates. The students toured all the school and shared their work with both parents and peers. After all the tours were finished we had an assembly to present the Principal's Awards, followed by a 'cuppa'.

Music Program - Mrs Sneddon, Mrs Tait, Mrs Ware and Mrs Simone Fox attended a music in-service. They put the new skills learnt into action. Students have been participating in activities involving rhythm, beat, moving to music, hearing music from different cultures and becoming familiar with musical language terms. At a special assembly, Years 3/4/5/6 displayed a snapshot of their musical endeavours.

Speech Therapy - The school employed the services of Stephanie Whyte, Speech Pathologist, to assess and follow up our students' speech development. The school is using our Low SES National Partnership funding to provide this service. All our Kindergarten students, as part of their orientation were assessed by Stephanie and any concerns were passed onto parents and staff. This is a wonderful service that we were able to offer our students.
Life Education Van - A visit from 'Healthy Harold' is a favourite time of the year for our students. The Life Education Van was at our school for 2 days and all students had a chance to visit and hear some very important Personal Development and Health messages. The highlight of every student, whether they are in Kindergarten or Year 6, is the chat with Harold. He is a favourite icon and many parents remember his visit from when they were at school.

Amaroo Fete - The annual Amaroo Fete saw a large number of our students, K-6, performing two songs. It was a wonderful community venture.

Anzac Day - Anzac Day fell in the second week of the holidays. As is the tradition of the school the students are invited to march in the Berrigan town march. After the march the students, sang at the Anzac Service in a combined choir with St Columba’s. The captains laid a wreath at the service. The captains and vice captains also conducted a school Anzac Service.

African Dolls - Year 3/4 have been making African Dolls to send to the disadvantaged children in South Africa. This has been a great project that has involved a lot of different community groups and individuals. Thank you to Jenny Congdon, town librarian for coordinating the project. The children had a great time making the dolls and designing accessories. They would love to have kept them but they do understand how much they will be loved by the little children in South Africa.

Environmental Activities
Energy Savers - “Close the fridge door; and the microwave door too; don’t forget the TV. Saving energy is hard work and you can’t be lazy and let the electrical vampires suck all your money away.” Years 3/4 and 5/6 learnt how to save money and electricity the proper way with Bob, Bernard and Rio. Sarah Cameron very clearly and cleverly introduced us to a great visit from the Energy Savers Performance Group. This group highly engaged our students on how to save
energy, giving lots of information and presenting a special visitor, Bob the Origin mascot.

**Tree Planting Activities** - Working with Maree Ryan, our students participated in a school tree planting session, planting trees in our environmental garden. It is wonderful that Maree and the committee have identified our school as a project to support.

**Environmental Garden** - Our Environmental Garden is beginning to take shape. Mrs Maree Ryan was responsible for organising and coordinating planting our outside perimeters. We are also very grateful to Mike Waters and Barry Eckley from Albury who are our volunteer designers, grant application writers and shovel wielders. Along with Steve Dalgliesh, our general assistant, they are making inroads into the design and development of the garden.

We are also indebted to Keith Phillips and Steve Fox who are providing supplies, labour and machinery to develop the garden.

**Special Awards**

**Berrigan Shire Australia Day Competition** - Congratulations to two of our Year 5 students, Lachlan McLennan and Dana Karakai, who were awarded with a $30 iTunes voucher as prizes in the Berrigan Shire Australia Day Competition ‘I like living in Australia’. Last year these students had to write and or create a picture about why it was great to live in Australia.

**High Distinction and Distinction Award for ICAS Participant** - Congratulations to Shae Fennell, from Year 3, who received a high distinction in the ‘International Competition and Assessments for Schools’ (ICAS) Science Assessment. The ICAS assessments are independent skills-based assessments involving students from all over Australia, New Zealand and Pacific region. The high distinction places Shae in the top 1% of all students who sat the test. Shae also received a
distinction in Maths and English. All our students in Year 3 to Year 6 have the chance to sit these competition assessments.

‘Tidy Town’ Award – Berrigan Public School won a Highly Commended award in the School Environment section of the Tidy Town Competition this year. We are so proud of our school and our students who did a fantastic job showcasing our school. Considering this is a state competition it was a terrific achievement. The school community would also like to congratulate the other winners in Berrigan. What great results for our great little town.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal education is an integral part of all curriculum areas. This helps develop positive attitudes and understandings about Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary Aboriginal Australia.

Multicultural education

Teachers K-6 designed learning experiences in which students discussed their family heritage and cultural backgrounds. The content was visible in student work and classroom displays.

Students in Years 5 and 6 showcased their work through a country study as part of the Country Women’s Association. This year the students educated the local community about Morocco.

The school “Human Society and its Environment” Scope and Sequence has a focus on learning about other cultures across all stages.

Year 3/4 were involved in a community based program, making dolls for disadvantaged children
in Africa. This activity was coordinated by the local town library.

Transitional Equity Funding

Once again students at Berrigan Public School were provided with a range of innovative and educational programs using the funds provided by the Transitional Equity Funding. The programs this year included:

- An opportunity for Year 6 to undertake a range of Leadership activities such as participating in the Rising Generations Student Leadership Day, school leaders travelling to Melbourne to the leadership day and all Years 5 and 6 students learning to wind surf.
- Assistance with excursions and opportunities to attend cultural and sporting activities, including the live play, “Emily Eye Finger”, in Albury.
- Provided small group learning opportunities and enabled the purchase of resources to support student learning.
- School based performances at the school including “Solid State Circus”, “Energy Savers” and “Life Education Van”.
- Hip Hop Dance instruction for all students K-6.

National partnerships and significant Commonwealth initiatives (participating schools only)

In 2013 Berrigan Public School received additional funding under the Low SES Communities National Partnership program. As a result of the implementation of a range of programs the achievements include:

- In Years 3-6 90% of students are independent readers reading at a Level 26+.
- 70% increase in the number of students K-6 receiving awards for acknowledgement of progress in the Home Reading Program.
- All students have demonstrated some growth in reading/comprehension.
- No Year 3 student was below the National Benchmark.
- NAPLAN data in spelling showing positive trends.
- Increased understanding about the importance of attending every day and on time evidenced by reduced partial absences and late arrivals.
- NAPLAN numeracy results show positive aspects with school trend data.
- Learning community schools continued to join together to promote learning opportunities including school development days where all schools worked together to provide stage appropriate activities to support the introduction of the new syllabus.
- Increased numbers of parent/community volunteers supporting literacy programs by reading with students.
- Representative from each family participating in the Term 1 Two Way information session-100% attendance K-6.

School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- Interviews were conducted with members of the school community, including the following: members of staff, students and P & C.
- Analysis of policies and programs, plans, budgets, meeting minutes, assessment information, communications, program evaluations and other documents seen by the school as informing the review.
- Classroom and program observations and evaluations.
• Student achievement data including external such as NAPLAN and teacher assessment; and
• School attendance data.

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1
Literacy and Numeracy

Outcomes from 2012–2014
• Increase by 12% the number of students achieving the top bands in reading and writing.
• Growth in spelling results for all students K-6 as measured by school assessment data.
• School attendances improved from 2012 by 1%.
• Increased proportion of K-2 students at a proficient standard of reading comparable to Reading Recovery levels: Year 2 - 75% at RR level 26 plus; Year 1 - 75% to achieve RR level 18 plus; Kindergarten - 80% to achieve RR level 9.
• Student outcomes in Numeracy to continue to reflect growth rates that equate to schools with similar students as reported by ACARA.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• NAPLAN results indicate:
  o Year 3 Reading Band 6 2012 – 18.2% to 2013 27.3% and Band 5 2012 – 27.3% 2013 27.3%
  o Writing 2012 Band 6 2012 18.2% to 2013 18.2% and Band 5 2012 9.1% to 2013 63.6%
• In Years 3-6 90% of students are independent readers, Level 26+.
• Weekly spelling tests and benchmark testing, show improved progress for over 75% of students.
• School attendance rates continue to grow for the fourth year.
• The proportion of students at the nominated Reading Recovery levels in November 2013 was Year 2, 75%, Year 1 75% and Kindergarten 75%.
• Upward trending lines are evident for Numeracy on ACARA data.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014
• Employment of School Learning Support Officers (SLSO) to work within the whole school during Literacy and Numeracy to support the teaching/learning programs with emphasis on smaller groups and individual programs.
• Implementation of occupational and speech therapy programs in the school.
• Professional learning activities for staff on using the Numeracy and Literacy Continuums to support student learning.
• Shared understanding across the learning community on the new English and Mathematics syllabus and assessment.
• Conducting a whole school writing program targeting the development and consolidation of writing skills.

School priority 2
Quality Teaching

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Continue to develop teacher quality through planned professional learning, networking, sharing of resources and best practice.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
• Learning community schools continued to join together to promote learning opportunities including Staff Development Days (SDD) where all schools worked together to provide stage appropriate activities to support the introduction of the new syllabus.
• Attendance of all support staff at the Riverina SASS Conference Forums
implementing learning to support students for example “iPad at lunch time” technology sessions.

- Teaching and support staff learning together at the Riverina Teaching and Learning forums in Terms 2 and 3.
- Two teaching staff undertaking L3 training and the sharing of resources with positive feedback from observations by program mentors of staff involved in the training.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Working as a member of the BiJOU (Berrigan, Jerilderie, Oaklands & Urana Schools) learning community to source and facilitate the delivery of professional learning.
- Participation in nominated events linked to the school plan via online or web deliver delivery and face-to-face.
- SASS team involved in network activities as well as participating in capacity building opportunities linked to the major reforms being implemented.
- Implementing a mentoring program within and across schools to support staff and to increase knowledge and skills.

Professional learning

All staff are involved in ongoing professional learning. During 2013 both support and teaching staff were involved in a range of activities that were linked to the school plan. The activities included:

- Opportunities to increase confidence in analysing data and using the continuums to track students and therefore support teaching/learning.
- Two teachers undertaking training in the literacy program L3.
- Participation in a music professional learning day as well as a one day “Learn to Teach Golf” day.
- The support staff undertook a range of professional learning activities to increase skill levels. This provides them with an increase in the understanding of the programs operating in the classroom. This has included job shadowing, looking at best practice in other locations and targeted workshops.
- Support staff participating in the Riverina SASS Conference.
- Engaging in professional learning, accessing this through a wide range of modes including video conferencing, Adobe Connect, shared school development days, one day events, conferences, teaching and learning forums and job shadowing.
- Updating all staffs First Aid, Emergency Care and CPR qualifications.
- Principal attending the required trainings including the Riverina Principals Conference, Riverina PPA Conference and Essential Training sessions in Deniliquin.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school in particular the school production.

Their responses are presented below.

- All groups agreed that the school production was a very valuable school program.
- All groups acknowledged the way in which the production supported students to develop and strengthen a range of skills and personal attributes like increased self-confidence.
- Staff and parents acknowledged the support of the P & C in funding this program.
- Staff supported the running of the production on a biannual basis where as parents supported the current arrangement of an annual production.
• Staff acknowledged the outstanding support of the school community assisting with the production and in their willingness to support the school and their children on the night.
• Students from K-6 stated how much they enjoyed performing and being in the play.
• Year 6 outlined many positive aspects around their involvement including developing confidence, learning to speak, everyone in Year 6 having a leadership role in or with the play and how it will help them in the future.

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.

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