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Annual Report 2023 *(Based on 2022 data)*

Blackall Range Independent School is a non-denominational, independent school operating on the Sunshine Coast for over 40 years.

All programs are aligned with the Australian National Curriculum.



Contextual Information

School Sector:

Independent

Year Levels Offered:

Prep – Year 12

Co-educational or Single Sex:

Co-educational

Characteristics of the Student Body:

Blackall Range Independent School appeals to students and families from across the Sunshine Coast region, from Caloundra to Noosa and across the Hinterland Range. The school embraces diversity amongst its school population, celebrating the individuality of each school member. The school has always maintained solid links with homeschooling families and many of the students have come from a homeschooling background. At Blackall Range Independent School, there is a community emphasis woven into the curriculum with opportunities for peer mentoring encouraged. Blackall Range Independent School's community emphasis around curriculum merges with our goals to ensure our students' social and emotional wellbeing is the foundation of all we do at the school. Blackall Range Independent School values student voice when considering, planning, and developing curriculum.

Total Enrolments:

In 2021, Blackall Range Independent School recorded 96 students in the Commonwealth Census. Of the 96 students, 50 were primary students and 46 were secondary students. In 2022, Blackall Range Independent School recorded 88 students in the Commonwealth Census. Of the 88 students, 46 were primary students and 42 were secondary students.

Extra-curricular Activities:

Athletics Carnival: P-12 students spend the day participating in athletics events.

Clean-up Australia Day: P-12 students go to a local location and clean up the environment.

School Camp: Every 2 years, students in Year 4-12 have the opportunity to participate in school camp. The camp goes for 3 days and 2 nights.

Science Week: P-12 students rotated through 6 different stations throughout the day focusing on the Glass Theme for 2022 Science Week.

Book Week: Students come dressed as their favourite book character. Old time games played on the oval include Egg and Spoon, 3-Legged Race, Sack Races and Tug-of-War.

Winterfire and sleepover: This event is a community event with families, students, staff and friends invited to attend. The event begins with the Acknowledgement of Country, placing of wishes in the firepit, lighting the fire, picnic on the oval whilst enjoying the singing and musical talents of our students. The evening ends with students sleeping over in their classrooms and watching a movie.

End of Year Fun Day: The P&F hired an inflatable water slide this year for the P-3 students.

End of Year Outing: In 2020 the Yr4 – 9 students enjoyed an outing to the Bli Bli Aqua Park.

Gratitude Makerspace: The P&F made a creative space for students to come into and make something for a special person around Mother's and Father's Days. The students loved it.

Kids In Action: Each year the Year 4-5 students represent the school and participate in the Kids In Action program, developing and presenting their learning from their project to other local primary schools.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings:

In 2022 Blackall Range continued to offer specialized teaching in **Art and Music Programs** for students.

Our **Kitchen Garden Program:** A team of two deliver the program: one team member working in the Garden with students and the other team member in the Kitchen teaching student's food preparation and nutrition using the fresh produce from the garden, including eggs from the chickens. The school subscribes to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The weekly Tuckshop provides meals produced by a group of students from Year 2 to Seniors working with the Kitchen Garden Team. The students also prepare refreshments for special events such as the Gratitude High Tea. Often the students are involved in Pizza making for events using our Cob Oven. Classes utilize the garden, with the Year 4-5 class working closely with the school's pond and ecosystem for their Kids In Action project.

Workshops: Thursday afternoon Workshops are held. Students select the Workshop they would like to participate in for four weeks at a time. Workshops may include sport, clay, independent studies, movie making, Lego, science experiments, drama, dancing, and art activities. Frequently the students run workshops e.g., nature craft and Dungeons and Dragons.

Health and Physical Education: The school offers HPE to students in Prep to Year 10, with students participating in weekly lessons. Lessons involve a variety of different sports and health and wellbeing topics. Students in Year 11 and 12 have the opportunity to participate in weekly recreational outings, giving students a chance to get out and about in the community. Recreational outings include activities such as bush walks, beach visits and bowling.

Workforce Information

Qualifications of all Teachers:

Qualification	Detail the percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school who hold this qualification
Doctorate or higher	
Masters	
Bachelor	100%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Staff Composition, Including Indigenous Staff:

The teaching staff employed in 2021 have an extensive range of skills:

Principal: In 2018 the school was able to support a fulltime Principal position. The principal who identifies as a First Nations person, holds a Bachelor of Primary Education and has experience working with students with a disability from Prep to Year 12, and also multi-aged classroom teaching.

Primary School

Prep – Year 1: Fulltime Classroom Teacher - who has experience teaching internationally.

Year 2 - 3: Fulltime Classroom Teacher – Experienced Senior Teacher

Year 4 - 5: Fulltime Classroom Teacher. Also holds a degree in Nursing.

Year 6: Fulltime Classroom Teacher in the Year 6-7 classroom- who has experience teaching internationally.

Secondary School

Year 7- 12:

1 x Fulltime Teacher: English, Media Arts and Technologies

1 x Fulltime Teacher: Science, Math and Technologies

1 x Part-time Teacher: HASS/SACS, HPE and coordinates VET and Senior pathways.

1 x Part-time Teacher: Math and Science

Specialist Secondary Teachers

1 x Specialist Teacher: delivering Art lessons from P – 10, HPE lessons from P-6 and LOTE lessons from P-8. They also work in Special Needs 1 day a week.

1 x Music Teacher: delivers music and instrumental lessons from P-10.

1 x Special Needs: facilitates inclusive education, classroom support/intervention, IEP and EAP process, and NCCD.

Teachers were supported in the classroom by 5 **Teacher Aides** and a **Trainee Teacher Aide**, who worked across the school to support students in classrooms.

Social Welfare Officer: 3 days a week.

Community Project Officer: 10 hrs. a week. Creation and maintenance of school garden.

Kitchen Garden Coordinator: 10 hrs. a week. Qualified **Chef** and Teacher Aide Worked with students to create healthy, nutritious meals.

Bus Drivers: Split fulltime shift. The school services two bus routes covering from Yandina in the North to Forest Glen in the South and the Hinterland towns.

The non-teaching staff consisted of 3 part and full-time **Administration** staff and one part-time **IT Technician**.

Expenditure on and participation in teacher professional development

a) Teacher Participation in Professional Development

Description of PD activity
IT Training
First Aid Training
QCAA Curriculum V.9
PC Schools Conference
Science in Practice- Senior Schooling
Science of Reading Course
The school also attends and participates in a wide variety of free ISQ PD's either online or face-to-face. In 2022, the school also attended ISQ's Small Schools Forum and Tour. From that forum and tour, the school hosted multiple visits and tours to local independent schools across the year.

b) Expenditure on Professional Development

Total Number of Teachers	Total expenditure on teacher PD (as recorded in Financial Questionnaire)	Average expenditure on PD per teacher
12	\$1423.16	\$118.60
The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2021		\$4,958.78

The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2022	100%
The major professional development initiatives were as follows: Strategies to work successfully with students on the spectrum, upskilling teachers to better understand curriculum areas of passion and IT training to help support changes in the classroom and teaching climate (online teaching).	

Funding Information

School Income Broken Down by Funding Source

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/48028/finances>

Social Climate

The school is part of the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program and as such employs a dedicated **Student Welfare Officer**.

The Welfare Officer offers programs to students and families including individual and family support and referrals, student mediation, leadership programs, family and parent workshops and staff support.

In addition to this the Welfare Officer coordinates links to community programs and resources for students such as conferences, camps and community services (TRU and Family Planning) to enhance the students social and emotional experiences at school.

Ripple Kindness Project – Spreading Kindness and having a Gratitude Attitude is our approach to creating a social climate within the school that promotes student well-being.

Circle Meeting – held once a week which allows students the opportunity to have a voice in the school’s decision-making process.

Be The Change: Students worked together to make a positive change around an issue that they felt strongly about: reforestation, homelessness, visiting the elderly, cleaning up beaches, wildlife care.

Parent Involvement:

Community is integral to the philosophy of the school. When a student is enrolled in the school the whole family becomes part of the community. The positive effect of parental involvement on the school environment is acknowledged.

Parents are encouraged to join the P&F and attend monthly meetings. The President meets with the Principal the following week to develop action plans. This results in the P&F becoming a very strong and supportive presence in the school. They view their role as helping to create a caring community and to fundraise for resources and experiences for the benefit of the students.

When Covid-19 restrictions are not in place parents are very welcome in the classrooms to work with the students including hearing them read. This is become very hard to facilitate equitably with

Parents are also elected on to the School Executive and therefore play a vital role in the decisions that impact the future direction of the school.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School:

In 2022 Blackall Range Independent School didn't undertake an annual survey of parents, student, and teachers. However, the school retained all staff and enrolment numbers across the entire school varied by 8 students. The school has an extremely large number of students and families on our wait list.

Student Outcomes

Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school:

The average student attendance rate for the whole school in 2022 was 83.8%.

Average student attendance rate for each year level:

Year levels	Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2022
Prep	87.7%
Year 1	86.3%
Year 2	88.4%
Year 3	87.2%
Year 4	89.4%
Year 5	86.7%
Year 6	85.2%
Year 7	81.5%
Year 8	76.2%
Year 9	83.7%
Year 10	79.5%
Year 11	80.8%
Year 12	79.7%

A description of how non-attendance is managed by the school:

Individual student attendance is monitored by the classroom teacher primarily. Daily absence check-ins are completed by admin staff entering attendance data. Should concerns arise, there is a process of communication and consultation with parents/families and, if necessary, the Principal.

NAPLAN results for Years 3, 5 and 7 and 9 in 2022:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/48028/naplan/results>

Year 12 Outcomes:

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort 2022	
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	5
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement at the end of Year 12	1
<p>During 2022 Blackall Range Independent School had 7 Year 12 students graduate from the school. Of the 7 students, 5 students received a Queensland Certificate of Education and 1 received a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement upon graduation. In 2022 Blackall Range Independent School Graduation Week consisted of a formal held at, The Waterfront Hotel, with the Year 12 students arriving in a stretch limousine for their big night. Their last Friday morning began with a breakfast at school with their families, followed by a school graduation ceremony and community clap out.</p>	

Post-school Destination Information:

Within our 2022 Year 12 cohort, Blackall Range Independent School post-school engagement includes education and training and employment. From our cohort, students have engaged in either the workforce or further study, with one student completing Head Start and being accepted into their university degree.

Contact Person for Further Information:

Name: Eva Carless Title: Principal