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Annual Report 2024 *(Based on 2023 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 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. In 2023, the school recorded 92 students in the Commonwealth Census. Of the 92 students, 52 were primary students and 40 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 Science Week theme.

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: 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 a group of 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 2023 Blackall Range continued to offer specialized teaching in The Art's with students studying Visual Arts, Music and Drama.

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 pizza oven (that was donated and built by the P&F). Classes utilize the garden, with classes having sessions within the space to learn about caring and maintain a garden and chicken care.

Workshops: Friday afternoon Workshops are held. Students select the Workshop they would like to participate in for that afternoon, by signing up during the week. Workshops may include sport, clay, board games, movie making, Lego, science experiments, drama, dancing, and art activities. Frequently the students run workshops e.g., nature craft, Henna and Dungeons and Dragons.

Health and Physical Education: The school offers HPE to students in Prep to Year 12, with students participating in weekly lessons. Lessons involve a variety of different sports and health and wellbeing topics. In Year 11 and 12, students elect to participate Recreational Studies. Senior students that elect this subject earn points towards their QCE at the successful completion of the course content.

Brilliant and Remarkable Ideas Showcase (BRIS): The school held its inaugural showcase in Term 4. The showcase saw each class present either a project or evidence of their learning to the whole school community. Students turned their classrooms into displays and families and friends were invited to tour the displays and have students share their ideas, knowledge and understandings.

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	10%
Bachelor	90%
Diploma	
Certificate	

Staff Composition, Including Indigenous Staff:

The teaching staff employed in 2023 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 classroom- who has experience teaching internationally.

Secondary School

Year 7- 12:

1 x Fulltime Teacher: English, Media and Technologies. Holds a Masters degree

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: HASS and Senior Arts in Practice

Specialist Secondary Teachers

1 x Specialist Art Teacher: Art lessons (Visual Arts, Music, Drama) from P – 9,

1 x Specialist Teacher: HPE to P-Yr 9, LOTE (Japanese) P-Yr 9 and facilitates inclusive education, IEP and EAP process, and NCCD.

Teachers were supported in the classroom by 4 **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 shifts, 5 days per week. The school services two bus routes covering from Yandina in the North to Forest Glen in the South.

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
QCAA Senior Subject Moderations
ISQ Curriculum courses
QCAA Leaders Conferences
The school also attends and participates in a wide variety of free ISQ PD's either online or face-to-face. In 2023, 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
10	\$3313.58	\$331.36
The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2023		\$1423.16
The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2023		100%

The major professional development initiatives were as follows: Upskilling and further building teachers understanding of curriculum, particularly the transition into the Australian Curriculum V.9 and QCAA Senior Syllabus. IT training to strengthen security and help support changes in the classroom and teaching climate (online teaching). First Aid training to support safety both at school and on excursions.

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 to enhance the students social and emotional experiences at school.

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

Student Led Conferences- The students collate their work and share their learning, work, and knowledge with their families during a 15-minute conference. The conference is designed, led, and coordinated by the student with support from the teacher.

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.

The P&F worked with the school to host events, fundraisers and facilitated projects. The P&F began working on upgrading the early years outdoor space, utilizing working bees to complete tasks.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School:

In 2023 Blackall Range Independent School undertook community surveys of staff, students, and parents/caregivers. Students, staff, and parents provided great feedback with their being a strong sense of positivity. There were identified areas of improvement that linked to communication, resourcing, and facilities. Unfortunately, the school didn't receive enough data from the parent/caregiver survey to publish results.

Student Outcomes

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

The average student attendance rate for the whole school in 2023 was 85.9%.

Average student attendance rate for each year level:

Year levels	Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2023
Prep	82%
Year 1	86.9%
Year 2	88.4%
Year 3	83.3%
Year 4	88.6%
Year 5	88.7%
Year 6	89.3%
Year 7	87.6%
Year 8	79.7%
Year 9	78.2%
Year 10	86.5%
Year 11	88.8%
Year 12	82.3%

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 2023:

<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	2
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement at the end of Year 12	1
<p>During 2023 Blackall Range Independent School had 3 Year 12 students graduate from the school. Of the 3 students, 2 students received a Queensland Certificate of Education and 1 received a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement upon graduation. In 2023 Blackall Range Independent School Graduation Week consisted of a formal held at, Maroochy Surf Club, with their last day (Thursday) beginning 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 primarily in the workforce.

Contact Person for Further Information:

Name: Eva Carless Title: Principal