Principal’s foreword

Introduction
Horn Island State School is improving student outcomes through the collaboration of our new school vision, creating high expectations and the accountability of personalised learning. This report intends to provide a picture of our school’s progress to parents and community with a set of information that is common for all State and Non-State Schools in Queensland.

Highlights
- School Swim Safe Program (Terms 2 & 4)
- Reef Guardian School
- Croc Festival (TI) Performance
- Optiminds (District Host)
- Great Barrier Reef Excursion (Torres Class)
- Mungalli Falls Leadership Excursion (Kodal Class)
- Rugby League team competed at District Trials
- School Readathon

Key outcomes and goals achieved
The development of our new school vision has been a key focus for our school. Developed by the students, the vision; “Confident, Clever and Caring” is based on what the students at Horn Island want to be seen as. This vision is echoed by all staff and students and it anchors everything that occurs in the school, including school attendance, behaviour and academic performance. A sense of unity and pride has been generated around “Confident, Clever and Caring” through the development of our school song, designated tidy zones, the commencement of attendance and behaviour level competitions and associated incentives, and through school promotion on the local radio station and newspaper.

Future outlook
Major work has commenced with community partnerships. Through a project called “Ngurupai Action Group” the school is working closer with interagency groups and key stakeholders to address the needs of the young people on Horn Island. The school’s major focus from this project is to gain assistance from other agencies to address attendance issues we are currently working on. Attendance is an area for improvement.

Our school at a glance
School Profile
Situated in the Inner Islands of the Torres Strait, our eight teacher school provides a multigrade co-educational education from Preschool to Year 7 for 122 students from Horn Island and Thursday Island communities. In 2005 there
were 7 classes set up as straight preschool, year one, year two and year three classes, with 3 multi-aged year three to seven classes.

Curriculum offerings
Our curriculum from Preschool to Year 7 has a central focus on literacy and numeracy with the levels of the remaining syllabuses delivered as integrated units of study. A strong emphasis is on the Information and Communication Technologies in all areas of teaching and learning.

The distinctive features of our curriculum are:
• the school focus for Information and Communication Technology excellence
• projects and investigations around being a Reef Guardian school with a strong emphasis on environmental education
• knowing and understanding each student (through personalised data and teaching) allows the staff to challenge and extend every student in a way that caters for individual needs
• individual progress is mapped, recorded and reported each term on a student profile

In addition to the formal curriculum students:
• gather with other schools in the inner cluster for sports days and other activities
• individually and collectively participate in competitions
• participate in the Opti-minds event
• participate in an Active-After Schools health and physical activity program
• have the opportunity to push for selection in the school's Elite Program
• are involved in a formal ICTs program with our specialist ICTs teacher
• participate in Life Skills activities i.e. gardening, cooking, etc.

Social climate
The school climate revolves around high expectations and our vision and key values of students becoming confident, clever and caring. Although we do not provide any pastoral care programs a social skills program is commencing whereby teachers will be taking students through the You Can Do It! Program. This program is a part of our School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Program.

School Opinion survey results from students and parents attest to the inclusive and socially just climate of the school. 100% of parents were satisfied that their student/s were happy to go to this school, and 72% of parents were satisfied with the behaviour of students at this school. 90% of students indicated they were happy going to this school and 69% expressed that they were satisfied with feeling safe at the school.

Parents and the community
The school has an open door policy and is open for parents and community every school day. The school is the main facility within the community and is utilised for various community events i.e. sports training, markets, discos, church services and as a training venue.

The school is forging strong relationships with key stakeholders through our Interagency Project currently being funded by the Department of Science, Education and Training.

A school liaison officer is employed on a part-time basis. This person assists with communication between the school, parents and the community. We also run a program whereby each class has a volunteer in the role of a Class Liaison Parent. Each Class Liaison Parent assists with the communication flow between classroom and families, and supports our children’s learning by helping the teacher and the school in what we are trying to achieve for all.

The school opinion surveys for parents indicated improved satisfaction over nearly all aspects in 2005, whereby student results remained comparable with previous years.

Performance of our students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance measures: percentage of students not requiring additional support</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strands</th>
<th>Result (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Yr 2 Results in 2005 are comparable with previous school performances and the State Mean in the areas of reading and writing. In Number our results declined from previous years and was below the State Mean.

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Year 3, 5, 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests (Results for 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Average Score</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average Score</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School % above National Benchmark</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Average Score</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average Score</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School % above National Benchmark</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Average Score</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Average Score</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School % above National Benchmark</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All schools in Queensland are required to provide data on the performance of students in Reading, Writing and Numeracy results on the Year 3, 5 and 7 Statewide Tests. The data for Horn Island State School students is presented below and includes the percentage of students who achieved the Nation Benchmarks in these areas.

Our Yr 3 and Yr 7 results in 2005 improved in every area. Yr 5 results showed improvement in all areas of literacy and data in numeracy. The school performed higher than the State Mean in the area of Yr 3 spelling. Through analysing both systemic and school data, class and individual targets have been set. Teachers provide personalised learning specific for the needs of each student. The school is working towards the district mantra of “Halving the Gap” (halving or extending the gap between the State and School levels).

Our staff profile

Professional engagement in 2005

The staff at Horn Island State School have a great awareness of cultural protocols and utilise effective teaching strategies that cater for our local context while still striving for educational outcomes comparable to any other state schools in Queensland. Standard Australian English is the language spoken, taught and modeled by all staff. The team at our school works collaboratively to improve educational outcomes for all students. Staff morale and team work is highly valued, made evident through our staff opinion surveys whereby 87% of staff were satisfied with the team spirit among the staff of this school.

Staff members are in charge of specific programs in which they have an area of expertise and interest. Senior staff members are also involved in a Management Team that works with the principal on school-wide issues.

Staff development in 2005 was focused on our school vision of Confident, Clever and Caring and some areas of development included;

- Mathematics syllabus rollout
- Arts syllabus familiarisation and practical activities
- Hearing impairments familiarisation and implications for teaching staff
- First Aid
- Team Building
- Information and Communication Technologies
- ESL teaching strategies
- Protective Behaviours Training
- Valuing Diversity Training

Confident, Clever and Caring