Blackville Public School
Annual School Report
Our school at a glance

Students
Blackville Public School is a tiny rural school located on rich farming land in the Liverpool Plains. It has a proud history of excellence in producing confident, well-rounded young people ready to take on the challenges of life wherever it may take them. In 2012 our 11 K-6 students benefited from outstanding educational opportunities in an extremely positive learning environment, as well as involvement in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Staff
Blackville Public School benefits from dedicated staff who are 100% committed to our small school. Both teaching and non-teaching staff model life-long learning to the students, continually striving for best practice in providing strong support and excellent learning programs for our students.

Significant programs and initiatives
Country Areas Program
The support of the NSW Country Areas Program assists staff and students at Blackville Public School in breaking down the barriers of geographic isolation. The key element in this is maximizing learning opportunities through the integration of the latest technologies into our classrooms. In 2012, staff and students implemented mobile technologies into our learning programs incorporating iPads and iPods across Key Learning Areas.

Country Area Program funds also enable staff and students to travel to workshops and camps where they can develop knowledge and build social networks.

In 2012 staff and senior students participated in Thinking Brain Workshops which extended their skills through working and socializing with students and adults from other schools.

Active After-school Communities
Ongoing funding through the Australian Sports’ Commission allows our students to experience a range of fun, sporting activities that would not otherwise be readily accessible. In 2012, all our students benefited from after-school tuition in gymnastics, athletics and golf.

Ready Set Go
Each Monday throughout 2012 prospective Kindergarten students were integrated into our school. This program has proven very successful in familiarizing new students with routines and assisting their transition to school. It is a highly valued program in a community that does not have a preschool.

Premier’s Spelling Bee
During 2012, the Premier’s Spelling Bee continued to be a major program in our school involving every student and all staff.

Our school hosted the Third Annual Small Schools’ Spelling Bee involving over 60 students from seven small schools, along with parents and staff.

Our school representative in the Regional Final of the Premier’s Spelling Bee in Tamworth, Year 6 student Liam Prowse, followed up his outstanding results in 2010 and 2011 with a third place this year.
Student achievement in 2012

Due to our very small numbers this year, we are unable to report specific NAPLAN data for privacy reasons. The following graphs indicate the school’s average from 2008-2012 compared to 2012 results for both State and statistically similar groups.

The graphs reflect the fact that our students continue to perform very strongly in Numeracy, Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.

Unfortunately, the averages for writing are not available due to the change in the writing scale from narrative to persuasive in 2011.
Messages

Principal’s message

It has again been a privilege to lead this extraordinary school in 2012.

Whilst this has been a year of great change, the new students, staff and parents who have joined our school have added to the rich tapestry that makes up the Blackville Public School experience.

This year we bid farewell to two long-standing staff members, Jenny Jackson and Elizabeth Henderson, who worked tirelessly for the school for a combined total of 28 years. The very special contribution made to our school over many years by these two outstanding staff members has been recognized by past and present members of the school community. They were great assets to our school and will be missed by students, staff and families alike. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express my thanks to them for their professionalism and friendship during the years I was fortunate enough to work with them.

During 2012, we have continued to receive outstanding support from our parents and community. The Blackville P&C donated $500 towards the library, allowing the purchase of all the 2012 Short-listed books. Their contribution of $1457.76 towards our annual excursion greatly reduced the financial burden on every family. The Blackville Community Art Show Committee supported our school to the value of $8,400.00 this year, which allowed us to continue to provide supporting staff to maximizing outcomes for every student including our pre-school students through the Ready Set Go transition to school program.

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.

Amanda Maxwell (Principal)

P & C message

2013 has been another great year at Blackville Public School! The students have been given so many opportunities. Some of these include debating, science days, spelling bees, public speaking, learning instruments and doing a large variety of sports throughout the year.

Even though it is a small school the students are all so enthusiastic to give everything their best shot and are not afraid to give new things a go. They have a wonderful Principal in Amanda Maxwell who works magic on the students, instilling confidence in every single child and also teaching the students to respect and support their fellow students.

Shelley Clews who has started at the school this year as the infant’s teacher has given all of the infant’s students a great start to their schooling life at Blackville. Shelley is also very knowledgeable in a wide variety of sports which has been a real plus for the children when learning different sporting techniques.

The school has also been blessed with a terrific music teacher and every child plays the recorder before moving on to other instruments including the clarinet and guitar. The students have been taken to the Sydney Opera House again this year combining with other schools from the state to perform on their recorders in front of a packed audience. This would have to be one of the highlights of their time at Blackville.

The school excursion was incorporated with the trip to the Sydney Opera House and the students, after spending the night in Sydney, travelled by bus to Scenic World in the Blue Mountains and then onto the Jenolan Caves which they all thought was spectacular.

Blackville students have also excelled in sport this year with the school swimming relay team and the athletics relay team, as well as individual athletes making it through to State level and having the opportunity to swim in the Sydney Olympic Park swimming pool and running at the Olympic Park Athletics Stadium.

I’m sure 2013 will be another great year for Blackville Public School!

Julie Prowse (2012 P&C President)
Student representative’s message

I was very lucky to attend a school like Blackville.

Mrs. Maxwell has been a great principal as well as an excellent teacher. She has given me opportunities that not many other schools would be able to give. If there’s something out there that looks interesting for us to do Mrs. Maxwell’s on the case. She’s always trying her hardest to get the best out of her students and encourages participation in all areas no matter what your ability. Mrs. Maxwell is very caring and understanding and I couldn’t imagine the school without her.

The school wouldn’t be as fun filled without the amazing excursions organized by Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson has played an important role in my time at Blackville. She has taught me to read, write, spell, play a wide variety of sports and paint like Picasso. She was my infants teacher and has been there to support me ever since.

“To play the clarinet you need ten fingers on each hand, the lung capacity of a marathon runner and the memory of an elephant.” That is just one of the many quotes Mr. Macbeth comes out with. He has a great sense of humour which keeps us amused throughout the whole day.

He has given me the opportunity to perform at the Sydney Opera House 5 times, which has helped us with our confidence in performing in front of an audience and was a great experience. He has taught us to play recorder, clarinet and guitar and has recently helped us with a duet of Apache with which he accompanied David and me in our performance at QSSAF.

Liam Prowse (2012 School Captain)

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.
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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>0.126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.206</strong></td>
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The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

At present there are no indigenous staff employed at our school.

Staff retention

At Blackville Public School, we have been able to retain experienced and enthusiastic teaching and non-teaching staff over many years. In 2012, two of our most experienced staff have taken extended leave. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Shelley Clews to replace Jenny Jackson who has been such an integral part of Blackville Public School for many years.

Elizabeth Henderson, who has been the face of our front office for longer than she would care to remember, is also on extended leave, replaced by Christine Bell and Rebecca Mackenzie.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to replace these outstanding staff members with such high caliber personnel.

Teacher qualifications

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

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
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<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<td>Global funds</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<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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<td>Canteen</td>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>102,311.84</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
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<td>Key learning areas</td>
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<td>Excursions</td>
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<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
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<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<td>Capital programs</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
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A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2012

Achievements

Arts
2012 has been another outstanding year for Blackville students in debating, public speaking, music and visual arts.

Debating
Our debating team of five students in Years Five and Six proved that even the tiniest school could hold their own in the Premier’s Debating Challenge. We were very proud of their efforts throughout the rounds and in qualifying for an extra knock-out debate to determine our zone finalist to compete at the regional finals.

Public Speaking
Senior students participated in the “On Ya Soapbox” Public Speaking training and presented speeches via video conference in the regional competition that followed. Each of these students received positive feedback from the adjudicators, with Liam Prowse qualifying for the final and taking out equal third place.

All students prepared speeches for the Boggabri Public Speaking Competition. Every student performed creditably, with Blaze Cameron taking out First Place with his impromptu speech.

Visual Arts
In 2012, Blackville Public School students participated in a comprehensive Visual Arts program which included opportunities to exhibit their work at Quirindi Agricultural Show, Currambubula Small Schools’ Art Show and Blackville Community Art Show.

Liam Prowse was awarded the Hanger’s Prize at the Currambubula Small Schools’ Art Show, whilst Cody MacKenzie took out first place at the Quirindi Spring Show.

Our recycled artworks also took out First Place in the junior section of the Liverpool Plains Waste Art & Design Competition.

Music
Under the guidance of our amazing music teacher, Mr. Wlf MacBeth, all students had outstanding opportunities to develop vocal and instrumental skills, and to showcase these at a wonderful range of events such as CWA International Day, Quirindi Small Schools' Arts Festival, Spring Ridge Performance Showcase and our Annual Presentation Night.

Again this year, our recorder ensemble travelled to Sydney to perform at the Sydney Opera House in the Festival of Instrumental Music. This is certainly an amazing experience for all concerned.

Our annual Presentation Night was an outstanding showcase of the achievements of our students. It was phenomenal to see such a small group of students perform to such a standard. Every child acted, danced, sang and played at least one instrument.

Sport

Swimming
Blackville students continue to excel in swimming. At the 2012 Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival, the students participated with enthusiasm. Liam Prowse was Senior Boy Champion.

David & Harold Braun, Liam Prowse & Cody MacKenzie went on to represent Blackville at the PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival at Werris Creek. Liam also qualified to compete at the Regional Carnival in Breaststroke and was selected as part of the combined Quirindi Zone Small Schools’ Relay team.
David, Harold, Cody and Liam took out 3rd place at the Regional Swimming Carnival qualifying to compete at the State Carnival.

**Athletics**

Blackville students participated with great enthusiasm at the Spring Ridge Small School’s Athletics Carnival. Liam Prowse was Senior Boy Champion and David Braun was runner-up.

Liam Prowse achieved remarkable success at the Quirindi Zone Carnival with wins in 100m, 200m, Long Jump and High Jump, resulting in him being awarded the Senior Boy Champion. At Regional Athletics, he was forth in High Jump and second in the Long Jump.

David and Harold Braun, Cody Mackenzie and Liam Prowse represented Quirindi Zone at Regional athletics. They took out third place, qualifying to represent the New England region in the Earl McGee relay at the State Carnival in Sydney. No doubt this was an experience students will remember for many years to come.

**Cross Country**

All students trained hard for Cross Country, demonstrating great improvements in fitness and achieving remarkable results at the Zone Carnival with our Year Six boys (Liam, David and Cody) taking out 2nd, 3rd and 7th respectively in their section.

**Tennis**

All students benefitted from intensive coaching in tennis with Dale Martin, who travelled to Blackville on a weekly basis to coach our students. Two students participated in the Zone Tennis trials.

**Academic**

All students at Blackville Public School receive intensive support which allows them to maximize academic outcomes in a school culture where academic success is highly valued.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Premier’s Sporting Challenge**

In 2012, all students from K-6 again participated in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge. This program reinforces the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. All students in Years 1 and 2 received Gold Awards, and all students in Years 3-6 received Diamond Awards.

**Aboriginal education**

In line with the Department of Education’s latest Aboriginal Education Policy, Blackville Public School continues to provide programs designed to educate all students about Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary Aboriginal Australia.
Multicultural education
As our school and community are not culturally diverse, we believe it is crucial to maintain our focus on multicultural education across the curriculum, providing learning programs which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required in a culturally diverse society.

Respect and responsibility
Student leadership is a focus in our small school, with students taking on a variety of leadership roles such as School Captains, Sport Captains, Library Monitors and Canteen Committee. All students are involved in community events such as CWA International Day. Most students proudly represent our school at the Anzac Day March.

Through a casual dress day, students raised money for the Devil Ark Program which is endeavoring to support the survival of the Tasmanian Devil.

National partnership programs
Blackville Public School has never been included in any National Partnership programs.

Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1
An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in literacy

Our achievements include:

- All students achieved national and regional benchmarks in Literacy.
- All Year Five and Six students gained experience in Premier’s Debating Challenge with outstanding success.
- School representative Liam Prowse achieved third place in the Regional Final of the Premier’s Spelling Bee.
- All students participated in the Small Schools’ Spelling Bee.

Target 2
An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in numeracy

Our achievements include:

- Staff trained in Newman’s Analysis

- Participation in the TOWN Numeracy project
- Students and staff use Mathletics and iPad apps to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics
- Two students received Credit Awards in the ICAS Mathematics Competition.

Target 3
Increased use of current technologies by students and staff

- Involvement in a range of video conferences including the Writers Online series
- iPads and iPods integrated across Key Learning Areas
- All senior students are allocated a notebook that can be utilized daily
- Staff are able to integrate Smartboard technologies in both classrooms.

Target 4
All students will have opportunities to perform confidently in a range of contexts outside the classroom.

- All students learnt and performed on at least one musical instrument.
- Senior students had opportunities to perform on guitar and clarinet, as well as recorder.
- Performance opportunities included Quirindi Small Schools’ Arts Festival, Boggabri Public Speaking, CWA International Day, Blackville Presentation Night, On Ya Soapbox Public Speaking, Easter Hat Parade and the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney Opera House.
- Active After-Schools Program provided coaching in athletics, golf and gymnastics by trained coaches from outside the school, with students visiting both Quirindi and Tamworth Golf Clubs.
- All students exhibited artwork at the Small Schools’ Art Show, Blackville Art Show, Quirindi Spring Show.
Students and staff participated in CAP Thinking Brain Training at Blackville and Bingara.

All students also participated in performances in Drama and Dance.

**School evaluation**

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of Science.

**Science**

**Background**

It was several years since Blackville Public School had conducted an evaluation of Science in our school. Since the previous evaluation, we have made major purchases of Science resources, and invested in Science training for staff. We have also involved students in Science workshops at Blackville and the University of New England in Armidale.

**Findings and conclusions**

Students are extremely positive about Science, particularly enjoying hands-on activities such as those using our “Science in a Box” resources. They felt they would like to do even more hands-on Science.

Teachers reported that it was advantageous to teach Science separate junior and senior groups. They felt they could best meet syllabus outcomes by separating the groups, and that this allowed them to make better use of available resources to do more practical Science activities.

Staff found the Science Workshops at the itec conference inspiring, and have since incorporated online resources into their teaching and learning programs.

**Future directions**

Blackville Public School will continue to provide staffing to support teaching of Science in separate junior and senior groups, so that all available resources can be best implemented to maximize student outcomes and maintain positive attitudes to Science.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

Due to an anticipated reduction in enrolments in 2013, there were concerns expressed by two families about the ability of the school to adequately provide for the social needs of our students.

All stakeholders were overwhelmingly positive about the educational outcomes and extracurricular opportunities for students.

**Professional learning**

All staff members at Blackville Public School model lifetime learning to our students. In 2012 staff underwent training in Brain Research, Technology, Science and Numeracy.

**School planning 2012—2014**

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**School priority 1**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

Maximise student outcomes in all aspects of Literacy.

**2013 Target to achieve this outcome include:**

An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in literacy.

**Strategies to achieve this target include:**

- Small group learning to support student engagement in literacy.
- Purchase of resources to support multi-age literacy learning.
- Coordination of and participation in Small Schools’ Spelling Bee.
- Participation in Boggabri Public Speaking.
School priority 2 - Numeracy

Outcome for 2012–2014

Maximise student outcomes in all aspects of numeracy.

2013 Target to achieve this outcome:
An increased percentage of students at proficiency level in numeracy

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Small group learning to support student engagement in numeracy.
- Students and staff use Mathletics & iPad apps to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics.

School priority 3 - Technology

Outcome for 2012–2014

Maximise student and staff skills in the use of technology.

2013 Target to achieve this outcome:
Increased use of current technologies by students and staff

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Students and staff undertake a range of virtual excursions.

School priority 4

Outcome for 2012–2014

Help compensate for geographic isolation by exposing students to a wide range of experiences.

2013 Target to achieve this outcome include:
All students will have opportunities to perform confidently in a range of contexts outside the classroom.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Specialist music teacher, one day/week
- Active- After Schools Program
- Premier’s Sporting Challenge
- Small Schools’ Art Show, Blackville Art Show, Quirindi Spring Show
- Participation in Gunnedah Eisteddfod Verse Speaking

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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Amanda Maxwell Principal
Julie Prowse P&C President
Rebecca MacKenzie Relieving SAM

School contact information

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Email: blackville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.blackville-p.school.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1252

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: