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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Our school's aim is to provide a safe, supportive and academically challenging environment that maximises the pathways for transition for all students from primary school into high school and from school to work, training and tertiary study.

Toolooa's role in the community is to help our young people fulfil their potentials and to transition into adult life as happy, healthy and productive citizens. Our school provides a broad academic and vocational curriculum allied to innovative and high quality programs, expanding our students' learning experiences through links to the Central Queensland University, TAFE and large, medium and small enterprises in the Gladstone area.

The 2008 School Annual Report for Toolooa State High School outlines the progress our school has made towards achieving systemic goals and expectations and school based goals outlined in the School Strategic Plan 2007 – 2009. It provides a 'snapshot' of our school and outlines plans for continued improvement in strategic areas.

Future outlook

- Develop and gain commitment to a common school strategic intent that focuses on academic excellence and high performance expectations. **Raise the bar – teacher expectations and student performance outcomes**
- Increase the number of students exiting with a Queensland Certificate of Education and/or a VET Certificate
- Increase the number of students achieving in the OP 1-15 range
- Continue the development of Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Review (QCAR) requirements within the school's "Common Assessment and Planning Strategy" with a particular emphasis on quality teaching strategies
- Extend the ICT infrastructure. Implementation of the Computers for Teachers program (and associated Professional Development and Training) with a focus on teacher engagement with ICT in learning activities
- Build the capacity of our staff and students to improve our students' performance in numeracy and literacy.
- Work consistently as individuals, and as a team, on positive student behaviour management, pride in our school and uniform and high performance expectations
- Work in concert with GASSSA partners to ensure that our school and off site learning centres provide a broad range of future pathways for students
- Provide Professional Development and Training opportunities that build teacher expertise and pedagogy and leadership capacity
- Review our School Curriculum Plan and unit planning in the Middle Phase of Learning

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school	900
Year levels offered	Year 8 -12
Coeducational or single sex	Coeducational school

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings include offering electives in Year 8, with English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and the Study of Society and the Environment as the core subjects in Years 8, 9 and 10.

Distinctive subjects and programs include:

- Dance (Junior and Senior)
- Media (Junior)
- Film and Television (Senior)
- The Gladstone Schools Engineering Skills Centre (Senior)
- Doorways to Civil Construction (Year 10)
- BITS Extension Administrative and Business Studies (Senior)
- The Flexible Learning Centre (Junior)
- Work Experience opportunities (Years 10 – 12)
- Extension and Recovery classes in core subject areas

Extra curricula activities

- Student Leadership
- School and zone representative sport for Port Curtis Zone and Capricornia Region
- Rifle Club
- School Musical
- Instrumental Music
- Amnesty International
- Environmental Sustainability Student Group
- Maths, Science and Robotics competitions
- F1 in Schools Program

How computers are used to assist learning

Toolooa has over 200 late model computers, (with plans to deploy 215 additional units during 2009) based in 6 computer labs and classroom modules to assist learning in ICT specialist subjects including Information Technology Systems, Information Processing and Technology, Film and Television, Media and Graphics, Business, Computing and Technology.

Additional computers, including several class sets of laptops, are based in pods throughout the school's buildings and the Resource Centre to facilitate individual student research and learning. Others are located in staff rooms and linked to multimedia projectors in classrooms to facilitate innovative teaching practices.

Social climate

Toolooa's very happy, safe and challenging environment is based on the core value that:

"Every member of our school community, whether staff, student, parent or visitor, will act at all times with the safety and dignity of themselves and others in mind".

Toolooa High continues to expand its range of innovative and distinctive strategies that are responsive to our community and our student's needs in partnership with industry, other government agencies and other schools. Improving from 76% in 2007 to 80% in 2008, our parent satisfaction that 'this is a good school' and that it 'provides a good education' remains very high, with reviews of our 'Keep Safe' and Responsible Behaviour for Students policy ensuring that we continue to provide a safe, tolerant and disciplined learning environment for all of our students.



Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education.

Our "Families Matter" group continues to help us engage with a large and growing group of parents interested in actively supporting their child's education – a process driven by keen and committed staff members and assisted by our school's Parent Liaison Officer.

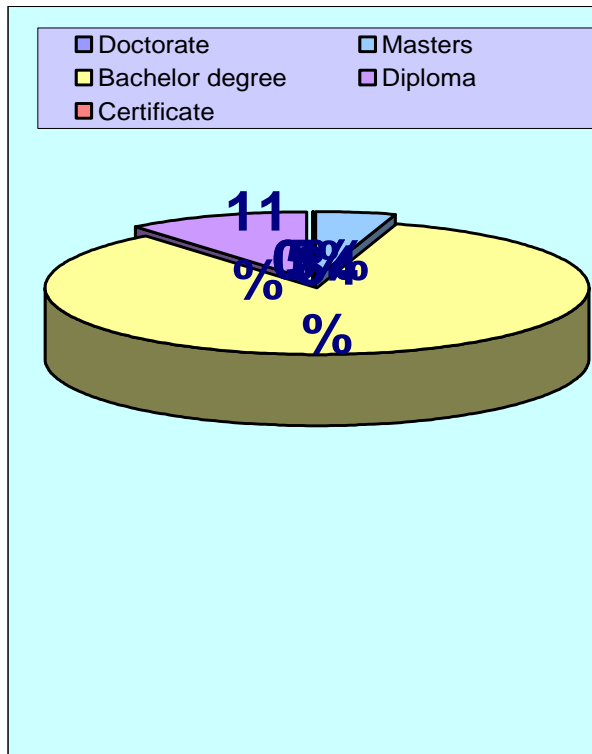
Our Parents and Citizens Association continues to offer strong support for the school in providing advice on our policies and practices as well as securing funding to complete the air-conditioned of learning spaces and faculty areas. During 2008 the Association's focus has been on completing Toolooa House, an innovative facility constructed to assist our students develop life and living skills necessary for the transition to life at after secondary school. Our Parents and Citizens Association meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.00 pm in the administration building and keenly welcomes all parents to engage in adding value to learning at our school.



Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	3
Bachelor degree	54
Diploma	7
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$20 655.00.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- Implementation of Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting initiative,
- Embedding Indigenous Perspectives, Effective Learning and Teaching Processes,
- Queensland Studies Authorities Updates and Training
- Preparation for the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy

The involvement of the teaching staff in school based professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, 84 % of staff members were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 90 %.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Year 9
Reading	Average score for the school	549
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 86 %
Writing	Average score for the school	522
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 77 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	549
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 83 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	542
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 83 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	557
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 89 %

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.

68 %

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	116
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	2
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	69
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	61
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	8
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	65
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	63 %
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	78 %

Performance of our students

Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.

100 %

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this report in September.

Value added

- Our School Accountability Data shows we are having incremental success with one of our key strategies to improve literacy, numeracy and scientific skills in Years 8 and 9 through the introduction of Essential, Recovery and Extension classes in English, Mathematics and Science. These classes provide opportunities for our students to consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills and processes within a learning environment that supports and challenges individual learners.
- 2008 saw the establishment of a Head of Special Education Services role, indicating the depth of Toolooa's commitment to the large group of students with special needs.
- During 2008, the role of the Head of Senior School has continued to expand rapidly into vocational education pathways and structured workplace learning in addition to our constant focus on future academic opportunities.
- Students in Year 10 commenced study on a senior timetable that provides a platform for a realistic learning transition from the junior school to senior schooling pathways.
- A range of strategies to support Indigenous students is firmly embedded in practice and continues to expand under the guidance of a key teacher contact for students.
- Commencing in 2008 the 'Young Men's Program' aims to re-engage boys in Year 9 in learning at school.
- Toolooa House, an innovative teaching facility funded by our community and Smart Schools Subsidy, opened in 2008 to provide a practical and supportive learning area for the development of life skills.
- With enhancing teaching and learning practices as a primary focus, our teaching staff successfully engaged in structured professional discussions with colleagues from other secondary schools in the Gladstone Area State Secondary Schools Alliance.
- Year Level Coordinators were introduced this year to provide leadership for a closer coordinated approach to student pastoral care.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

- School Survey data indicates that parents continue to view our school as 'a good school' (80%) with 73% sharing the opinion that their students are receiving 'a good education at our school.'
- Student opinion is consistent with the trends over previous years and below the opinion shared by their parents with 58% of students indicating that Toolooa is a 'good school' and 62% satisfied that they are receiving 'a good education at this school.'
- Staff opinion is varied with professional and support staff sharing strong opinions in several performance areas
 - 'a safe place to work' 88% satisfaction
 - 'good working relationships with other staff' 89%
 - 'get on well with students' 89%
 - 'encouraged to take responsibility' 93%
 - 'confident of being able to do what is expected of me' 89%

