Our school at a glance

Students
Wauchope High School is a comprehensive Year 7 to Year 12 High School.

We are a proud member of the Bago Community of Schools. A community of schools that comprises ourselves and our ‘feeder’ primary schools, Wauchope, Beechwood, Comboyne, Huntingdon, Long Flat and Rollands Plains.

The BAGO community of schools continue to work together to provide significant opportunities for students in academic, sporting, cultural and leadership pursuits.

With an enrolment of approximately 680 students WHS offers a wide curriculum choice and boasts a proud tradition of achieving academic excellence, whilst providing outstanding opportunities for vocational education and TAFE certification.

Staff
Wauchope High School continues to have a very stable, dedicated and experienced staff. Many of our staff participate in HSC marking and are leaders in their Key Learning Areas.

Our staff participate in Professional Learning activities and all teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Significant programs and initiatives
Wauchope High School continues its commitment to Positive Behaviour for Learning, the 10% On Top program and Peer Support.

The school community’s core values are Care & Respect, Safety and Best Effort. The PBL Team is exploring, implementing and evaluating strategies to enhance core values in playground and class settings.

Staff and students once again have supported the 10% on Top program where Year 12 students choose a staff member as a mentor to assist in coping with Year 12 and preparing for the HSC. The success of this program can be measured by its longevity and increasing popularity.

The Peer Support program continues to offer Year 10 and 11 students with leadership opportunities while ensuring Year 6 primary students enjoy a seamless and positive transition from Year 6 to Year 7. The Peer Support team has looked at changing the responsibility of peer support to Years 9 and 10 for 2013/14 to bring Wauchope High School in line with the Peer Support Foundation program and in so doing will free up senior students to concentrate on their studies. Feedback from Year 6 students and our Bago Community of Schools partners indicates the worth of this program and the esteem to which it is held within our school community.

In 2012 Year 11 participated in a Study Skills program just before the final Preliminary exams. The sessions included Essay Writing, Relaxation Techniques, Stress and Coping, Study Skills and the Use of Technology. Feedback from students would indicate that the program was well received.

Many students express interest in overseas exchange programs and in 2012 one of our Year 10 students was successful in gaining a Rotary Exchange to New Zealand for a term in 2013.

Leadership development plays an important part in Peer Support training and in 2012 this was supplemented by the participation of Years 10 and 11 students respectively in the 2012 National Young Leaders Day and the Grip Student Leadership conference.

Towards the end of the year planning began for a Breakfast program to be implemented early in 2013.

Messages

Principal’s message
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.

Robert Henry
P & C and/or School Council message

The main source of funds for our P & C are the school canteen and the uniform shop. These are both operated by the P&C and have been supported by wonderful volunteer parents and carers of children who attend our School.

For the past 3 years P&C funds have been largely dedicated to the COLAR project. In this project the P&C have matched “Dollar For Dollar” funding with the state government to erect an enormous COLA inclusive of lighting, sound and sporting facilities. In 2012 this project was completed. The final stage focused on the concrete floor. During 2012 it was leveled out and re-surfaced. It contains marking for Netball, Volleyball and Basketball courts and has goal posts for each of these sports. The COLAR is now extensively used for whole school assemblies, PDHPE lessons and as a passive area under shade for students at recess and lunch time. The P&C have done a fantastic job in bringing this project to conclusion and the entire school community is very appreciative of the work done and the final project.

The P&C uniform subcommittee worked with the school to survey students, parents and staff regarding the current uniform. As a result of the work done the new uniform was implemented in 2012 and has been well received by students and their families.

The P & C meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month; in the School staff room. It is attended by a small, dedicated group of people who strive to help improve the School. We welcome your future involvement as new opinions and ideas are always sought after. Being involved does provide you with a direct insight into the challenges being faced by the School community and enables you to share in the joys of the achievements of our students.

Amanda Thomas - President.

Student representative’s message

The year of 2012 has proved to be yet another successful year for the Student Representative Council. A few fresh faces joined our traditional orientation day at the Centre Of Gravity where we reviewed and amended our Constitution and worked towards building a strong and dynamic leadership team.

All SRC members were inducted at a formal assembly at the commencement of the year.

Throughout the year with the help of many staff members and SRC Coordinator Mrs Moy the SRC has been involved in charities such as Jeans for Genes Day, (genetic research), Daffodil Day, (cancer research) and Red Nose Day, (fundraising for SIDS and Kids), as well as the sponsorship of our new World Vision Child, Tin Tin.

The tradition of the much anticipated school socials continued throughout the year with exciting themes such as “Op Shop Hop”, and Aboriginal / Sport Heroes in memory of Clint Ritchie.

The SRC has given financial support to the Agriculture and Primary Industries department as well as assisting in the organization of Motivational Media, and ushering and serving afternoon tea for our Excellence Assemblies.

As always the SRC has proudly and enthusiastically represented our school in many departments. SRC members have developed valuable leadership skills, and eagerly anticipate further opportunities to be involved in the school and the community.

Bronte Montgomery SRC President
School context

Student information

The 2012 school year has once again been an extremely busy one providing academic, cultural and sporting opportunities for students. The year commenced with the school being able to celebrate some excellent HSC and Sc results that were released in December 2011 and January 2012. After the release of the of the HSC results and Australian University Admission Rank (ATAR), scores, we discovered that our school Dux, Ann Rienstra, scored an amazing ATAR of 99.9%. Not to be outdone, Year 10 student Sarah Houseman not only scored a perfect 100% in the SC Geography examination but also received scores of 99, 97, 96 and 95% in her other SC exams. Two remarkable achievements that as a school community we are very proud. We are also very proud of the number of Credits, Distinctions and High Distinctions our students achieved in the junior, intermediate and senior divisions of the National Geographic Geography Competition.

There have been many highlights in 2012 and I am sure the Year 9 students who participated in the Gold Coast excursion and the Year 11 students who participated in the Sydney excursion will rate these experiences very highly. As too will the Year 10 and 11 students who had the opportunity in August to work very closely with members of the Oz Opera Company at a workshop held at the Glasshouse at Port Macquarie.

We are very pleased with the number and quality of students who joined our choir and dance group this year and I would like to thank them for all occasions where they proudly represented our school. Perhaps the highlight of our performing arts this year was Jess Flanagan’s inclusion in the North Coast Talent Identification Program. Jess is a very talented performer.

Once again our sporting calendar was full and offered a wide range of opportunities for students to compete and strive for excellence. Many of our teams and individuals performed with distinction and this year we celebrated the Girls Rugby team making the State final, Boys Touch Football team coming 7th in the State, Girls Open Soccer team 8th in the State, Girls Under 15 Soccer team coming in the top 16 in the State, Girls Volleyball 9th in the State, Boys Volleyball 12th in the State, a Bronze Medal in Cross Country, a Silver Medal in the Cross Country teams event and a Bronze Medal in CHS Bowls.

There are many great things that have happened in our school in 2012 but for me the highlights continue to be the Excellence Assemblies, Year 12 Final Assembly and Presentation Evening where we are able to acknowledge and award all student who have strived for and achieved personal excellence. It is an experience that I would recommend to all our students and encourage them to strive for.

Student enrolment profile

![Student enrolment profile](image)

Student attendance profile

![Student attendance profile](image)
Management of non-attendance

Student attendance is managed in the first instance by the roll call teacher. Monitoring attendance is managed by the Head Teacher Administration, the Head Teacher Student Services and the Welfare team of Year Advisers. The Head Teacher Administration works in liaison with the local Home School Liaison Officer to both review attendance and manage serious breaches.

Post-school destinations

Twenty eight students from Year 12 in 2012 were offered positions at university for 2013. This is an excellent offer rate of 31% of the cohort. Of the students who applied for an Early Admission Program, 81% were successful in gaining at least one offer. Fifty two students (58%) were eligible for an ATAR; some of these students will commence their study in 2013 while others have deferred.

Students were offered positions at various universities in a wide range of courses including Medicine, Radiography, Paramedics, Speech Pathology, Dietetics, Biomedical Science, Agriculture, Psychology, Law, Policing, Engineering, Exercise Science, Nursing, Business, Teaching and Hotel Management.

Of the remaining students, the majority have enrolled in TAFE courses or have directly entered the workforce.

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

Of the 90 students who undertook their HSC in 2012, 52 (58%) studied a vocational course. 32 studied a vocational (VET) course at Wauchope High School with 29 students completing a TVET course (TAFE). Eight students studied 2 VET courses, and 4 studied 3 VET courses as part of their HSC.

Students studying a VET course were nearly equally divided by gender and 1 of the 4 Indigenous students completed a VET course.

This resulted in the vast majority achieving Certificate II qualifications.

Four students completed School Based Traineeships in either Business Services, Retail or Tourism.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification

89 of the 90 students who undertook their HSC in 2012, achieved the HSC or equivalent vocational education qualification. One student received a Record of Achievement.

Five students studied Life Skills subjects as part of their HSC.

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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<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
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In 2012 WHS had one full time staff member and three part time tutors who are of Aboriginal heritage.

Staff retention

At the end of the 2012 school three staff members retired, one transferred and one has taken extended leave, relinquishing their position.
Teacher qualifications

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
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<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
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<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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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
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<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

Wauchope High School has comprehensive programmes in Dance, Drama, Music, Photography and Visual Arts including a number of extracurricular activities. Performance evenings showcased classroom talents for students from Years 9 to 12.

2012 saw the introduction of Photography courses into Stages 5 and 6. Working predominantly in Digital Media students have been learning to use our new cameras and Photoshop.

Choir has been also rejuvenated, incorporating a more ‘theatrical’ feel to our choir. The choir had a number of performances throughout the year and also introduced dance and movement to the songs. They performed at numerous assemblies and local functions and finished the year with their standout performance at the CAPA night in December.

The CAPA Night for 2012 in Term 4 was a huge success with performances from elective Drama students, Music students and the choir. The HSC Visual Arts Body of Works and Senior Photography portfolios were also exhibited.

HSC Visual Arts and senior Photography students were involved in a Performance art piece, Survivor, with Australian/Indonesian artist Dadang Christanto. This took place over a weekend and students impressed the artist with their maturity. Students were enriched by the rare opportunity to be part of an actual performance work. Students also met the artist and attended a lecture on his work at the Glasshouse, Port Macquarie at a later date. The Glasshouse also had the 2012 National Photographic Portraiture Prize on exhibition which students viewed and voted for the People’s Choice award. Visual Arts and Photography students from Years 10 to 12 again went on our
annual excursion to Newcastle to view Art Express and Newcastle University’s gallery. Students also viewed an Australian exhibition at the Newcastle gallery.

First term saw the Year 11 Elective Drama students write, direct and perform an anti-bullying theatre in education show. The students performed at Huntingdon, Wauchope and Beechwood Public School and spread their anti-bullying message to captivated audiences. They held question and answer sessions after the performance where the children were able to express their concerns and views about bullying and also talk specifically about the show.

Year 10 Drama students also took part in the annual Lasiandra Street Festival where they provided clowning and street theatre to entertain the shoppers.

Elective Drama students had the privilege of attending a workshop at the Glasshouse hosted by The Bell Shakespeare Company. They were able to get a hands on look at approaching Shakespeare in performance and worked with some of Australia’s best Shakespearian actors.

Drama students were again involved in Christmas Celebrations for the Hastings Family Co-op; the choir performed a range of a Capella Christmas Carols outside shops and businesses while Year 10 Drama students were Santa’s Elves lost in Wauchope.

Dance students enriched local Primary School students to work on routines in the Outreach project at Beechwood. A number of Year 9 Dance students assisted with the teaching and choreographing of dance routines for these students.

The all students dance ensemble choreographed, rehearsed and performed at various events throughout the year including eisteddfods and assemblies.

Sport

Swimming:

With consistent rain delaying the swimming carnival this year the event took place on Friday 10th February. It was a rare dry day which again saw huge enthusiasm and large crowds of painted, smiling faces march down to Wauchope swimming pool to claim their possies and don their cozzies.

Again this year the Slide, volleyball net and canteen were popular entertainment for students in between their enthusiastic participation in some very competitive races. The ‘swim through’ was again a great chance for all students, and staff, to cool off and earn points for their House.

Well done to all our age champions to Gordon House who were the champions on the day.

Athletics:

Enthusiastic participation again resulted in our school athletics carnival being a huge success. In fact participation was so great that some events had to be run the following week during sport time. Congratulations to all who competed and to the age champions.

Cross Country:

The sun was shining for another strongly supported Cross Country this year. Wauchope has traditionally been strong at Cross Country and well represented at Zone and Regional level and this year was no exception.

A strong team contested the Zone Cross Country with a resounding successful result. As overall winning school, many of our students were well placed and ranked highly in the top fifteen.

Wauchope High had a strong representation at Region with approximately 30 students representing the North Coast, which is a remarkable achievement. Individual successes allowing entry at State level were Rebekah Bannerman, Alex Malcolm, Nigel Malcolm, Kaleb Langbien, Sharni Newman, Johanna Smith, Ned Parker and Ethan McKenna.
Other

*Mathematics*

This year again provided students at Wauchope High School the opportunity to participate in various activities organised by the Mathematics faculty.

In 2012 we had 17 students in years 7 to 10 enter the Mathematics Challenge where several students gained Distinction awards. As well, 40 students competed in the ICAS Mathematics Competition in the Junior and Intermediate Divisions. They achieved 5 distinctions and 10 Credits which is very encouraging. We have again shown that students at Wauchope High School enjoy the challenge of problem solving. A great experience for all involved.

Four of our Year 8 GATS students accompanied Mr Jackson to Armidale to participate in a UNE Mathematics day of mathematical challenges. This was another great experience for all those concerned.

Each year, at the end of Term 4, the Mathematics’ faculty reward Year 7 and 8 students for their efforts and commitment to mathematics throughout the year. We offer them the opportunity to attend an excursion where 80 students see and participate in Mathematics within a fun and action-packed environment.

In an effort to improve student understanding and outcomes achieved, the Mathematics’ staff again provided an opportunity for Year 12 and Year 11 students to gain extra help after school. They were held each Thursday afternoon from 3:30 - 4:30pm. A staff member was available, on a rotational basis, to offer assistance to enable students to improve their abilities in areas of difficulty.

The Year 11 and 12 students in Mathematics Extension 1 have had the opportunity this year to be involved in the Southern Network Mathematics program run by Mr Marr. This has involved students attending full day seminars with other students from around the area. The highlight was the two day camp held at Bonny Hills for Year 12 in Term 3, where students were exposed to presenters from outside of the region on various aspects of preparation for the HSC exam. We are hoping that the long term affect is the improvement of HSC results in this course.

Another highlight was the visit by lecturers from the Australian Maritime College from Launceston, Tasmania. They conducted workshops for Years 11 and 12 on the application of Mathematics in a marine engineering environment. These courses were thoroughly enjoyed by both students and staff who attended.

During the year, Mr Richard O’Neill officially retired after 25 years of service to the school. Being a committed staff member, he continued to work with his classes until the end of the year. We all wish him well in his retirement.

*Science*

We have had another successful year in Science for the students and staff of Wauchope High. There has been a continuation of the Year 7 Gifted and Talented class which is allowing students to increase their knowledge of Science and to develop their skills in thinking scientifically. From this group a film club was established. This talented group took out first prize in a national GeoScience short film competition. From 191 entries the Wauchope High students placed first in the Yr 7-10 category.

Our Year 8 ESSA results which look at skills in Science have been solid with our students achieving results comparable to other schools in our region and across the State.

In Years 9 and 10 our students again competed in the Science and Engineering Challenge achieving a pleasing result of third across all schools in our region.

Many of our students chose to take part in National Science Quizzes in Chemistry, Physics and General Science and have achieved excellent results ranging from Credits to High Distinctions.
Recently Year 11 Biology enjoyed their annual ecosystem study at Pilot Beach with interesting findings on the rock platform and development of an appreciation for the adaptations of coastal flora and fauna. This annual excursion fulfills numerous outcomes of the Biology course and is an important assessment tool for staff and students. Chemistry and Physics students likewise undertake many practical experiences to meet the outcomes of these courses.

This year funding was made available to Wauchope High School for the refurbishment of our Science Preparation Room and one Science Laboratory. The new facilities have made it considerably easier to deliver the Science course to our students and have made the organisation of resources more efficient.

The Year 12 Final Assembly saw Carey Fletcher as the recipient of the Bob Peate Memorial Award in Chemistry. This is for the greatest improvement in skills and outcomes between Year 11 and Year 12 and is jointly sponsored by the Peate family and the Science faculty.

**Agriculture**

This year saw the opening of the Primary Industries Trade Training Centre (PITTC) at Wauchope High School. Federal funding saw the construction of a purpose built Agriculture teaching and learning space. A new classroom with an outside learning area attached is now used to deliver Agriculture and Primary Industry lessons. The new facility and funding for resources will allow the Agriculture staff at Wauchope High School to more effectively deliver lessons and it allows our students to obtain higher TAFE credentials.

As the year progressed students were busy developing and maintaining gardens and were able to take home produce on a regular basis. Snow peas are a favourite through winter and beans, tomatoes, corn and melons are popular during the warmer months.

With a great winter season and plenty of hay in the shed the animals are thriving, and as this report is being written there are seven healthy beef calves and seven crossbred lambs that have just been born. Many of these will be destined for the dinner plate, as much of what we do here on the school farm involves food production. Until then, the calves and lambs will be cared for and monitored by students in all classes. This year has seen the introduction of Poultry breeding at our school. White Leghorn chickens are now bred and shown by our students.

We have taken part in the Cows Create Careers program again. This is a dairy industry initiative that sees us link with a local dairy farmers and other people in the dairy industry. Students take on the care of two calves for a period of three weeks and need to meet all the needs of the calves for this period. This includes feeding twice a day with milk replacement powder, cleaning out the calf pen and monitoring the health and growth of the calves. A project is done to document the work done by each group of students. Our students took out first prize in the Team category.

The annual excursion to Gunnedah to look at the AgQuip field days was on again and those students keen on all things farming had a great, but long day. A 3.30am start and 10.30pm finish was enough to exhaust even the most energetic staff and students. Thanks must go to Mr Starr and Mr Palmer for supervising this trip.

**Marine Studies**

The number of students electing to study Marine Studies in Years 9 and 10 is increasing and this reflects the enjoyment they have in being able to experience surfing, fishing, whale watching, kayaking, scuba diving and swimming. Personal interest studies are undertaken by all students.

A real highlight for our students was the experience they had at Coffs Harbour’s Pet...
Porpoise Pool where they were given the opportunity to interact with dolphins and seals in a closed session.

**HSIE**

2012 was again a very successful year in HSIE, with a wide range of curricula and extra curricula activities undertaken.

The year saw one of our largest students groups undertaking the High School Certificate in HSIE with the subjects of Ancient History, Business Studies, Geography, History Extension, Legal Studies, Society and Culture and Work Studies being undertaken. This breath of curriculum continued in the junior years with Geography, History, Commerce, Careers and French also being delivered.

Extra curricula activities over the course of the year have involved the Mock Trial Competition, Medieval Days, French food tastings and the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). The school team showed great success at MUNA with James Pearse going on to represent the region in the National MUNA competition in Canberra. Students have also had the opportunity to showcase their talents in Australia wide competitions, with the National Geographic Competition and the Australian Geography competition. Numerous High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credits, were received by students, in these competitions, across years 7-11.

A number of excursions were held over the year enabling us to enrich the significance of classroom learning. HSC Geography students undertook fieldwork which examined the Urban Dynamic of Port Macquarie. Whilst Legal Studies students had the opportunity to see the Legal system in action with visits to the Aldavilla Correctional Centre and the Wauchope Court House.

Across the school HSIE teachers have also continued to undertake extra responsibilities within the school environment such as Year Advisers, Organisers of Commemoration Ceremonies, Sports Organiser, Cattle Team Organiser and Dance Organiser.

HSIE continues to challenge students to develop the confidence to push their academic limits.

**Support Unit**

2012 was a most enjoyable year for the students of Support Unit 1 and Support Unit 2 as students were fully engaged in regular activities including: Riding for the Disabled, cooking in the new TAS block, drama, art and craft. Some of the major highlights of the year which will remain in our memory were; the ride on the Old Steam Train to Kendall, our Pirate cruise up the Hastig River; our Egyptian masks, the winning of the McDonald’s Award that enabled us to purchase 7 iPads for the Support Unit, and several excursions to Port Macquarie in the borrowed TAFE Bus.

The iPads have enabled the students to use this new technology in both their academic and individual pursuits. These fantastic devices have been a great interactive learning tool for all our students and staff. Our students with autism have in particular adapted to this new technology with ease and can now work and improve at their own pace. It has been truly amazing how these tablets can be adapted to meet their needs.

The focus in SU2 was on improving literacy and numeracy skills with individualised learning programs for each student running in period 1 and 2 each day. All other key learning areas were covered and students where appropriate were integrated into mainstream classes and sporting opportunities. Bradley Farquhar represented the North Coast at State Swimming.

Students were involved in learning about human development and reproduction. This culminating in incubating and hatching seven baby chickens.
The boys in SU2 managed the paper waste and recycling for the whole school.

The highlights of SU3 include settling into our lovely new classroom, Aidan Schroder, Elijah Alexander, Brock Smith and Rhodry Lindeman graduating with their Higher School Certificate’s. Matt Goddard coming first in his Geography class and Rodney Fenner coming second in Yr 11 Legal Studies. Logan Atkins adapting well to high school, Aidan Schroder performing at Wauchope’s Got Talent, Matt Goddard putting on a Christmas concert and Josh Burtenshaw completing year 10.

The final highlight of 2012 for the SU was successfully applying for a sustainable garden grant which will enable all students and staff across our school to enjoy establishing a worthwhile project that will continue for many years.

Academic
In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.
Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

In the Higher School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).
**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Respect and responsibility**

WHS students continue to pride themselves on their interaction with our wider community and the positive programs they set up within the school. The school has a “volunteer program” whereby we promote and reward students for volunteer work that is performed within the school or broader community.

Students are actively involved in the Blood Donation program and volunteer to be part of the annual Red Cross Appeal and the Red Shield Appeal. In 2012 students also volunteered to become part of the Friday Meals Program. This community team prepares cooks and serves a meal for disadvantaged members of the Wauchope community.

We have an active SRC who clearly see that part of their role is to help peers recognise the needs of others through Harmony Day, Daffodil Day and the Jeans for Genes Day. We celebrate Reconciliation Day every year.

Throughout the year speakers have been invited, who have delivered their messages through music or by relating their life experiences, particularly in relation to positive social media interaction, bullying, depression and alcohol and drug abuse. Our students had the opportunity to attend 3 short plays called Cybershorts about Cyberbullying. Power of Choice and Love Bites programs were offered to Years 11 and 10 respectively. These dealt with respect for the road as drivers, respect for oneself as a citizen and respect for women in relationships. The Core of Life program was offered to Year 9 aiming to deliver realistic information about the many issues surrounding pregnancy and related topics.

Throughout the year short religious seminars were offered to Years 9, 10 and 11 and a multimedia presentation was offered to the whole school population.

Wauchope High School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning school, with core values of Best Effort, Care & Respect and Safety.

**Aboriginal education**

The school community and our Aboriginal students in particular entered the 2012 school year under very difficult circumstances – grieving the loss of a much loved student during the holiday period.

With new leadership and some new members of our Aboriginal Education Team our initial focus was to build real bonds between the Aboriginal families and the school and worked to develop an optimistic and positive plan for 2012.

A range of grief-related issues began to emerge among the students and the Aboriginal Education Team discussed at length the best way to move forward. Eventually it was one of our new tutors, Samantha Wright who stepped forward and through her connections with the Inter-relate support agency organised the ‘Stand Strong, Be Proud’ day which became one of the major highlights of our year. The day not only recognised, confronted and dealt with the emotions surrounding grief, but also addressed a range of issues such as drugs and alcohol, depression/suicide, family conflict and more. Parent participation in the day was high and memorial gifts of artwork and didgeridoos were painted by the students and presented by the family to the school and other community contributors.

Another positive outcome from the Stand Strong, Be Proud day was 4 staff being trained as ‘Yarning Circle’ facilitators. The Yarning Circle works incredibly well with indigenous and non-indigenous students alike and allows each person to have a voice in any discussion. Yarning Circle has become the ‘language’ of our new Junior AECG. The Junior AECG leadership group has also been supported by the Hastings AECG. It has given students a real voice on how they most wish to be supported by the school.

The Aboriginal Education team joined the whole school in making improved attendance a focus for 2012. The attendance ‘levels’ were developed to
give students small, achievable goals which were rewarded with an improved attendance fun day at St Andrew’s park in the last week of school. The initiative saw a rise of 16% of students with above 85% attendance and a 5% reduction in the number of students with less than 50% attendance.

In Term 2, Andrew Lord was presented a Regional Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aboriginal Educational Achievement. In the presentation Andrew’s work in planning, developing rapport with students, excellent NAPLAN results in both literacy and numeracy, development of the Hastings Valley digital PLP system and ongoing relationships with the Aboriginal community were all acknowledged. Andrew also received a Bago Community of Schools award for his ongoing contribution to Public Education in the area of Aboriginal Education.

Norta Norta tutoring initiatives took on innovative and unique forms in 2012 with a mentor based homework group, the Aloud & Proud Reading Challenge and in-class support. We were able to employ 5 Aboriginal tutors, including Melissa Ostler, a qualified teacher and vice-president of the Hastings AECG. The outcomes of these literacy initiatives will be put to the test in the 2013 NAPLAN. The 2012 Year 7 group scored 33 scale scores below the state average in the NAPLAN test aspect of Numeracy. This will be a target area for support and improvement in 2013.

The Deadly Skills Day, which is always a highlight on our Aboriginal Education calendar was hosted by Wauchope TAFE and held at Wauchope Showground. Some of our students participated in a Certificate I Tourism course culminated in volunteer work on the day. Others extended their VET Hospitality skills working in the catering tents throughout the day. Troy Cassar-Daley, Justice Crew, Casey Donovan and Indigenous Hip-Hop Project all ensured the day and evening was an awesome event for all who attended.

Internationally renowned didgeridoo player and public speaker, Jeremy Donovan from the Generation One Foundation was able to come and give an inspiring 1 day seminar to all our Aboriginal students. We hope to continue to build on this relationship in 2013.

The Indigenous Excellence Assembly ran once again this year giving us the opportunity to celebrate high attendance, academic, sporting and cultural excellence. Aunty Helen, parents, community members, the AECG executive and Westport High School’ Junior AECG were all in attendance.

**Multicultural education**

In 2012, Wauchope High School hosted the 37th annual Cumberland High School interschool visit. This visit provides our students with sporting, academic and cultural experiences. Students from our rural school billeted students from the multi-cultural urban environment of Cumberland over the three day exchange. Students and families within our school community continue to enthusiastically support this interchange of cultural experiences.

**Progress on 2012 targets**

**Target 1**

*Aboriginal students and families broaden and extend engagement with teaching, learning and the school community.*

**Strategies to achieve these targets include:**

- Continue to develop effective school transition programs for Aboriginal students.
- Monitor and evaluate personalised learning plans for Aboriginal students.
- Foster Aboriginal student leadership.
- Celebrate Aboriginal culture as a significant part of our school community

Our achievements include:
- Personalised learning plans were used to more deliberately support individual student progress.
- A junior AECG was established.
- Our school continued to celebrate Aboriginal culture at positive whole school events.

**School evaluation**

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

**Background**

Due to the introduction of the new school leaving age and associated curriculum requirements needed to retain and engage students Wauchope High School engaged in a review of our curriculum and the choices we offered our students. Students, parents and teachers were surveyed.

**Findings and conclusions**

As a result of survey feedback the school community established three major goals:-

- To increase the number of students who enjoy and speak positively about their learning experience.
- To establish greater curriculum flexibility that facilitates student choice
- Development well-rounded and respectful citizens through engaging students in the school community, partnership and participation.

**Future directions**

In 2012 the school applied for and won a grant of $20,000 to enhance the curriculum offerings of the school to better meet the needs of our students. A curriculum team has been established to continue this priority into 2013 and to explore different curriculum models.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**

Wauchope High School values the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. The school has a small but active P&C who meet each month. The P&C is a forum for parents to provide input into the school decision making process.

A regular newsletter is distributed each fortnight to provide parents with information on upcoming events and to recognize achievements of students and staff.

Wauchope High School prides itself on the quality of our school web site and with financial support from the P&C keep this site current with the aim of making it parents first point of contact when information is required about the school or current activities.

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about bullying in the school and used this feedback to construct the school’s current Anti Bullying Plan.

**Professional learning**

Wauchope High School encourages all staff to take advantage of the multitude of courses on offer. In 2012 all professional learning funds were exhausted with KLA’s having equal access to professional learning.

Along with school priorities of literacy, numeracy and quality teaching professional learning funds and activities were directed toward using technology to increase student engagement.

Staff Development Days focused on Quality Teaching, Literacy strategies, Aboriginal Education and Positive Behaviour for Learning.
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

Successful implementation of the National Curriculum in 2014.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Regular planning meetings for the Core Curriculum Team, (Head Teachers English, History, Mathematics and Science)
- Whole school involvement in professional learning – programming for the twenty first century learner
- Involvement of key staff in Collegial Leadership Network meetings

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Staff participation in DEC Professional Learning
- Dedication of staff development days to curriculum planning
- Involvement in and organization of joint Hastings staff development

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Implementation of the Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- All teachers have a set of documented and regularly reviewed goals related to performance and development.

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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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: