School context

Hermidale Public School is a small school in rural New South Wales. Hermidale PS is 45 kilometres from Nyngan and 85 kilometres from Cobar. The closest regional centre is Dubbo, over 200 kilometres away.

Hermidale PS has a strong tradition of providing a caring, inclusive environment with high expectations of students and staff.

All students are valued members of the school and are provided with every opportunity possible to achieve their full potential. Our school motto ‘Reach for the Stars’ is evident in the contributions made by staff, parents, students and the wider community.

Principal’s message

Throughout 2013 we continued as a staff to discuss, review and assess our teaching programs and look for ways to improve our practices to better meet the needs of our students. Continued professional development in ‘Focus on Reading’ enabled the staff to further their knowledge on how to teach comprehension skills.

We balanced this with a varied extra-curricular program that focused on trained instructors delivering programs in art, gymnastics, swimming and whole school participation in Musica Viva and the Dubbo Eisteddfod.

This was all conducted within the nurturing, inclusive and caring environment that is Hermidale PS.

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.

Leone Dewhurst

P & C Message

The P&C had another busy year. We catered for the Small Schools Cross Country, District Cross Country, Anzac Service, Adidas Fun Run, and various functions and assemblies throughout the year.

Our other fundraising efforts this year have been raffles. At Easter we raffled a Bundy esky kindly donated by the Hermidale Hotel, prawn trays and an Easter basket raising $1,200.

For the NRL footy grand final we raffled lovely pork trays, kindly donated by Rodney Burns. We also raffled a Bundy Rum bottle and decorative Brandy bottle, and a carton of beer, all kindly donated by the Hermidale Hotel. The night raised about $2,250. A huge thank you to Natalie and Jamie for your support and generosity throughout the year, it has been really amazing.

We have been fortunate to receive a $4,213 grant from the FRRR for kitchen renovations and towards enclosing the verandah at the school. We have also been allocated $4,000 from the Shire Village Grant towards this project.

The P&C provided McDonald’s lunch for the children after Possum Magic and the Dubbo Eisteddfod, and purchased books and trophies for the children for presentation night. We also funded the intensive swimming program and the break up pool party for the children.

The P&C donated $4,000 towards the children’s Sydney excursion. We also provided a healthy canteen throughout the year.

Thank you to our Executive, Katie and Bec, for giving up so much of their time and thank you to all of our members for their hard work throughout the year, and for supporting the Executive, it has ensured the success of our organization and the continued support of our school children.

Thank you to Sue, Kerrie, Helen, Lynn, and relief teachers Jenny and Skye for all that you do for our children.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Jacinta and our Teaching Principal, Leone working with our children. I have seen firsthand the time and energy that they put in every day, every week, all year round. Our children do very well academically and in sport, but most importantly, thank you to Leone for ensuring that our children grow in confidence, and feel special.

Small schools ARE special, and our small school is certainly that!

Kylie Curran, President
Student Representative’s message

Our school leaders for 2013 were: School Captain - Ajay Jeffery, Vice-Captain - Georgia Ryan and Sport’s Captain Mikala Turk.

School Leaders 2013

Below is school captain Ajay Jeffery’s speech at the 2013 concert/presentation night.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to our 2013 annual school concert and presentation night.

We have had a lot of fun this year. Some of the highlights from this year were; we went on an excursion to Sydney, while we were there we visited the Sydney Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, NSW Parliament House, Sydney Eye Tower and the Sydney Opera House. Our favourite things were the trip to the zoo and Luna Park.

We went to Dubbo for the Eisteddfod, this year we came third, we played touch football in the small schools touch football competition against Eumungerie, they beat us. We got to play in the rain; Mrs Dewhurst obviously didn’t think it was going to rain. Thank you to Keith for coaching us. Mikala made it to state for the 13 years girls 100 metres. She was the first person to represent the school at an individual level in many years.

Thank you to all the staff for working with us throughout the year. Helen for helping us throughout the year with reading, Kerrie for helping us with library, Sue for teaching us many different things about computer, Lynn for her amazing art lessons, Father Graham for coming out every fortnight for scripture, Annie for swimming lessons, Miss Kiss for teaching and organizing the fun day and Mrs Dewhurst for her hard work every day. Ever since Mikala and I have been at school Mrs Dewhurst has always been with us.

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

The graph below provides a summary of student enrolment at Hermidale PS in the last seven years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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Student attendance profile

In 2013 Hermidale PS had an average attendance of 94.5; this was just below the average for state attendance and above the average for the region.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>94.3</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>94.7</td>
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</table>
Management of non-attendance

The majority of students at Hermidale PS have an attendance rate of above 95%. Whenever there is an isolated case of attendance below this, the school works with the family and the Home School Liaison Officer to find solutions to the issue.

Workforce information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Staffing in 2013 at Hermidale Public School was as follows: one fulltime Teaching Principal, a second teacher employed for Release from Face to Face, Low SES, Principal’s Release and Equity funding, a School Administrative Manager five days a fortnight and a General Assistant one day a week. Two School Learning Support Officers shared the position over three days and when required were the Second Adult on site.

Workforce composition

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher(s)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
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The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

Hermidale PS does not have any staff employed at the school who identify as being Indigenous Australian.

Teacher qualifications

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

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

<table>
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<td>Balance brought forward</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>Training &amp; development</td>
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<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trust accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>76,631.62</td>
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A full copy of the school's 2013 financial statement is available to the P&C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2013

Academic achievements

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and 5 participated in the 2013 National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy. Their results have been discussed with their parents.

The *My School* website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the *Find a school* and select GO to access the school data.
Throughout the year several students from Year 3-6 participated in the University of New South Wales Competitions. Congratulations to William Gudgeon who received a credit in Computer and Maths, James Matchett a credit in English and Kate Currans a credit in Computer, English, Spelling, and a distinction in Writing.

UNSW Computer Awards

Annual Speech/Concert Night

At the 2013 Annual School Speech/Concert night all students were presented with book prizes for their work throughout the year. These books were donated and presented by the Hermidale P&C. Individual award recipients were: Most Improved K-2 student: Makita Turk, Most Improved Year 3-6 Student: Ethan Sales, Sportsperson Award: Mikala Turk, Computer Award: Elly Jeffery, Jeffery Award for Most Consistent All Round Effort: Kate Currans and Citizenship Award: Ajay Jeffery

Other achievements

Arts

As in previous years the students of Hermidale participated in the Dubbo Eisteddfod. They recited two poems in the small schools verse speaking choir. This year they placed third with a very clear recital of ‘I Chased a Dragon through the Woods’ by Jack Prelutsky and ‘Sick’ by Shel Silverstein. Well done also to the following students on their results in individual sections: William Gudgeon - two firsts and an encouragement certificate, Harrison Gudgeon - one encouragement certificate, Georgia Mudford - one first and one highly commended, Will Mudford - one encouragement certificate and Kate Currans - one second and two thirds.

Dubbo Eisteddfod

Public Speaking

Students in Year 3-6 had the opportunity to participate in the CWA Public Speaking Competition held in Narromine. At school all students in Year 3-6 prepared and presented a two minute speech. From this four students were selected to represent the school at the competition: William Gudgeon, Kate Currans, James Matchett and Ajay Jeffery. Ajay Jeffery placed at Narromine and then went on and represented the school at the Regional CWA public speaking competition held in Parkes.

Public Speaking Awards
Nyngan Show

All students entered a selection of artwork in the Nyngan Show arts and crafts section. Every student received a first, second, third or highly commended certificate. Congratulations to Ajay Jeffery who received the Champion Exhibitor ribbon in twelve years and younger.

Nyngan Show Champion

Under the guidance of Computer Coordinator, Sue Campbell the students contributed several photos in the photography section. The photos reflected a keen eye for detail and a steady hand.

Show Photography

Sport

Throughout the year all students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of sporting activities.

The first sporting event of the year was the annual small schools swimming carnival hosted by Girilambone PS. William and Harrison Gudgeon were age champions. The relay team: Ajay Jeffery, Elly Jeffery, Mikala Turk and William Gudgeon won the P6 4 x 50m relay at the small schools carnival and went on to represent the small schools at the regional carnival in Dubbo. There they placed 6th in a timed final. William Gudgeon swam several individual events at the regional carnival.

Small School Swimming Champions

Cross Country

In Term 2 the school hosted the small schools and district cross country. Harrison Gudgeon won the sub junior 1km cross country and William Gudgeon the junior 2km cross country. Elly Jeffery, Kate Currans and James Matchett represented the school at the District Carnival.

Athletics

In Term 3 the focus was athletics, highlight of the athletics season was Mikala Turk representing the school at the state carnival in the 13 years girls 100m. This was our first individual representation at state level in many years. Mikala placed 8th in her semifinal. Mikala’s father Doug who also attended Hermidale PS represented the school in 1983 at state in a relay and individually in the 100m and 200m.

State Athletics Representative

Touch Football

With coach, Keith Gudgeon, the students continued to develop their touch football skills. The team played Eumungerie in Nyngan on an unexpectedly damp afternoon. The Hermidale team tried hard throughout the game with Eumungerie proving too strong in the end.
Gymnastics

In Term 3 through Active Sports the schools participated in a five week gymnastics program with a trained gymnastics instructor. By the end of the program students were delighted that they could do a forward roll, star jump from a mini tramp, cartwheel, handstand and flip themselves on a set of rings.

Intensive Swimming

In the last week of Term four all students participated in a five day intensive swimming program. This was made possible through financial support from the P&C and the Jeffery family providing their bus for the week and transporting the students to and from the pool.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

2013 saw the continuation of each student in the school having a Personalized Learning Plan. A meeting was held at the beginning of each term with the student, parent and classroom teacher. From this meeting the student selected a goal for the term and then the student, parent and classroom teacher listed three suggestions on how to achieve this goal. As the year progressed it was great to see students coming to the meeting with a goal in mind for the term. Many children achieved their goal each term.

Literacy and COGS programs reflect the 8 ways strategy. These strategies have a strong link to quality teaching and fit well with the schools approach to teaching.

Multicultural education

In 2013 the CWA country of study was Morocco. As in previous years casual teacher Mrs Jenny Tremain provided the students with a wide variety of activities about the country of study. At the end of the unit the students submitted a book to the CWA school country of study competition. This book was very detailed and reflected the students understanding of this fascinating country. In Term 3 Girilambone PS joined us for a day all about Morocco. On this day the students dressed in traditional Moroccan clothing, presented information about Morocco at an assembly and shared a Moroccan meal.

Morocco Assembly

Student Leadership

In 2013 the senior students selected the Guide Dog Association as the charity that they would raise money for throughout the year. Money raised from mufti days went towards the charity.

In April the school invited the Hermidale community and Nyngan RSL sub branch members to join us for an ANZAC service at the Hermidale Memorial Park. It was an opportunity for the community to come together to remember and acknowledge this important part of our history.

Leadership can be quiet and unassuming. It can be found in a gentle word of encouragement, helping another, steering a conversation, offering a suggestion or some small service. Our 2013 leaders Ajay Jeffery and Mikala Turk demonstrated this type of leadership.

ANZAC Day Community Service

Transitional Equity Funding

In 2013 Transitional Equity Funding supported several programs within the school.

A major portion of the funding was used to support the schools literacy and numeracy program through supplementary staffing. This year the school participated for the first time in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. A special assembly was held with all students dressing up
as a favourite book character. This, like all assemblies throughout the year, was well supported by parents.

Celebrating books

Equity funding supported the online Mathletics Program. This program consolidates key math concepts taught in the classroom and can also be used at home.

The students studied a science unit ‘Under the Sea’. The highlight of the unit for the students was whilst on the Sydney excursion they had the opportunity to see many of the sea creatures live at the Sydney Aquarium. Whilst on the excursion the students also had a tour of the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Eye Tower, NSW Parliament, Madam Tussauds, Taronga Zoo and Luna Park. Support from Equity funding, the Global School budget, Hermidale P&C and parents made this excursion possible.

Sydney Excursion

National partnerships and significant Commonwealth initiatives

2013 was the final year for the school to receive funding through Low SES as part of the National Partnership Program. This funding enabled the school to employ a second teacher for two days a week. The additional teacher time continued to allow for explicit stage appropriate teaching on a regular basis, increased time for planning of lessons, increased capacity to regularly complete individual assessments, increased time to continue implementing appropriate teaching strategies from Focus on Reading, Small School Reading Recovery and an increased focus on numeracy.

The continued use and enhancement of Personalised Learning Plans for all students has strengthened the link between school and family life and has further enhanced family engagement with the school. The Personalised Learning Plans have also given students increased ownership of their learning at school and at home. There is clear evidence that students are now able to discuss their own learning and set targets accordingly.

School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

Background

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include: surveys about learning completed by staff and parents, an evaluation of Science and Technology units taught throughout the year. In 2013 the two
areas evaluated were: Learning and Science and Technology.

Findings and conclusions
Parents and students completed surveys about learning. Both groups of surveys reflected that at Hermidale PS the classroom is an interesting place to learn, students have access to good equipment and the school expects students to achieve to the best of their ability.

When looking at Science and Technology it became very evident that students really enjoy all ‘hands on’ science activities and appear to have a deeper understanding of the topic when they are able to participate in several ‘hands on’ tasks.

Future directions
Allocated time for students to reflect on their learning and where possible there will be a continued focus on ‘hands on’ science activities.

School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1
Enhanced assessment practice focused more clearly on syllabus outcomes.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- To ensure all Early Stage One and Stage One students meet or are above the Western Region benchmark in reading in 2013.
- Year 3-6 students will improve their reading, comprehension and reading rate by one year or move using the Neale Analysis by the end of Term 3, 2013.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Improved understanding of how to solve a problem using past NAPLAN questions for ‘problem of the day’;
- Students becoming more independent when using Mathletics; and
- The use of a maths rubric to plot students’ progress.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Principal to participate in ‘Maths Matters’ training; and
- Use SMART item analysis to identify areas of numeracy that need further development. Use the teaching strategies from SMART to assist in the planning of lessons and as part of Personalised Learning Plans.

School priority 2
Students able to work more independently and demonstrate deep knowledge and reflect on their own learning.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Stage Two/Three students increase their capacity to select appropriate operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) to solve one and two step problems in numeracy by the end of Term 3, 2013.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Continued to implement Focus on Reading and the Small Schools Reading Recovery strategies;
- Plotted and tracked students on the literacy continuum in the areas of comprehension, reading and vocabulary knowledge; and
- Participated in the ‘Books in Homes’ Program for one term.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- ‘Focus on Reading’ strategies a part of the weekly literacy program, new strategies implemented as required;
- Students’ progress regularly monitored and plotted on the literacy continuum;
- Review Multilit and train and retrain staff in Multilit; and
- Continue to participate in the ‘Books in Homes’ Program.

School priority 3
School culture and practice that respects and responds to every student’s aspirations, culture, gender and learning potential.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- Participated in the Nyngan High School transition program;
Incorporated the 8 ways method into the literacy program; and

Computer Coordinator, Sue Campbell, worked with students in Stage froups to further develop computer skills.

**Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:**

- Continue to use ‘The Resilience Doughnut’, conduct a parent workshop in Semester One 2014;
- Support from Aboriginal Education Consultant in ensuring the Aboriginal Education Policy is reflected in the culture of the school and in classroom teaching programs through the 8 ways; and
- Engage a teacher to further assist with the development of a public speaking/debating program within the school.

**Professional learning**

During 2013 Mrs Dewhurst continued to participate in ‘Focus on Reading’ training. As part of this training she shared with staff and other colleagues comprehension strategies from the course that were working well in the classroom at Hermidale PS.

Classroom teacher, Miss Jacinta Kiss and Computer Coordinator Sue Campbell travelled to Sydney and participated in an ATOM Cineclub film workshop. The focus of the workshop was on using film to enrich learning. Skills learnt from this workshop were reflected in very entertaining advertisements filmed and edited by the students. These were shown at the Annual School Concert/Speech night.

**Film Making**

Miss Kiss also had the opportunity to participate in the ‘Live Life Well at School’ workshop. Following the workshop Miss Kiss developed an action plan with the objectives to: improve the food and nutrition knowledge of the students and increase the student’s fundamental movement skill proficiency. She organized an Adidas Fun Day where the students and parents together participated in a series of physical activities e.g. handball, ball games and soccer. A component of the Adidas program was individual sponsorship. The school was awarded a $5,000 donation from Adidas. This money will go towards the 2014 school excursion.

**Parents verse students’ soccer challenge – Adidas family fun day**

**Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction**

In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and staff about the school.

The response from the parent survey about learning, personalized learning plan meetings, parent/teacher interviews and regular informal meetings indicated that parents are happy with the processes used to engage their child in both the academic and social learning environment.

**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.

**Leone Dewhurst** – School Principal

**Jacinta Kiss** – Teacher

**Sue Campbell** – Community Representative

**Kylie Currans** – Parent Representative
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Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/high-performance/annual-school-reports