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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Welcome to Emu Creek State Schools School Annual Report for 2008. We are very proud of our academic achievements and social outcomes that this report summarises. Emu Creek State School is a small two teacher school that provides a quality education in a multi-age setting. We are a member of the Clifton Cluster and have been involved in the development of a relevant and rigorous curriculum for our students.

The successes articulated in this year's School Annual Report are a testament to the combination of high expectations, skills and enthusiasm possessed by the students and staff of our school and the support of our families and local community.

### Future outlook

2008 has seen many the achievement of many goals including:

- the completion of the Resource Centre refurbishment and school grounds upgrade. We have continued to resource our new facility with both current literature and tools to access the wider learning community with the purchase of books and technology including a television, DVD recorder and the Austar.
- the development of a relevant and engaging curriculum, assessment and reporting schedule that aligns our student's learning with contemporary practice, measurable targets and real life learning opportunities.

Emu Creek State School looks forward to continuing as a two teacher school for the future that will continue to develop positive partnerships with the local community to ensure the continued provision of education within a multi class setting.

Our academic focus will be around the explicit teaching of reading, spelling and writing in the middle years and the maintenance of great results across our year levels. This will in turn, continue to place Emu Creek State School very favourably within the National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) targets and achieved results.

To support the development of school – community links, the provision of quality learning experiences and resulting academic performance we have achieved, Emu Creek State School will continue to demand and value the exemplary standard of positive behaviour choices our children show each and every day.

## School Profile

Emu Creek State School was established in 1875 and is situated just 15 minutes south of Toowoomba on the New England Highway on the Darling Downs. Steele Rudd (Arthur Hoey Davis) attended this school and his selection is 1km from the school entrance. Our school community is very proud of our heritage.

This two teacher school provides a multi-age co-educational setting from Prep to year 7 for 32 students. These enrolments consist of children from farms and hobby farms in the local area and from the townships of Greenmount and East Greenmount.

## Curriculum offerings

### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Emu Creek delivers a contemporary and engaging curriculum through its redeveloped integration of the key learning areas of: Science, Studies of Society and the Environment (SOSE), The Arts, Technology and Health & Physical Education (HPE)
- English and Maths are given deliberate and considered focus. This allows for the maximizing of all students' learning development whilst at the same time, targeting of individual needs. It is our smaller student numbers that ensure the targeting and support of student's learning that may otherwise be missed in larger settings.
- Cross Curricula priorities of Literacy and Information Communication Technology (ICT) are embedded within our school curriculum.
- Emu Creek State School have very clearly articulated standards and targets in the areas of English reading decoding, comprehension and Maths

### Extra curricula activities

Emu Creek State School constantly attends to any extra curricula opportunities that support our individual student's areas of interest. We are ideally positioned within a cluster of small schools and have ready access to both Allora and Toowoomba (some 15 minutes). This location allows students to participate in a variety of both rural and larger centre extra curricula activities including:

- Australasian Schools Competitions and UNSW National Tests – English, Maths and Science
- Year 7 Leadership skill building Conference – Brisbane
- Active After School Care – Rugby League, Softball, Hockey, Ball Skills and Team Sports
- Weekly Pre Prep Parent and children activity mornings
- ANZAC parade with community engagement focus
- Book Club and Guided Library Lessons
- Chess Competitions
- Choir and Musical Eisteddfod
- Culminating days
- Concert – End of Year showcasing student's musical and dramatic performance
- Excursions
- Sporting events: small school, district and zone events including: Athletics Carnivals, Cross Country, Ball Games Carnival, Tennis Competition, Tennis Lessons, small group Swimming Lessons.

### How computers are used to assist learning

Computers and their supporting devices are core tools that are used on a daily basis within our classrooms. These are used by students to research, collate, represent and communicate their learning.

Skills based activities such as touch typing, key commands and the explicit teaching of Microsoft programs and

## Our staff profile

features are regularly applied within classes.

Both digital cameras and online learning tools are both commonly used tools that better enable students to engage in current and high interest learning experiences.

### Social climate

Emu Creek State School is a small school where students and staff develop and foster positive relationships. The aim of our social climate is to provide a caring, considerate and co-operative school climate which acknowledges rights but also recognises that with rights, comes responsibilities.

The P&C Committee is a small, highly dedicated representation of our parent body that constantly search for ways to raise both our schools profile in the local area, and funds to support targeted priority areas of the school. It is through a combination of their efforts and the provision of quality engaging learning experiences that we continue to receive regular enrolments, both at the start of the school year and throughout.

### Involving parents in their child's education.

Emu Creek State School values the contribution of parents and the wider community to education the 'whole child'. We foster and maintain a strong link between home and the school by:

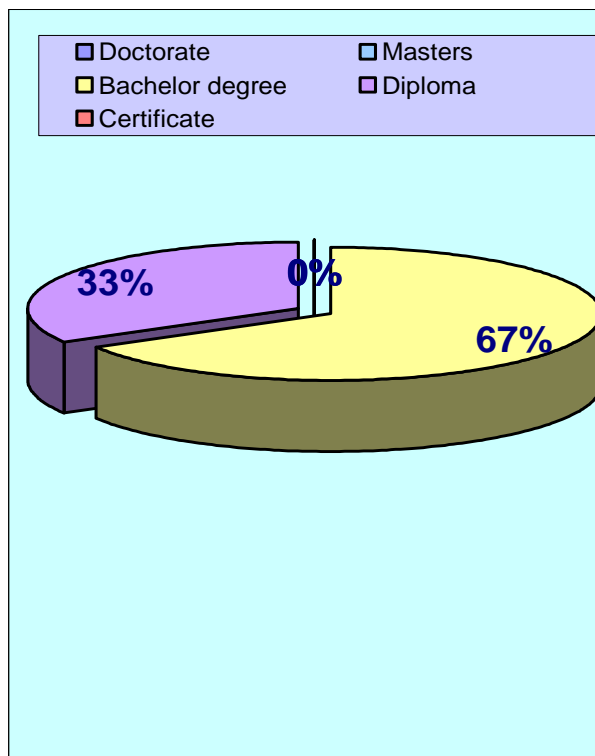
- Weekly early years morning activities for any and all pre prep mothers and children
- Encouraging in school support with class learning experiences
- Engagement with 'ideas for helping kids learn at home' articles in the newsletter
- Open door to classroom policy
- ANZAC Parade – whole school and community

We are committed to building even stronger partnerships with the people in our community. Each term, the P&C and school arrange a social evening or event to celebrate the successes our students have achieved throughout the term.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	2
Diploma	1
Certificate	0



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$7043.00. The majority of this amount was accounted for in supply teachers relieving teachers to access professional development. Such is the importance of providing the highest quality of teaching staff to maximise student learning outcomes and opportunities.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - ✓ Literacy
  - ✓ Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment Alignment
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 50 %.

### 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, 100 % of staff 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 96 %.

## 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	Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7
Reading	Average score for the school	381	406	550
	Average score for Queensland	371.1	466.1	528.1
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	67 %
Writing	Average score for the school	422	453	538
	Average score for Queensland	391.8	468.9	522.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	67 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	396	446	494
	Average score for Queensland	366.7	462.0	528.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	67 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	421	429	526
	Average score for Queensland	370.4	476.6	518.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	83 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	409	441	559
	Average score for Queensland	367.9	458.2	539.0
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008	100 %	100 %

## Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	100%
Writing	100%
Number	75%

# Performance of our students

## Value added

Emu Creek State School is a vibrant and engaging school that employs a number of value adding processes within our school activities including:

Engaging with the Healthy Schools Program through a focused 30minutes daily physical activity. The outcome of this project has seen an increased representation of our students in zone and representational sporting teams as well as an active lunchtime context where all are outdoors and engaged in positive school play.

Students show their pride in their school grounds through the Gardening Club where students are multi-aged grouped to develop and maintain areas of the grounds. A Year 7 school leader is appointed to the role of overseeing this exercise and the student's pride in their school has been noted by visitors to the school who regularly comment on both the pleasing state of the grounds and the student's obvious care for their environment.

At Emu Creek State School we strongly value effort and commitment and have high expectations of all students. Our school is not only a place for academic achievement, but importantly, contributes to the development of respectful and responsible future citizens.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The supportive environment of Emu Creek State School ensures that students feel safe and are therefore able to reach their full potential.

The School Opinion Survey data details the degrees of satisfaction that both parents and students have with various components of our school. We have a positive and open community which is maintained by respectful and valued relationships between students, parents and staff.

Emu Creek SS is a very safe and supportive school community. 100% of our parents surveyed felt that their child is safe at our school. Students supported this belief with approximately 70% indicating that they felt safe and were treated fairly.

This is a very accurate representation of our school that prides itself on being safe, supportive and focused on learning.