Our school at a glance

Students
Cascade Environmental Education Centre (EEC) provides learning opportunities, on average for over 4500 students per year from the North Coast and neighbouring regions.

Staff
As a one teacher school Cascade EEC relies on casuals to support its programs.
All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Significant programs and initiatives
Cascade EEC aims to support students and teachers to become knowledgeable, responsible global citizens. The following programs and initiatives supported this aim in 2012:
The Cascade EEC school camp program.
Cascade day trip support.
Special event days conducted including: World Environment Celebrations Day and Youth Environment Council (YEC) days.
Continued implementation of the Climate Clever Energy Savers (CCES) Program also occurred in the extended local area.

Messages

Principal’s message
Cascade EEC aims to be a leader in providing public schools with high quality support in the field of environmental education, education for sustainability, Aboriginal education, and to support teachers and students to become environmentally aware and active. 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.

John McQueen

School context

Student information
Cascade EEC has no permanent students. Cascade EEC had a great year providing programs for many thousands of students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>OC</td>
<td>IC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>1191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>4139</td>
<td>2406</td>
<td>2036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6545</td>
<td>5864</td>
<td>7135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Avg</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

There are no permanent Aboriginal staff at Cascade EEC. We employ a local Aboriginal educator when required to support our Aboriginal Perspectives camp program.
Staff retention
Cascade teacher staffing has remained stable for the last nine years. A new permanent GA was appointed in 2012.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
<th>30/11/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>69671.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>26135.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>77315.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>67416.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2919.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>243458.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching &amp; learning</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>26211.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>67131.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>245.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>1618.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>61847.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>10184.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>8646.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>3658.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>2288.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>181833.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>61625.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

As a holistic learning experience a camp or day trip at Cascade focuses on the whole student within the context of them becoming a global environmental citizen. Cascade provides a non-threatening, highly engaging, experience based learning environment. As such, students of all levels demonstrate and more importantly experience success during the activities we offer and leave here on a high.

Arts

Students constructed cordage using traditional methods, designed and decorated plaster rainforest animals, performed theatrical skits and completed Aboriginal sand artworks.

Sport

Students participated in structured and non-structured sports activities. The mountain biking program has enjoyed success after being introduced in 2011.

Other

Students participated in team building and personal challenge activities including the Senses Track, Low Ropes Course and team Building Activities.

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Two schools that attended camps at Cascade, chose to participate in our Aboriginal Education program in 2012. All schools that visit cascade participated in programs that explore the local Gumbayngirr peoples relationship with the land.

Environmental Education Programs

Cascade EEC continues to provide high quality environmental education (EE) and education for sustainability (EfS) programs to students K-12.

As a specialist school in EE Cascade provided a diverse range of targeted learning and professional development experiences for schools.
Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1

Environmental and other programs continue to be enhanced and provide examples of best practice to schools.

Our achievements include:

- Cascade camps and day excursions were marketed to Mid North Coast schools. This resulted in a large uptake of programs especially in term 4 after the marketing was carried out.
- Cascade camps continued to satisfy the needs of client groups. This information was gained during evaluations carried out on the Cascade programs.
- Cascade staff attended meetings with a variety of program partners. These partners included NSW National Parks, a variety of LGO’s, Waterwatch coordinators from the Hastings and Mid North Coast and the Northern Rivers CMA.
- Cascade staff participated in appropriate professional development opportunities that included the annual state EEC conference, NSW state PPA conference and the Western and Rural EEC conference.

Target 2

Schools are supported to become involved in the YEC, Climate Clever Energy Savers (CCES) program and the A (audit) team.

Our achievements include:

- Four primary and four secondary YEC events were held in 2012.
- Cascade EEC supported 24 schools to be a part of the CCES program in 2012.
- An evaluation of A team visits from 2009 was conducted. This information allowed program organisers to make the decision to discontinue the program at this stage.

School evaluation including parent, teacher and student satisfaction

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of the camp program at Cascade EEC.

Evaluation of the School camp program at Cascade

Background

The school camps conducted at Cascade are the main programs in terms of numbers and provision. Areas such as pre-camp information, staff performance, catering/accommodation and programs were included in the survey. Open ended questions were also asked in the above areas.

Findings and conclusions

The camp evaluations received an average of 4.96 out of 5. These results were analysed over a minimum of 12 areas.

Open ended responses included:

1. When asked what the worst part of the camp was, the response was nothing.
2. “Highly suitable for our year 4 students as a two night excursion. Educationally spot on and a great deal of fun.”
3. “Always a great adventure. The kids loved it and wanted to stay longer.”

There were two responses about the quality of the mattresses in the teachers rooms needing improvement.

Future directions

Cascade will maintain its high standards and ensure that all program participants experience success and increase their appreciation of the environment around them. We will investigate the possibility of purchasing new mattresses.

Professional learning

During 2011, the number and applicability of professional development opportunities was evaluated by the school principal. The result was that non-environmental (EE) and sustainability education (Efs) focused opportunities will be supported at a regional level annually and state level activities will be supported bi-annually. EE and Efs professional development at local, state and national level will be the priority for Centre staff.
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

Cascade EEC provides innovative EE and Efs support to schools.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Learning environments in the grounds of Cascade are developed, including a Gondwanan plant track and Aboriginal campsite
- A vegetable garden program is developed
- The Waterwise program is expanded and delivered in Bellingen LGA, pre-schools and high schools

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- A Gondwanan learning environment is constructed and programs are developed to support this environment
- An Aboriginal campsite is investigated and initiated
- School groups participate in the vegetable garden program offered at Cascade
- One Pre-school is used as a pilot school to develop and deliver the Waterwise program. Other pre-schools participate in the program

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Cascade EEC maintains its focus on developing programs that suit the needs of client groups and are rated highly in evaluations.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- A program to support Agriculture students and teachers in secondary schools is investigated and developed
- School camp accommodation, specifically teachers mattresses are investigated and replaced if necessary
- Cascade EEC is a partner in organising and conducting NAIDOC on the Dorrigo Plateau in 2013

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Agriculture programs are developed if deemed appropriate by schools
- New mattresses are purchased if feasible
- Cascade staff attend meetings to plan NAIDOC. Cascade staff conduct activities on NAIDOC Day on the plateau.

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.

John McQueen, Principal.

Geoff Tomlins, Casual Teacher.

Wayne Dobbs, Senior Administration Manager.

Respondents, client teacher and student surveys.

School contact information

Cascade EEC

PO Box 206, Dorrigo, 2453.

Ph: 02 66574188

Fax: 02 66574117

Email: cascade-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web: cascade-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

School Code: 5731

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: