School context statement
Cascade Environmental Education Centre (EEC) is one of the DEC’s 21 Environmental and Zoo Education Centers (EZEC) in NSW. The Centre works as a part of the EZEC collective and in partnership with schools to develop programs and experiences for K-12 students in NSW.

Student information
Cascade has no enrolled students.

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

Student enrolment profile
Cascade EEC has no students enrolled.

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

Workforce composition

<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 Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal 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.

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>

Professional learning and teacher accreditation
Cascade EEC staff participate in a range of professional learning activities as both presenters and participants. In 2014 Cascade staff attended the annual EEC conference and the NSW PPA conference.

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>30/11/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>94613.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>31615.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>22243.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>118545.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2842.26</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>269860.46</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>22304.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>71172.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>236.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>454.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>22853.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>8182.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>14142.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>8593.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>4204.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>152162.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance carried forward 117697.74

A full copy of the school's 2014 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 2014
Cascade EEC provided camp and day trip programs for close to 6000 students from 63 schools in the North Coast area. 21 schools also participated in the Waterwise program coordinated and conducted by Cascade EEC staff.

The reach of Cascade into its area of operations has been gaining momentum. A contributing factor has been the development of programs in partnership with a variety of community organisations such as Coffs Harbour City Council, Kemspey Shire Council and Bellingen Shire Council.
School planning and evaluation
2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- A written survey assessing Teacher satisfaction with School camps. The results of this survey indicated that 100% were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the camps and programs provided by Cascade. One area marked as “satisfactory” or needing improvement was the teacher beds. These were upgraded in February 2015.

- Student participation in camp activities. This was assessed via Cascade staff observation and discussion with visiting teachers. It was often expressed with an element of surprise the level of engagement of the students in the activities provided by Cascade. A great factor for the camps at Cascade was shown to be the newness and difference of the programs and the active, “hands-on” approach to learning.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014

Cascade EEC and its partners provide rich, relevant and targeted environmental experiences for all program participants

2014 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Develop programs that are negotiated with school groups, developed to support the curriculum and inclusive of potential participants

- Build individual relationships with and knowledge of the natural world, it’s ecosystems and interconnections and the application of this knowledge at a local ecosystem level

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- Programs were negotiated with school groups and developed to support the curriculum and inclusive of potential participants. Programs included senior biology and school camps at Cascade

- Students were provided opportunities to create individual relationships with and knowledge of the natural world, its ecosystems and interconnections. They were supported in the application of this knowledge at a local ecosystem level

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Interpretive walks and activities during school camps were conducted that provided opportunities for participants to experience the natural world

- Learning experiences were conducted in and around local schools that focused on their local environment

- Cascade EEC programs were marketed to Mid North Coast schools

- A partnership was developed with the Cork Memorial Trust to seek funding. This funding was used to support student learning and develop knowledge of the local environment, specifically in the conduct of propagation workshops and local river assessments

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014

Build relationships with agencies, individuals, schools and environmental education providers that benefit program participants.

2014 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Develop and strengthen relationships with existing partners that provide both financial and in-kind support to environmental programs

- Seek out and develop potential partners through professional development experiences

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- Relationships with existing partners that provide both financial and in-kind support to environmental programs have been
strengthened, especially with Coffs Harbour City Council and Midwaste

- Partnerships have begun to be developed with Thalgarrah EEC the Australian Association of Environmental Education and Coffs Waste Services

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

- Cascade staff participated in workshops with local and state government organisations to contribute to the development of a plan to assist to mitigate the effects of climate change
- Cascade EEC organized and participated in NAIDOC activities in its local area. About 2000 students participated in activities provided by Cascade
- Programs were conducted in partnership with other agencies. The agencies were: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Thalgarra EEC and Local Government Authorities

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

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. This was via our written camp evaluations, verbal communication and discussion, Cascade staff feedback, observations and discussion about programs.

As teachers are usually very busy on return to school it is always best to gain responses from schools whilst they are on camp. Completing a written response is not always suitable or practical so often a discussion initiated by the principal during an activity or a break is the best option.

Usually specific questions are asked such as “How have you found the presenters level of knowledge and our ability to relate to the children?” or “If you could change one thing that has been in the program today, what would it be?” The responses are generally noted down.

Responses from the above questions included;

“Cascade was an excellent first camp for my students. The program was relevant and targeted what we have been covering back at school.”

“The Cascade staff provided valuable support for our year 11 biology students. The fact that we had 100 students on a rock platform didn’t faze them.”

**Future Directions**

**2015-2017 School Plan**

NSW DEC is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school’s website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.

**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
Wayne Dobbs SAM / Cleaner
Nathan Steele GA
Geoff Tomlins, Beth Richards, Jo Cunnigham, Lisa Siegal, Jane Noak, Ryan Minchintong – Casual Teachers

**School contact information**

Cascade EEC
PO Box 206, Cascade, 2453
Ph: 02 66574188
Fax: 02 66574117
Email: Cascade-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.cascade-e.schools@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 5731

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: