School context
Barkers Vale Public School is a supportive and active community situated on a scenic plateau of the North Coast. Barkers Vale has luscious surroundings which are distinct features of the high rainfall area, as it is located 35 km from Lismore and 55 km from Murwillumbah. Embedded in the Kyogle Shire, Barkers Vale boasts a friendly and devoted school community.

Barkers Vale Public School is the heart of the community, and each person involved is dedicated to providing the optimum learning experience for the children through unity. Our reputation is founded on delivering quality education, and developing the individual talents, interests and abilities of our students.

The school is positioned at the top of a picturesque valley and values its large playing fields, climbing equipment and park like grounds. Our students and staff take pleasure in well resourced classrooms and facilities where students learn in a family environment.

School Purpose:
Our aim is to provide a vibrant and responsive school that produces well educated citizens with the capability and confidence to succeed in the 21st century. To honour this commitment we will:

♦ Ensure that quality teaching and learning are the central focus of every classroom.
♦ Provide students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values for productive and rewarding lives.
♦ Provide education that values and supports the intellectual, creative, physical, social and emotional development of each child and their learning style.
♦ Provide a safe, secure and disciplined quality learning environment.
♦ Involve parents, caregivers and community in all aspects of their child’s education.
♦ Assist students to develop the foundations for a commitment to lifelong learning in preparation for the world of work, leadership, self discipline and decision making.

School Vision: Our school strives to be a place where every child can learn and effectively function in society. We want to encourage & empower students, link our community and develop an environment where every student has success, through excellence, innovation and team work. “It’s up to us.”

Principal’s message
2013 has seen many positive experiences at Barkers Vale. National Partnership Funding for Low SES communities facilitated many additional effective learning opportunities for students, staff and community. Whilst Literacy and Numeracy are our focus, teachers do provide many extra-curricular activities. Many additional events and extra-curricular experiences were organised and enjoyed by the students. This has included Harmony days, special combined small schools sports/cultural days, public speaking events, cultural performances and numerous excursions. These activities provide the students with many opportunities to excel whilst trying new things. I thank the staff for their continued high level of dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being.

Athletics and Cross Country carnivals were hosted on our full sized oval. These were wonderful events as many parents, guardians & relatives were able to come along and support the children in athletics and cross country trials at our own school venue.

Again this year the school focused on many educational initiatives. This included an active School Environmental Educational Plan (SEMP), which focused our whole school approach to sustainability.

Throughout the year we have received the significant and generous support from a hard working P & C from assisting with renovating the sandpit area to purchasing ipads and computers for the school. Their efforts are highly appreciated by the school community.

This year solar panels were added to the school. This was a great addition which was widely valued by our community.
This wonderful school continues to offer a sound education to students of the greater Barkers Vale, Lillian Rock, Wadeville and Nimbin areas. 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.

Dafydd Thomas

P & C and/or School Council message
2013 was another creative and productive year for Barkers Vale Public P&C. Meeting throughout the year our team of volunteers organised a variety of initiatives and events to continue to support students, teachers and the school community.

2013 initiatives included:

- We engaged in reflective conversations as a group of parents, with the principal, to establish a common thread of philosophical beliefs. In particular the importance of building a culture of respectful and reciprocal learning relationships for all involved in a school community, with the students at the centre. We then collaborated with the principal to re-word the school rules to reflect the importance of building reciprocal relationships to support each student to reach their fullest potential.
- We have continued our road safety campaign, writing to council requesting a reduction in the speed zone and will continue to pursue this into 2014.
- Collaborated with the SRC to support additional fund-raising for sand-pit upgrade.
- Organising another community, environmental fund-raising fete – ‘Green Day’ – which brought both the school and wider community together for student performances, markets, food, entertainment, speakers and workshops.

Fund-raising initiatives included:

- Various raffles throughout the year with items donated by local businesses or families.
- Hosting a Bunnings BBQ fund-raiser.
- Continuing to run our school canteen one day a week as a fund-raiser.
- Catering for local hall community auction fund-raising day.
- Making Christmas cards with students from 2/3/4 to sell as a fund-raiser.
- Organising and hosting our annual environmental fund-raiser fete – Green Day.

The P&C used income this year to:

- Purchase equipment for our expanding student gardens and environmental projects.
- Supplying funds for resources for each classroom.
- Assisting in subsidising the cost for our year 3-6 students to attend a school camp to Lake Ainsworth.
- The P&C gave a special school shirt to each of our departing year 6 students.
- Contributed to funds the SRC raised to complete sand-pit upgrade.
- Have allocated funds to contribute to our music program, completing four more marimbas.
- Contributed funds to assist in the purchase of i-pads for each classroom.

The P&C will continue to meet monthly and look forward to another productive year in 2014.

President: Marley Myles
Vice President: Shelly Snadden
Secretary: Sharman Okan
Treasurer: Katherine Perrot
Environmental Sustainability co-ordinator: Wendy Jansen
Canteen co-ordinator: Rebecca McGregor

Student representative’s message
A Students Representative Council is elected and meets each week at Barkers Vale. SRC councillors are elected from each classroom and from all grades except kindergarten. The students elect their own President, Secretary and Treasurer and conduct business according to standard meeting procedure. This year they allocated money to go to charities, purchased sporting equipment and coordinated fundraising for new sand pit equipment. Students also worked on environmental initiatives around the school and peer support reading programs.

**Student information**

Our school grew to 73 students in 2013, including 36 boys and 37 girls. Students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decent made up 4% of the total enrolment.

**Student enrolment profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>86.1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>91.4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>88.1</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>86.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>90.0</td>
<td>88.8</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Management of non-attendance**

Daily attendance of all students is one of the school’s expectations. Continual monitoring of attendance occurs at class, school and district level. The principal oversees school attendance with the assistance of the region’s Home School Liaison Officer. A system of checks and actions are in place.

**Workforce information**

**Workforce composition**

- Dafydd Thomas: Teaching Principal 5 days
- Julie McTaggart: Teacher 5 days
- Alison Ryan: Teacher 5 days
- Kerry Behrend: Teacher & Librarian 3 days
- Therese Hedwards: PT/LaST & Teacher 3 days
- Trish Strange: School Administrative Manager
- Sam Ryan: School Administrative Officer
- Neil Rodway: General assistant
- Ronnie Potter: School cleaner
- School Learning Support Officers: Lyn Loxton, Ronnie Potter, Jamie North.

The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

In 2013 only one staff member identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decent.

**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>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students working on ipads on an environmental education project.

**Financial summary**

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

Date of financial summary 30/11/2013

**Income**
- Balance brought forward $30134.61
- Global funds 81797.96
- Tied funds 82906.00
- School & community sources 19938.71
- Interest 1512.40
- Trust receipts 816.05
- Canteen 0.00

Total income 217105.73

**Expenditure**
- Teaching & learning 3844.97
  - Key learning areas 3844.97
  - Excursions 11259.58
  - Extracurricular dissections 9752.80
- Library 966.73
- Training & development 661.47
- Tied funds 79482.95
- Casual relief teachers 15154.79
- Administration & office 19659.63
- School-operated canteen 0.00
- Utilities 15847.33
- Maintenance 4794.75
- Trust accounts 3126.42
- Capital programs 7132.65

Total expenditure 171684.07

Balance carried forward 45421.66

A full copy of the school’s 2013 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 2013**

Barkers Vale Public School has a small cohort of students in Year 3 & 5 who completed NAPLAN Assessments in 2013.

**Academic achievements**

**NAPLAN**

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.

Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

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.

**NAPLAN Year 3 - Literacy** (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

Year 3 NAPLAN Numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average score, 2013</td>
<td>362.2</td>
<td>382.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN Year 5 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

Percentage of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard (exempt students included)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>92.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>91.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN Year 5 - Numeracy

Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Spelling between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Writing between Year 3 and 5

Average progress in Numeracy between Year 3 and 5

Other achievements

Creative arts were integrated effectively in a variety of ways in Barkers Vale in 2013 thanks to some marvellous help from parents, community members and dedicated teachers. Jamie North, who is a parent at Barkers Vale, assisted the instruction of music in our school with many
wonderful and creative ideas. He brought an engaging approach and enthusiasm for music which became the back bone for the music program at Barkers Vale. Marley Myles also directed some students in the specific discipline of dancing. Genevieve Davies, a local community member, also instructed gymnastic and circus art skills each term across our school. Also, throughout the year Barkers Vale had the privilege of having some entertaining acts and live theatre performances visit the school, to give students first hand understandings of the skills needed in performing.

For the second year running many of our students performed in the ‘GREENDAY’ event in September at our school. This was an important Environmental Education fundraiser which saw significant numbers of people from the community engulfing our school grounds. This was a fabulous event which enabled the students to play a variety of musical instruments and also perform individual & group items in front of a large audience.

Many of our creative art talents were then developed and extended into our annual school concert. This is a major event at our school with students performing songs, theatre, hip hop and flamenco dance, poems and speeches in front of a huge local crowd in our school hall.

Art and Craft is incorporated in a variety of different forms at BVPS and is completed regularly by students, guided by our passionate artistic teacher-librarian Kerry Behrend. This year students combined to create a masterpiece for the COLOURSS art exhibition in Kyogle.

Sport

Students competed in a wide range of sports this year. We participated in both school and interschool athletics, swimming and cross country carnivals. Our results were pleasing with some students moving onto the zone level. A select few gained age champions and runners up champions in our small schools sporting events. This year it also included gala days at various other small schools.

Active After Schools Program

This program continued in 2013 at Barkers Vale. It enabled students to be engaged in a variety of sports and have additional sports instructors with access to new sports equipment. It was run in the afternoons by trained facilitators Ronnie Potter & Genevieve Davies. The emphasis is on keeping the students active and developing a positive attitude to exercise. After each session the students receive a bountiful platter of fresh fruit for afternoon tea. This has been a real success for students building their interest and skills in sport as well as developing an active mind and active body approach to their learning.

Other Programs

Environmental Education

Environmental Education was a focus again in 2013 with a spotlight on sustainability across the school. Students also planted shrubs around the school on National Tree day. Students also added fresh mulch and fertilizer to the existing trees from previous years to ensure longevity. Throughout the year students, with help from teachers and Wendy Jansen, maintained vegetable gardens and the school’s worm farm.
A huge environmental education fundraiser “GREENDAY” was run by the P&C in September. This was a highly successful event raising substantial money for our school and showcasing our school community’s talents.

Science
This year we combined with the other school groups from our learning community COLOURSS for a science connections day. Each stage group went to a different school for some intriguing science experiments. This was a great success with many challenging tasks and group work activities promoting higher order thinking.

Public Speaking
Our annual “Speak Easy” forum was a huge success. Students from each class were involved in public speaking with a large audience of parents and the rest of the school community. This gave students a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate their speaking skills in front of a live, large audience. This program has been extremely beneficial at Barkers Vale with students developing an increased level of self confidence and strong public speaking skills, which is noticed in the feeder high schools. This year our public speaking program took a new leap forward as we hosted a combined Public Speaking event for small schools in our hall judged by an adjudicator from Kyogle High, the Deputy Principal Gae Masters. This was the beginning of a new higher level of competition with students selected from Stage 2 & stage 3 from all the COLOURSS schools to present their speech in front of a large audience. Student received medallions for competing and a overall winner from each stage was selected. Two students from BVPS were fortunate enough to be awarded the winner from each group of students.

Excursions
This year students in 3/4/5/6 went to Lake Ainsworth. This was a marvellous four days of structured, engaging activities for the students.

Assemblies & ANZAC Day celebrations
Each week assemblies are held to recognise the achievements and effort of students at our school. Students also present work and items to the assembly that they have completed. ANZAC day is always an important time at Barkers Vale Public School. This year we had over forty guests visit our school for the special assembly and presentation led by students. It was a very meaningful and special ceremony which the community supports.

Significant programs and initiatives
Aboriginal education
Aboriginal education is integrated substantially in the Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) curriculum. Students form a perspective on Aboriginal history and culture through these lessons. Resources for this important part of primary education were purchased and added to our growing collection. A respect and appreciation for the uniqueness of the Aboriginal culture was embedded in the school community. Students from K-6 created art works and learnt about the Aboriginal Dream Time. Every Aboriginal student has a Personalised Learning Plan. Acknowledgement of Country occurs at every significant school event. We celebrate NAIDOC Day with special activities.

Multicultural education
We integrate multicultural education into our regular lessons at every opportunity. It is covered
in many Key Learning Areas throughout the year as per our scope and sequence.

In addition to this we had an extremely successful Harmony Day. For a half day children rotated through three activities that focused on co-operation and multiculturalism. Students develop an understanding of cultural, linguistic and religious differences in our society. Harmony Day was all about acceptance, inclusiveness, tolerance, diversity, peaceful solutions and a multicultural nation. It was wonderful to see so many parents in the school, offering their skills and showing their talents to the children.

Respect and responsibility

“Rock & Water”, a social skills & awareness education program, was a focus again this year. This was carried out each week as part of our individual gender education. It aims to develop skills & strategies which students can use in a wide variety of scenarios from dealing with bullying to building self confidence. Our school’s anti-bullying program continues with a large part of this program concentrating on promoting respect, both for yourself and others, and taking responsibility for your own actions. These values, along with those of tolerance, compassion and fairness, play an integral part in our program. These values are taught through explicit lessons in PD Health with our 5 Keys to Success Social Skills program.

National Partnership Programs – Low SES School Communities

Barkers Vale Public School has continued on this program from 2011 - 2013 as part of the Low Socio Economic Status component of the National Partnerships funding Program. This partnership is targeted at getting the best quality teaching into schools.

After extensive analysis and consultation some of the aims of the program will include:
- Facilitating workshops for parents on a variety of educational topics.
- Improving communication opportunities for the community and the school.
- Making quality teaching and best practice a focus of our delivery of educational outcomes.
- Staff embedding quality teaching practices into their programs.
- Targeted professional development to support improvement in student learning outcomes.
- Supporting staff to develop their leadership capabilities in analysing data and mentoring other staff members.
- Exceeding targets set for improving growth in student Literacy and Numeracy outcomes.

School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan.

In 2013 our school carried out evaluations using the Situational Analysis tool for National Partnerships Low SES community Schools.

Methodology

Interviews were conducted with members of the school community, including the following: members of staff, students, parents, family members and community members.

Analysis of policies and programs, plans, budgets, meeting minutes, assessment information, communications, program evaluations and other documents seen by the school as informing the review. This included; classroom observation, surveys, analysis of student achievement data, including detailed NAPLAN analysis using SMART & Best Start Data, TEN data & School Based Semester Reports.
School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

School priority 1 Literacy
Students in k-6 will achieve stage appropriate outcomes for reading comprehension benchmarks.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
NAPLAN results showed 20% of students in year 3 were only below Band 3 compared with 27% in 2012.

NAPLAN results showed only 42% of students in year 5 were in Band 7 or above a decrease from the previous year.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014
Effectively implement a whole school approach to reading using the Super 6 framework and the new BOS curriculum.

Teachers programs demonstrated targeted strategies to improve inferential comprehension.

LaST teacher worked closely with teachers to provide individualised learning for students to improved outcomes in inferential comprehension.

Purchase of new home readers facilitated engagement at home of reading.

Purchase Ipads or Tablets to facilitate engagement and improvement.

School priority 2 Numeracy
Student’s k-6 achieve stage appropriate outcomes in sub strand numeracy.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
56 % of students were in Band 3 NAPLAN and so no reduction took place.

There was a reduction from 57% in 2012 to 41 % in 2013 in Numeracy results for students in Band 5 or below.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
Best Start and TEN strategies continue to drive movement along the continuum by plotting students.

School priority 3 Engagement
To increase the use and delivery of PL and tailored learning experiences for students & staff across our learning community and partner school teams from 5% to 45%.

100% of Teachers use National Standards in their classroom teacher programs and classroom best practice evaluations.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:
PL plans developed for all staff and reviewed twice a term.

Specific written feedback given from TARS to teachers.

Staff meetings regularly review National Standards.

Teachers complete lesson study released by LaST teacher.

Research based pedagogy driven by

Teachers with increased professional dialogue.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
Using ipads to view and reflect on classroom best practice and establish an action research project to utilise new pedagogies.
Link with other schools in Stage meeting once a term to facilitate this professional Learning approach.

Professional learning

- Professional Learning has facilitated teaching practice in line with the National Teaching Standards; with focus on TEN programs for Early Stage 1 & Stage 1 teachers, use of the numeracy continuum K-6, with additional training provided for the LaST teacher in behavioural analysis and support.

- Professional learning funds focused on developing skills and teaching strategies in Numeracy, Literacy & ICT ipad Training. Teachers facilitated more professional development to staff through individual research.

- Confidence in using ICT by staff was outlined as a strength.

Barkers Vale Public School staff have a very positive attitude towards professional learning. They welcome the opportunity to attend courses, will always provide feedback to all staff on events attended and will offer to provide school based training to their peers.

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.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2013 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below:

- 88% of parents surveyed believed that the school provided consistent support to behaviour management within the new school rules.
- 91% of parents surveyed were happy with the communication they had with the school around behaviour management issues.
- 89% of surveys indicated that BVPS was a school where families were included in supporting students when issues had arisen.

- 96% of students felt their teacher supported them fairly when behaviour management issues had occurred.
- 93% of students surveyed commented that they enjoyed learning at BVPS.
- 97% of surveys indicated that their child felt safe and secure at BVPS.
- 83% of families surveys were comfortable approaching the school with problems that needed addressing.

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.

School contact information

Dafydd Thomas - Principal
Julie MacTaggart - Classroom teacher
Alison Ryan - Classroom teacher
Kerry Behrend - Teacher / Librarian
Therese Hedwards - STL Teacher
Trish Strange - School Administration Manager
Marley Myles - Parent Representative

School contact information

Barkers Vale Public School, 4501 Kyogle Road, Wadeville NSW 2474. Phone: 6689 7202 Fax: 6689 7469 barkersval-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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: