**School context statement**

Barkers Vale Public School is a supportive and active community situated on the scenic plateaus 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.

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.

**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.”

**Parents and Citizen’s Report**

It has been a great year for Barkers Vale P&C and school community. It has also been a very busy year with some significant changes that needed to be navigated.

The school farewelled long serving principal Daffyd Thomas at the end of first term. Welcoming our new principal Kathy Johnson at the beginning of term 2. There was also change in the P&C executive, we farewelled Kach as Treasurer and welcomed Leonie in
the role. There were also changes in the coordination if the canteen. Thank you Christine, Rebecca and Vicky for taking on this role for different periods over the year.

The P&C held some fantastic fundraising activities throughout the year; running the canteen at the COLORS group cultural day in Kyogle, a BBQ at Bunnings and a raffle for the end of year concert. The highlight was Hoopla in term 3 when the whole school came together, dressed up, shared fantastic food and boogied the night away. We were thoroughly entertained by the Pitts family circus, it is extra special knowing that the performers are members of our school community.

The P&C continues to grapple with issues related to; the speed zone of the road that divides the two sides of our school and the management of waste. Another theme that ran through discussions at meetings was the need to develop a clear and equitable procedure for applying for funds from the P&C to support the activities of students.

I hope that the P&C continues to focus on the collaboration between students, teachers and parents. For a school our size we have had fabulous representation at P&C meetings, we draw from a wealth of knowledge. We are a wonderful community that is passionate about community.

Kind regards,
Kylie, P&C President

Student Representative Council
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.

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**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**

Our student enrolment has remained steady for several years, however, with a very large Year 6 (24% of whole school) leaving at the end of 2014, our enrolments will decline. Our Kinder enrolments remain strong.

**Student attendance profile**

**Workforce Information**

Kath Johnston: 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
The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. In 2014 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>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Professional learning and teacher accreditation

Our staff regularly engage with staff from the COLOURSS schools in Professional learning. This year there was a focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

Stage teams met once a term to plan Literacy units using the new Planning Tool and explore TENS numeracy strategies. Staff also engaged in Professional learning related to catering to special needs students. The Principal attended both North Coast and State Principal’s Conferences to engage with national and international Educational specialists regarding Learning and Leading in the 21st Century.

Financial Summary

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

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
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<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<td>Canteen</td>
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<td>Total income</td>
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<table>
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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

Barkers Vale Public School has a small cohort of students in Year 3 & 5 who completed NAPLAN Assessments in 2014.

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)

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 and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

Alternatively:

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

With 60% of Yr 3 students in the top band for Reading, and more students in the top bands for Spelling than in previous years, this year’s results were very positive. 100% of Year 3 students achieved at or above the minimum benchmark (with the exception of Writing).

**NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy**

There were no students in the bottom 2 bands in Numeracy, with 100% achieving above the benchmark.

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

Our students achieved above the State average in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. 100% of Year 5 students achieved at or above the minimum benchmark (with the exception of Writing). There were no students in the bottom 2 bands for Reading and Spelling.

**NAPLAN Year 5 - Numeracy**

Our progress in Numeracy was very pleasing this year, with 100% of students achieving at or above the National Benchmark .

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<td>79.5</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>79.5</td>
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**Other achievements**

**Creative Arts**

Creative Arts were integrated effectively in a variety of ways in Barkers Vale in 2014 thanks to some marvelous 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. 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.

Many of our creative art talents were then developed and extended into our annual school concert – “The Almost, Nearly Greatest Show on Earth”. This major event at our school featured the whole school with groups of students performing songs, theatre, hip hop, jazz and robot dance, music on iPads, drums, guitars and marimbas - in front of a huge local crowd in our school hall.

Students also performed at the COLOURSS Cultural Day. K,1 presented a play, with students from year 2 and year 6 showing their skills on the marimbas.

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. Art and craft is regularly integrated into other Key Learning Areas.

This year we held our inaugural ‘Hoopla’. This was a fabulous event organized by the P&C which enabled the students and school community to be entertained by the amazing skills of our local family circus, ‘The Pitts’. Parents, mainly those of years 5 and 6 students provided a wonderful array of food on the evening. Monies raised assisted with the Senior Excursion to Brisbane.

Years 3-6 were fortunate to go to the stage play of Andy Griffith’s ‘13 Story Tree House’. This provided students with a wonderful example of the creative genius in bringing a popular text to life!

Sport
The COLOURSS Schools Swimming Carnival was held in Term 1. The weather was certainly in our favour and students who attended gave of their best. I believe a great day was had by all who attended and participated.

Our School Cross Country was held at the end of Term 1 with a great day of friendly competition.

Although the weather was quite bleak for the Kyogle District Cross Country at The Risk Public School, students competed with great enthusiasm and did themselves and their school proud!

At the end of term 2 we held our Small Schools Athletics Carnival in Kyogle. Our students trained hard and competed with great sportsmanship. We were fortunate to have a strong contingent of our students qualify to represent us and the Small Schools at the Kyogle District Athletics carnival. Our students did very well and once again we had plenty of support from our Barkers Vale family who came along to support our school. Seven students from Barkers Vale qualified for the Zone Athletics in Lismore. They represented our school so well and displayed great sportsmanship.

Our students competed in the PSSA Soccer Gala Day in Lismore. They played so well as a team, defeating Ulmarra PS and then backing straight up to Blakebrook PS (last year’s state champions). They played fairly and displayed excellent sportsmanship. Our students played a strong defensive game under the fabulous guidance of Ronny, who trained and encouraged our team. Ronny provided them with a range of strategies prior to and during the game.

Our Intensive Swimming Program in term 4 was extremely successful with students involved in developing water safety and rescue skills, stroke correction, intensive swimming lessons, and water awareness. We really appreciate the assistance of our parents who helped out providing additional supervision for our junior students.

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.

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 based around the theme of ‘Sustainable Food’. The day was a great success with many challenging tasks and group work activities promoting higher order thinking.

Public Speaking

Our annual “Speak Easy” Public Speaking Competition 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 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 as well as Amanda Doran – writer and grandparent of one of our students. Students were 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 an overall winner from each stage was selected.

Excursions

This year students in K,1,2 travelled to Lismore to learn about the Fire Station. They also found out lots about food and how supermarkets operate on their visit to Woolworths. They also hosted a visit from other COLOURSS Schools at Barkers Vale where they engaged in a variety of social, creative, physical and academic activities together.

Year 3 and 4 had a wonderful time exploring all that Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre has to offer.

Years 3-6 were fortunate to go to the stage play of Andy Griffith’s ‘13 Story Tree House’ as part of their Literacy and Creative Arts Program.

Year 5 and 6 travelled to Brisbane and The sunshine Coast for four days engaging in a wide variety of activities and learning experiences including Underwater World, Tour of the Shipping Terminal, Ice Skating, Sciencentre, The Planetarium and much more!

Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding

Aboriginal education


Aboriginal Education is embedded into all key learning areas. There is a particular focus on the significance of culture and the experiences of Aboriginal people in our local area. As in the previous year, our school provided programs designed to educate all our students about Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary Aboriginal Australia.

We were fortunate to have a visit from Local Elder, Lewis Walker in Term 1. Students were able to increase their understanding of Aboriginal culture through Aboriginal dance, traditional stories and language. Students also learnt about traditional weapons, hunting tools and musical instruments. Many students commented that it was one of the best performances they had attended. 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

Ensuring we equip our students with knowledge about other cultures is vital. Barkers Vale School has a racist free, all inclusive working environment. Units of work which develop understanding of cultural, linguistic and religious differences, and that explicitly teach about racism and discrimination are part of the school program. 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.

Harmony Day is always a highlight of the year with students able to engage in a variety of activities whilst acknowledging Cultural Diversity. This year we had another 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.

We also had a visit from a Swedish couple who are cycling around the world. It was intriguing to hear of their travels and experiences.

Respect and responsibility

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. Each week a new Value is highlighted through a powerpoint presentation at our whole school assembly. This value is reinforced throughout the week. These values, along with those of tolerance, compassion and fairness, play an integral part in our program. This underpins what we do and fosters an environment conducive to a happy, secure place of learning. Assembly awards and leadership by senior students consistently reinforce respect and responsibility.

“Rock & Water”, a social skills & awareness education program, was a focus again early 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.

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.

School planning and evaluation 2012—2014

School evaluation processes

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

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 Priority 1 Literacy

Students in k-6 will achieve stage appropriate outcomes for reading comprehension benchmarks.

Outcomes from 2012–2014

Our results in NAPLAN were well above the state and Similar School Groups in both years 3 and 5.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- 62% of Year 3 students in top band in Reading
- No Year 5 students in bottom 2 bands in Reading, Spelling, Grammar or Punctuation
- Progress in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation between years 3 and 5 is well above state average.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Purchase of new home readers facilitated engagement at home of reading.
- LaST teacher worked closely with teachers to provide individualised learning for students to improved outcomes in inferential comprehension.
- Teachers programs demonstrated targeted strategies to improve inferential comprehension.

- Purchase of iPads and Laptops 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

Our progress in Numeracy was very pleasing this year, however NAPLAN results were slightly below the State average.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- 100% of students achieved at or above the National Benchmark.
- There were no Year 3 students in the bottom 2 bands.
- 62% of Year 3 students were in bands 4 and 5.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Professional learning with CLASS and COLOURSS communities of Schools
- Extend variety of learning experiences using technology
- Increase hand-on activities from TEN program
- Plot students against the continuum on PLAN and improve CTJ with regular stage meetings with teachers from CLASS and COLOURSS and within our own school.
- Increased use of SMART data and class base assessments at staff meetings to drive monitoring of progress.
- 100% of Teachers use National Standards in their classroom teacher programs and classroom best practice evaluations.
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.

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Professional learning with the CLASS and COLOURSS Communities of Schools has increased significantly.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
There has been a greater collaboration between small schools network focused on Professional learning. Staff are now more confident in their understanding and implementation of the new syllabus, which in turn will benefit our student outcomes.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Interviews were conducted with members of the school community, including the following: members of staff, students, parents, family members and community members.
Their responses are presented below.
Surveys revealed a diverse range of responses to different criteria, however the majority of responses revealed that the school:-
- Encourages students to achieve their best
- Knows about the families and community it serves
- Encourages new students and their families to be involved in school activities
- Caters to the learning needs of all students
- Encourages everyone to learn
Other responses have been noted and will inform future practice.

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.

School contact information
Kath Johnston - Principal
Julie MacTaggart - Classroom teacher
Alison Ryan - Classroom teacher
Kerry Behrend - Teacher / Librarian
Therese Hedwards - STL Teacher
Trish Strange - School Administration Manager
Kylie Costello - Parent Representative
School Code: 1136
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:
Barkers Vale PS