

# Bellata Public School Annual School Report 2013



## *School Prayer*

*This is our school  
Let peace dwell here.  
Let our rooms be full of  
contentment,  
Let love abide here.  
Love of one- another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.  
Let us remember,  
That as many hands build  
a house,  
So many hearts make our  
school.  
Amen.*



## School context

The best of any community is reflected in its youth. The students at Bellata Public School are generous of time, caring of each other and environmentally aware of their impact on the world as a whole.

## Principal's message

Bellata Public School is nestled in leafy grounds of both native and exotic trees which provide safe habitats for a variety of birds and animals. A caring environment is at the heart of the school community which extends beyond the classroom windows.

Students are well catered for in a wide range of curriculum areas which are relevant to their stages of learning. The curriculum is comprehensive and innovative with a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, technology and the arts.

Our school has a warm, caring, family environment where all children are valued. Through commitment and professionalism the staff aims to create a stimulating learning environment which is safe and gives students confidence and the experiences necessary to adapt to new situations.

As a school, the teaching and learning programs are physically and financially supported through the commitment of an active Parents and Citizens Association.

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.

**Vivianne Fouracre**

## P & C President's message

As President of the P&C, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members and volunteers for helping to contribute to the success of our school through fund raising efforts for both the students and the school throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the teachers and staff for making learning enjoyable and to John and

Ivan for transporting them safely to wherever it may be.

This year we farewelled the Goldman family with Prim and Beau both heading off to High School, presenting Ben and Kristy with a carafe. I would especially like to thank Ben's mum for creating excellent props to support all our children at the Narrabri Eisteddfod and our end of year Presentation Night.

Finally, good luck to our Year 6 graduates- I wish you well for your future.

**Alistair McPherson**

## Student representative's message

We started our year off with a great swimming carnival. Some children got through to Zone PSSA and some of us made it to the Regional carnival.

We had a great science morning. All the students enjoyed learning about science followed by Clean up Australia Day. Bellata looked a lot cleaner after that. Then it was Book Fairs turn. We saw some great dust jackets on parade.

Easter Hat Parade was a lot of fun. There was a tonne of great hats this year. Jack's hat was really big and he couldn't stand up under the shade shelter with it on.

Anzac Day was a good day to remember those who served our country. We marched down the main street of Bellata and sang a song to the audience in the hall.

Cross Country PSSA was held at Bellata this year. We had it set up all around Bellata. Many schools visited us and it was a great opportunity to show off our school.

Bellata students did fantastic job in the Narrabri Eisteddfod. We came home with a first place. We would like to thank Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. McPherson, for helping us to learn our songs and lines for the plays.

There were a lot of delicious cakes and slices at the Biggest Morning Tea. Each year we share this fundraiser with the community.

Quad Sports was at Bullarah this year. We all participated. It was a great day and our own athletics carnival was a blast.

The K/1/2 held a Moroccan Day. We were all invited in and the 3/6 class were the entertainment- we had to belly dance. Mrs. Campbell came out as part of our Library program and taught us some fancy belly dancing moves. We had little coin scarves wrapped around our hips that jingled as we shook.

In Term 4 we went away for five days to Sydney on our excursion. It was fun learning about and exploring Sydney.

We would like to thank all the teachers for helping us as school leaders to do our job with confidence, and our parents for putting up with us through the year. We wish the Year 5s luck as they take over from us and look forward to the next step in our lives.

**Tom Johnston (Captain) and Averlii Devlin (Vice-captain)**



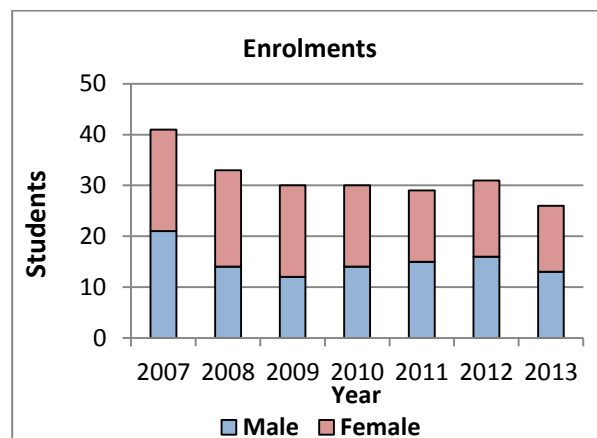
## Student information

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

### Student enrolment profile

Bellata Public School's numbers have fluctuated from 30 students to 26 in 2013. Ongoing pressures in the rural community have seen families move on.

The community and Preschool continue to encourage parents to send their children to their local Public School rather than transporting them elsewhere.



### Student attendance profile

As shown by the graph, student attendance at Bellata Public School remains consistently high.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
K	97.3	94.7	94.7	95.8	92.7
1	97.8	98.0	94.0	97.1	96.4
2	84.6	97.2	98.3	96.7	91.4
3	97.9	89.5	99.4	98.6	95.7
4	87.4	97.3	91.5	98.0	97.2
5	96.1	97.0	96.1	93.1	94.8
6	94.9	89.5	96.7	96.7	96.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.8</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>95.0</b>

### Management of non-attendance

At Bellata Public School, students are encouraged to attend school regularly. Attendance is monitored monthly, with reminders to parents of their legal responsibility published in the newsletter when necessary.

Parents of students with poor attendance are interviewed and action taken as necessary.

### Workforce information

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

Bellata Public School has caring and committed staff that value the delivery of quality education.

All teaching staff meets the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

## Workforce composition

Position	Number
Principal	1
Classroom Teacher(s)	1
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	1
Teacher Librarian	1
School Administrative & Support Staff	3
Total	7

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

Currently there are no identified indigenous members employed at Bellata Public School.

## Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	0
NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation	0

## 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
<b>Income</b>	\$
Balance brought forward	39491.48
Global funds	59766.50
Tied funds	49024.03
School & community sources	19005.98
Interest	1328.94
Trust receipts	1639.85
Canteen	0.00
Total income	170256.78
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	15070.02
Excursions	9068.59
Extracurricular dissections	4328.45
Library	856.88
Training & development	6250.62
Tied funds	44774.97
Casual relief teachers	5475.01
Administration & office	28488.06
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	7219.92
Maintenance	4384.69

Trust accounts	6275.35
Capital programs	5589.33
Total expenditure	137781.89
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	32474.89

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

### Arts

The students at Bellata Public School have continued to excel in all areas of the arts. In 2013 students were tutored in drama and music by Mrs. Mary-Ann McPherson.

Students performed at the Narrabri Eisteddfod in the drama and music sections with excellent results and performed at the Senior Citizens Day luncheon at Bellata as well as many impromptu performances.

### Sport

Bellata Public School strives to provide the students with a variety of opportunities to participate and excel in sports.

This year students in Years 2-6 were fortunate to participate in a cricket development clinic over five weeks. The skills of all students improved under the tuition of Jake Packer from Cricket Australia.

### Swimming

The school swimming carnival was this year won by Chappell house.

The swimming champions were senior boy-Tom Johnston, senior girl-Prim Goldman, junior boy-Jack Johnston and the junior girl-Sophie Hann.

Zone Carnival representatives were Beau Goldman, Sophie Hann, Jack Johnston and Tom Johnston. Beau Goldman went on to represent at the State Swimming Carnival.

### Athletics

Bellata Public School hosted the District Cross Country with the students competing from many neighboring schools including Wee Waa and Narrabri. It was a great day of friendship and sportsmanship.

Our Cross Country representatives at the Zone level were Sophie Hann and Beau Goldman

The school's athletics carnival was won this year by Goolagong.

The athletics champions were senior boy-Tom Johnston, senior girl-Prim Goldman, junior boy-Jack Johnston, junior girl-Sophie Hann, minor boy- Max Gillogly and minor girl-Ruby Stewart.

Zone level representatives were Sophie Hann, Mia Stewart, Hayley Devlin and Beau Goldman.

State level representative for 2013 was Beau Goldman.

### **Intensive Swimming**

A ten-day intensive swimming program was held for all students this year which have led to significant improvements in style, stroke correction and confidence. It was the first year in the new facilities at Narrabri Memorial pool, and the students enjoyed the blend of indoor and outdoor learning.

### **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.

In 2013 Bellata Public School had 5 students in Year 3 and 4 students in Year 5 sit the NAPLAN tests. The actual results are not able to be reported on due to the small size of the group. The school is unable to reproduce the results if the cohort is less than 10 students. The parents

concerned have received a copy of their child's results and discussed them with the teaching staff.

### **Significant programs and initiatives**

#### **Aboriginal education**

Bellata Public School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land that the school is located – *the Kamilaroi people*.

Bellata Public School provides programs across all KLA to educate all students about the history, and culture of Aboriginal Australia. The students learn about aspects of Aboriginal culture, traditions and history in a variety of units of work studied in the Human Society and Its Environment syllabus area with integration with Creative and Practical Arts, English, and the Science and Technology curriculum areas.

#### **Multicultural education**

Bellata Public School focuses on multicultural education by providing programs which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to live harmoniously in a diverse society.

This year our country of study was Morocco culminating in a sharing session with the Country

Women's Association, Bellata Branch, at our local hall. Children heard about life in Morocco and completed a topic quiz. Then we hosted our own Morocco Day with the ladies from the CWA and community members joining us for a Moroccan banquet.

#### **National partnerships and significant Commonwealth initiatives (participating schools only)**

In 2013, Bellata Public School received funding under the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnerships. The staff at Bellata Public School chose to focus on improving Numeracy.

- All students were assessed and their achievements identified on the Numeracy Continuum,
- Additional support teaching was secured for one day per week to focus on teaching students with significant difficulties in aspects one and two of the Numeracy continuum as well as instructing smaller groups as part of a whole-school program, and

- As the program ran for such a short time, only small improvements were gained across the board.



### Transitional Equity Funding

Bellata Public School received funding under the equity umbrella. This was formally called Country Areas Program or CAP. Equity funding provides opportunities for the whole school community to improve the educational outcomes of students who are geographically isolated.

Initiatives undertaken in 2013 included:

- enhancing existing educational programs within our school,
- supporting our HSIE excursion to Sydney,
- supporting Professional Development for staff,
- and developing a transition to Kindergarten program

It is anticipated that Bellata Public School will continue to receive Transitional Equity Funding in 2014 to continue to provide access to quality learning activities for the whole school community.

## 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:

- personal phone calls
- paper surveys; and
- online surveys

## School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2013

### School priority 1

*To increase the number students attaining proficiency in all aspects of Numeracy.*

### Outcomes from 2012–2014

- To increase the number of students in Year 3 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Numeracy by 30%;
- to increase the number of students in Year 5 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Numeracy by 20%; and
- to increase the number of students Kindergarten – Year 6 achieving at appropriate stage level in Numeracy by 20% using SENA and school-based data.

### Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- NAPLAN data indicates that we still have 20% of our Year 3 not yet at proficiency level. Students that have fallen into this cohort are receiving additional explicit instruction through our support programs.
- 100% of the current cohort of Year 5 are achieving at or above minimum standards in Numeracy.
- School-based data indicates that positive progress is being made towards more competent math students.

### Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014

- Continue to work with strategies implemented under Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnerships.
- Expose children to a longer length of preparation for NAPLAN so they are more comfortable with that style of question ; and
- Dedicate more resources to aiding students with higher math needs which may include personnel and/or equipment.

## School priority 2

To increase the number students attaining proficiency in all aspects of Literacy.

### Outcomes from 2012–2014

- To increase the number of Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students reading at age appropriate PM readers by 20%;
- to increase the number of students in Year 3 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Writing by 50%;
- to increase the number of students in Year 5 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Writing by 20%; and
- the use of school-based support for individual withdrawal.

### Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2013:

- All students in Stage 1 are reading at age appropriate whilst half of the students in Early Stage One are at stage appropriate. Students currently not at stage appropriate levels entered the school system with very limited literacy skills and have made significant progress.
- 80% of Year 3 students are reading at or above minimum standards based on NAPLAN data. Students not currently achieving minimum standards are being supported through school-based initiatives; and
- All students in Year 5 achieved at or above minimum standards on the 2013 NAPLAN tests

### Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Staff will continue to support children deemed not yet proficient in reading with a range of school-based initiatives including withdrawal and in-class support;
- Students will be given a longer preparation for NAPLAN to provide a better understanding of how the questions are structured and to help those students who become fearful under test conditions; and
- All students will be placed and monitored on the literacy continuum to ensure

explicit instruction is given to allow progression to the next stage effectively.

## Professional learning

In 2013, staff attended a variety of professional learning courses to further develop their skills and introduce new concepts to the classroom.

In 2013 staff attended:

- Live Life Well- supporting PD, PE and Health;
- The new English Syllabus introduction;
- Smarter and Sassier for administrative staff;
- the Small School's Conference; and
- the International Conference on Thinking 2013.

## 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.

This year we conducted a survey based on the following three questions:

- What do we do?
- What do we do well? and
- How could we do it differently?

Responses indicated that the school staff provides a good foundational education for further learning.

Students are well cared for, respected and listened to. Students were happy with the newly developed Students' Representative Council and feel they are contributing positively to the school environment.

Parents are able to come in and discuss issues that arise and that the staffs are open to new ideas and suggestions.

The school newsletter needs to be revamped and include hints, suggestions or links to assist parents with issues that may arise such as head lice and other common childhood ailments.

## Program evaluations

### Background

In 2013 the school evaluated the teaching of writing. Previous NAPLAN results indicated that students were not doing as well as could be expected based on results in other subject areas.

### Findings and conclusions

By focusing on just a few genres, students were able to develop more depth of knowledge and apply units of study in grammar and punctuation to their works.

The length and quality of writing improved significantly with all students in Year 3 and 80% of students in Year 5 achieving at or above minimum standards in NAPLAN results.

Overall parents were pleased with the explicit teaching of writing but still have concerns about the spelling acquisition of students.

### Future directions

Staff will continue to focus on the explicit teaching of writing integrating technology in when it fits.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue to be taught to support the genre being studied with topic words added to phonics-based spelling programs.

Writing will also be examined across all key Learning Areas as well as a specific genre focus.

## About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analyzed 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.

Vivianne Fouracre	Principal
Melinda Squire	Classroom Teacher
Helen Hubbard	Teacher/Librarian
Gail Eulenstein	Administration Manager
Ivan Bettens	General Assistant

## School contact information

Bellata Public School

Gurley Street, Bellata. NSW 2397

Ph: 0267937514

Fax: 0267937462

Email: Bellata-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web: Bellata-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

School Code: 1175

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:

<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/high-performance/annual-school-reports>