Rocky River Annual School Report
Our school at a glance

Students

At the end of 2012 there were 33 students enrolled at Rocky River Public School. There were 14 students in Upper Division and 19 in Lower Division. There were a total of 16 girls and 17 boys.

Staff

In 2012 our staff included:
1 Teaching Principal – Mrs Jo Thornton

1 Classroom teacher – Miss Samantha Pye

Mr Terry Sanders was employed for 2 days per week for release from face to face which includes library, a half day STLA and principal’s release.

Mrs Donna Jewell was employed for 2 half days per week for the Every Student Every School program.

Mr Ron Jackson and Mr Roger Steep, our general assistants each work half a day per week.

Mrs Anne Stace is our School Administrative Manager who is employed for 3.5 days per week.

Ms Lynne Jones is our school cleaner.

Significant programs and initiatives

In 2012 the school provided a transition program for the students enrolling in kindergarten in 2013. The program consisted of 4 weeks duration at the start of Term 4 when students visit the school for 2.5 hours each Monday for 3 weeks with week 4 being for the whole day.

The school continues to promote the sustainability program with students being involved in growing fresh produce in the vegetable garden and caring for the school chickens. This program supports the Live Life Well and the Crunch and Sip programs.

This year we have continued with the You Can Do It program to maintain and further develop organization, resilience, getting along, persistence and confidence within our students.

Technology

This year the school purchased a new colour photocopier with an internet fax machine incorporated, saving paper and ink. Both classrooms have an interactive whiteboard and we received 8 new Think Pad computers through the Technology4Learning program. The school also purchased 8 new Think Pads and an iPad through Global funds. All students have access to a computer. They receive explicit teaching of computer skills and are confident using word processing software and accessing a variety of programs including those on the internet.

Aboriginal education

In 2012 there were 6 Aboriginal students enrolled at the school. All teaching programs are embedded with Aboriginal perspectives including history, culture, high profile Aboriginal role models and the celebration of NAIDOC Week.

Multicultural education

Although Rocky River does not have a diverse cultural community the school ensures the students are exposed to multicultural perspectives through explicit teaching throughout teaching/learning programs.
Emphasis is placed on the development of tolerance and respect and the belief that all people are equal.

Student achievement in 2012
Six year three students and five year five students sat the NAPLAN tests. In year three 85% of students met minimum standards in both literacy and numeracy. In year five all students met minimum standards in both literacy and numeracy.

Messages
Principal’s message
It is with pleasure that I present the Rocky River Public School 2012 Annual School Report. This report will provide a summary of the programs and activities of the school, highlight student performance in literacy and numeracy, review the school self-evaluation and outline our future directions through the school improvement targets.

Rocky River Public School is a small rural school 5 km North-West of Uralla. The students are from the local area and Uralla. It is currently a two teacher school and works within a cluster of small schools in the area for sporting, cultural, social and professional development activities. We are also a member of the Armidale Community of Schools.

Students are encouraged to work independently and cooperatively and to become self-motivated learners with a love of learning. The school motto, Learn to Succeed, is the basis of the school’s philosophy to produce confident, holistic students with a vision for their own future. Students are also encouraged to recognize their responsibilities to the wider community and to take an active part in community activities.

I acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the P&C not only in fund raising but in the support given for all activities at the school.

The staff at the school are very committed to all aspects of our students’ well-being including social and emotional welfare as well as physical, cultural and educational needs. The culture of the school is a positive and supportive one with all staff, students and parents working together to encourage a positive and supportive learning environment.

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.
Jo Thornton Principal

P & C and/or School Council message
I am pleased to present this report of the P&C for 2012. Again 2012 has been a very busy year for the Rocky River P&C. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and we welcome and encourage all parents to come to our meetings and contribute with time and ideas to support the school. This year to cater for as many parents as possible we have alternated the meeting start time to 3:30 pm for one month and 6:00 pm the following month.

This year our fundraising activities have included:
- Street stalls
- Raffles
- Charity Golf day
- Charity shearing day

This year the P&C purchased Presentation Night prizes, new take home readers for Lower Division, materials for the library and made a contribution to the Upper Division excursion to Lake Keepit.

The school was successful in its application for dollar for dollar funding. The P&C was able to commit over $11 000 for the construction of a covered walkway from the front gate to the
Entrance of the school as well as the extension of the back covered area to provide a larger area to shelter students from the weather.

There had been some concerns from the school and the P&C concerning the provision of a healthy canteen. The P&C was involved in the evaluation of the canteen which is included further in this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the P&C for their continuing support.

Jaslyn Taylor  
P&C President

Student representative’s message

We are coming to the end of our primary school education at Rocky River. We have both been students here since kindergarten. We have enjoyed our time here and are grateful for the opportunities we have been given in a small school. We have been able to develop our leadership skills and confidence to begin the next stage of our education at high school. We would like to thank all students and staff for the opportunities we have been given and we wish all students all the best as they continue their primary education at Rocky River.

Isaac Kahn & Dion Doyle - 2012 School Captains

School context

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

Student enrolment remains consistent with students coming from small holdings in the local district as well as from the Uralla Township.

Student attendance profile

The majority of students have excellent attendance rates with action plans put in place to address any students with less than 85% attendance rate.
Management of non-attendance

The school uses a wide range of strategies to actively promote the importance of regular student attendance. The majority of parents are aware of their obligations concerning the attendance of their children and are diligent in signing them in or out when arriving late or leaving early. Teachers follow up with a note home when absences are not explained within 3 days of an absence. Regular articles are placed in the school newsletter explaining the legal obligations of parents and the detrimental effects caused from frequent absences. With the assistance of the home-school liaison officer, attendance improvement plans have been written when necessary.

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>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>0.696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

There is no Indigenous staff employed at Rocky River.

Staff retention

Miss Samantha Pye was employed to teach Lower Division at the beginning of Term 2 2012 at Rocky River. At the beginning of Term 3 2012 she gained permanency through the Merit Selection Process.

Mrs Anne Stace was permanently appointed through the Merit Selection Process to Rocky River as the School Administration Manager.

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>50%</td>
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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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>31154.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>59046.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>17943.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>8234.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1406.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>56.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>117840.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>9536.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>4733.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>1607.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1877.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>366.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>9101.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>7162.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>16025.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>6769.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>4438.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>36.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>11441.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>73097.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td>44743.16</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

Arts
During 2012 we were fortunate to have one of our parents Claire O’Toole instruct the students in singing, percussion and guitar. We were awarded 2nd place in the Armidale Eisteddfod in the Small Schools Class Ensemble.

We also participated in the Music Count Me In Program.

Students supported the local show with every child entering a piece of art work.

Once again we were involved in the Uralla Arts Festival lantern making and parade.

Every student was involved in the Presentation Evening musical “The Landlords Cat”.

During Book Week students were required to dress as their favourite character from a book they were reading and to tell the audience about the book.

All students from the school visited the New England Regional Arts Museum to view the Stephen King sculpture exhibition.

Sport
Rocky River participated in the Small School Rugby Union Day, Cross Country at Kingstown, Athletics Carnival at Kelly’s Plains and the Small Schools Swimming Carnival.

Again this year the school participated in the Premiers Sporting Challenge.

We were fortunate to be invited to Uralla Central School to participate in the Mini Olympics.

All students K-6 participated in a two week intensive swimming program.

Other
During Education Week students demonstrated their ability to use technology through activities on the interactive white board. We also celebrated Grandparents Day and students paid a tribute to our grandparents by reading them a story about Grandpa’s slippers.

Rocky River students are very aware of their community responsibilities and participated in Clean Up Australia Day, the Thunderbolt Festival, our school ANZAC Day service and the Uralla ANZAC Day March.

Academic
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.

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

Yr. 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.

Progress on 2012 targets

Target 1 - Literacy
To improve student literacy levels to allow students to meet their expected growth for reading in NAPLAN.

Our achievements include:

- All year 5 students achieved Band 5 or 6 in NAPLAN tests.
- All Year 5 students were above minimum standards.
Target 2
To improve student literacy levels to allow students to meet their expected growth for numeracy in NAPLAN.

Our achievements include:

- All Year 5 students were above minimum standards.
- All Year 5 students achieved Bands 4, 5 or 6.

School evaluation
NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of our school canteen.

School Canteen Review

Background
Through attendance at the Live Life Well at School In-service, it became apparent that our school canteen was not in keeping with the Healthy Canteen Policy. The size of the school canteen posed a challenge as to what could be prepared at our school.

Findings and conclusions
With assistance from a representative from Hunter New England Health, we held an extraordinary P&C meeting to address the changes that needed to be made in our canteen. The representative, Joshua Cohen, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the policy and our canteen’s obligations under the policy. He then led a forum where decisions were made as to the changes that would occur at the beginning of 2013.

Future directions
A new menu was decided upon for implementation early 2013. The menu included items that could be prepared quickly and easily in the schools existing pie oven due to the small size of the kitchen and time restraints. Further evaluation will occur as new items are introduced onto the canteen menu.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

The majority of parents, staff and students believe the school is regularly finding ways to improve what it does and when necessary school leaders make changes as needed.

They see the school as a friendly welcoming place with community members welcome on formal and informal occasions.

Staff enjoy a positive and supportive environment which encourages further professional development and also recognizes dedication and professionalism of all staff.

Professional learning

Best start
Gifted and Talented Kindergarten
Live Life Well at School
LMBR
iTech 2012
First Aid
ACOS meetings

Regular attendance at Regional, School Education and Primary Principal’s conferences.

The learner and the curriculum
Small Schools Conference in Tamworth

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

Improve literacy performance in the school so that student growth is higher than state growth on NAPLAN.
2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- Reduce the number of students in the minimum Bands in NAPLAN in the areas of Reading, Writing and Spelling to 0%.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Continuation of Best Start for Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2.
- Support for students experiencing difficulties.
- Programs to be measured against the QT Framework to ensure elements of the 3 dimensions are promoted in programs for all students.
- Utilise Transitional Equity funding to purchase resources including interactive software and teacher time.

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Improve numeracy performance in the school so that student growth is higher than state growth on NAPLAN.

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- Reduce the number of students in the minimum Bands in NAPLAN in Numeracy to 0%.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Utilise Count me In Too and Counting On strategies in all number lessons.
- Programs to be measured against the QT Framework to ensure deep understanding is promoted in all lessons for all students.
- Emphasise use of metalanguage of mathematics.
- Utilise Transitional Equity Funding to purchase resources including interactive software and teacher time.
- School wide implementation of the Maths Tracks Program and Mathletics.

School priority 3

Outcome for 2012–2014

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
- Improve student proficiency when using computers.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Introduce Netbooks into the Lower Division Classroom.
- Redesign the school website.
- ICT imbedded into all KLA’s in teaching programs.
- Purchase additional ICT equipment.
- Implementation of interactive programs including Spelling City, Mathletics, Study Ladder, Zoowhiz, Jolly Phonics, Targeting Handwriting, Strategy Zone and Springboards into Comprehension.

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.

Jo Thornton – Principal
Samantha Pye – Classroom teacher
Jaslyn Taylor – P&C President
Anne Stace – School Administrative Manager

School contact information

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Email: rockyriver-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 2983

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: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr