

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 1432

School name: Burra Community School

1. General information

Part A

School Name : BURRA COMMUNITY
 SCHOOL School No. : 1432
 Principal : Ms Susan Hart-Lamont
 Postal Address : 7 Bridge Terrace, Burra 5417
 Location Address : 7 Bridge Terrace, Burra 5417
 District : Yorke and Mid North
 Distance from GPO : 155 kms
 CPC attached : NO

Phone No. : 08 88922007
 Fax No. : 08 88922047

February FTE Enrolments		2014	2015	2016	2017
Primary, Special, N.A.P, Ungraded					
	Reception	20	18	17	14
	Year 1	13	19	16	18
	Year 2	24	16	18	17
	Year 3	21	26	15	19
	Year 4	32	20	22	14
	Year 5	18	29	19	27
	Year 6	18	15	30	19
Secondary, Special, N.A.P, Ungraded					
	Year 7	17	19	15	31
	Year 8	13	12	18	13
	Year 9	23	15	12	17
	Year 10	14.3	19	15	13
	Year 11	13	13	14	13.66
	Year 12	14	11.4	10	12.4
	Year 12P			4	
	TOTAL	240.3	232.4	225	228.06

Part B

- Management team
 - Principal Susan Hart-Lamont
 - Deputy Principal Kim Scott
 - Coordinator R-12 (Student Engagement & Wellbeing) Debra Blight
 - Coordinator R-12 (Literacy & Numeracy Intervention) Laura Hadley
 - Finance Administrator Megan Rayson
- Curriculum Management
 - R-12 ICT Steve Royal
 - R-12 Agriculture / Food & Hospitality Brooke Crowell
 - R-12 HPE Matt Stewart
 - R-12 Data Analysis Kerrie Duke
- Email address
dl.1432_info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Website address
www.burracs.sa.edu.au
- Year of Opening
The Burra High School and Burra Primary School amalgamated in 1976 and became known as Burra Community School.
- Staffing numbers
14.00 FTE. However, with a range of part-time teachers the total teaching staff is 20.
- OSHC
Commenced operation in January 2005 offering both after school and vacation care programmes.
- Transport
Three school bus routes bring students (K-12) from farms, outlying areas and smaller towns into Burra Community School and Burra Early learning Centre.

2. Students and their welfare

- **General characteristics**

Students are from a predominantly mono cultural background. Many are from rural families. Growing numbers of students come from non-farming backgrounds, migrate from the city or larger population centres, or are transient.

- **Pastoral Care programmes**

A pastoral care programme is offered to students as part of the curriculum. The school has 12 hours per week of Pastoral Care Worker time.

- **Support offered**

Support is available to students and families needing personal support. This includes Burra Community School staff, and Regional Office support staff.

- **Student management**

A Student Behaviour Management policy provides all students, staff and parents with a common understanding of appropriate and acceptable behaviours. A Code of Conduct, as opposed to a list of rules, supports students in developing and demonstrating behaviours that allow all to fully participate in all aspects of school life. All teachers in sub-schools have a key role in Student Behaviour Management.

- **Student Leadership**

A Student Representative Council structure offers students, through their elected representatives, a way of being involved in decision making in their school. SRC representatives sit on Governing Council and its sub committees. There is an R-6 and Year 7-12 SRC. We also have Primary and Senior School Prefects, and Student Action Teams which operate on specific school projects.

3. Key School Policies

OUR VISION

We value the individual and collective excellence of our students through the provision of the highest quality education. Our students are empowered to be life-long learners, to meet the challenges of a changing global environment.

SCHOOL MISSION

Burra Community School:

- Provides curriculum and teaching methods that are innovative, inclusive and challenging in a safe learning environment
- Provides learning pathways that promote successful individual and collective achievement
- Actively promotes local and global citizenship through the curriculum and co-curricula activities
- Develops in students the qualities of resilience, tolerance, self-discipline and independent learning.

OUR CHARACTERISTICS

At Burra Community School we strive to develop students who are fully engaged with school life, who value learning and derive a sense of pride from their achievements; who develop independence whilst making meaningful contributions to peer groups and the broader school community.

Staff aim for excellence and are professional in their approach to teaching and management, and continue to increase their level and range of skills and respond to changes in the venture of education; we participate actively in democratic decision making and are approachable, friendly and welcoming.

School community members feel their involvement is encouraged and valued. They are well informed; actively participate in decision making and contribute positively to shaping an evolving educational environment.

Our curriculum is innovative and relevant; and seeks to expand the range of options which are available to students; and addresses the current and future educational needs of the community.

We provide of educational resources which are appropriate to the needs of the students; that reflect developments in information technology and provide improved educational opportunities for the whole community.

OUR DIRECTIONS

Currently, staff are focusing on aspects of the Site Learning Improvement Plan with priorities being:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Wellbeing.

Staff are also embarking on a journey towards a growth mindsets approach from 2016.

Burra Community School is part of a partnership of school sites called the Upper Mid North Partnership. 2017 priorities are Writing and Quality Teaching, and our school aligns with these priorities also.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

Burra Community School offers a DECD supported curriculum throughout all levels of schooling, R – 12. Curriculum development is now based primarily on Australian Curriculum, and is co-ordinated at Primary (R-6) and Secondary (7-12) sub-schools by line managers in line with DECD policies. All curriculum is documented in Curriculum documents for the Primary and Secondary schools, respectively.

Agriculture is embedded, R-12, across our school. In 2009 we were successful in gaining funding for a Trade Training Centre [Balaklava HS, Riverton & DHS, Clare HS] to develop facilities. This has enabled us to promote and develop an auto program for Flexible Learning Options students. Transition to work options are integrated into the standard senior secondary curriculum where appropriate and a number of students have individualised programmes from time to time. Despite small enrolments in Middle/Secondary, Burra Community School offers many subject options due to our high staff expertise.

In 2015, Burra Community School was also successful in attaining a “Fund My Idea” grant that enabled the school to acquire substantial weights/gym equipment which is currently set up for school use. (Broader community access is still being negotiated.)

Technology development across the curriculum is supported with the provision of hardware and staff training and development. There is a computer suite with over 20 computers mainly used by year 7–12 students, 2 x separate banks of 12 desktop computers for Primary classes, 16 computers in a study room (The Pod), 2 x trolleys of 20 Laptops for secondary students and 2 x trolleys of 15 Laptops for Primary students, as well as multiple resources in the library.

- **Open Access**

Open Access / Distance Education methodologies and opportunities are available to senior school students to ensure the range of student choices can be catered for. An excellent Open Access suite with staff support creates a supportive learning environment.

MNSEC (Mid North Schools Education Co-operative) also offers further options for subject choice and flexible delivery.

- Local Delivery is also offered each year and we continue to link with several schools to broaden even further our subject offerings to our students.
- Special curriculum features
Early intervention is a major focus in the Primary School. Japanese is offered R-6, and VET programmes are an important part of Senior Secondary. All students R-6 have a Music lesson weekly and have access to instrumental Music lessons.
- Assessment and Reporting procedures
Terms 1 and 3 Year 7-9 Detailed Written Report (under review)
Semester 1 and 2 R-12 Written Summative Report
Reports are compiled using DECD's Student Parent Reporting System.
Primary School students also have a Student Assessment Record Book which goes home fortnightly with an assessed task in it.
Parent teacher meetings are held late in Term 1 for the Primary School, and early in Term 2 for the Secondary school. Other times can always be accommodated upon request (under revision).
A Mid-Year Exam programme operates for all Year 7-12 subjects/students. This enables another evaluation opportunity for teachers to investigate what further support students might need into Semester 2.

5. Sporting activities

Burra Community School has a fine tradition of participation and achievement in intra and interschool sporting activities. The parents and community have developed high expectations and support for school sport. At the secondary level, swimming and athletics dominate first term, while Knockout Sports, 9 a-side football and internally organised sports activities are held during the remainder of the year. Primary age students have the opportunity to participate in SAPSASA controlled activities and Burra has a major role in the administration and operation of the Mid North District. Swimming, cricket, softball, tennis, netball, football, golf, hockey, cross country running and athletics are the sports that students have the opportunity to participate in. Sporting facilities at Burra Community School are second to none with two excellent ovals, a full size gymnasium and community-owned swimming pool on site. Our students have access to community facilities such as the Bowling, Golf and Tennis Clubs.

6. Other Co curricular Activities

Student participation is encouraged and financially supported in a range of competitions and events at local, state and national level. Examples include academic, sporting, public speaking and environmental endeavours. Many opportunities are provided for students to go on excursions and camps and to be involved in the Royal Adelaide Show Team and other agricultural fairs.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Burra Community School has a cohesive staff group based on the philosophy that everyone is valued for the contribution they make.

- Leadership structure

This comprises 1 Principal, 1 Deputy Principal, 2 Coordinators (R-12), one for Literacy and Numeracy Intervention and the other as a school counsellor, 1 Finance Administrator.

- Staff support systems

New staff members are fully supported with an effective, documented program of induction, allocated a mentor on staff and offered additional professional development opportunities in the first year.

- Other

All staff participate in a performance development and appraisal system. Established roles and responsibilities are reviewed annually. A range of staff groups, including sub-school, line management and focus groups, work together to develop a co-operative team approach to all aspects of school operations. Staff meetings are structured to meet the needs of curriculum, team and general staff. Morning meetings are held for all staff for daily information dissemination. An active staff Social Committee ensures that the wellbeing of staff is taken care of and that there are opportunities for social interaction.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for staff

- Complexity placement points

1996 – 0.5

- Isolation placement points

1996 – 3.5

- Zone 2 Country Incentives Scheme 2003

- Housing assistance

There is limited employee housing available, although should the need arise to go to the private rental market a 20% subsidy is available.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and Grounds

Burra Community School has some of the finest facilities of any country R-12 school. The concept of the community is real and joint use facilities, including the library, gymnasium, ovals and swimming pool ensure the active involvement of the community.

- Specialist facilities

The Auhl Local History Room situated in the Community Library contains a valuable archival collection of Burra's and South Australia's history.

The library itself is an excellent resource for recreational and educational purposes and has public Internet access.

Burra Community School has a strong agriculture programme and owns a farm called Brewery Hill.

Goyder House is a student boarding facility jointly developed between the school and the community. It caters for isolated students from Years 7-12.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

Burra Community School has physical access to all areas of the school for people with disabilities. A rigorous programme to suit the individual needs of the student as well as integrating them into the school and community is developed as required.

- Access to bus transport

Three DECD buses service the rural student community.

- Canteen

There is a Governing Council managed canteen on site providing a wide range of lunches for students and staff.

10. School operations

- Decision making structures

The decision making process at Burra Community School is co-ordinated through the Management Team. The proposal system provides staff with the structure to be included in decision making. Sub-school team meetings are an important forum for decision making at that level.

The Governing Council and its sub committees meet regularly. Staff and students are represented on the Council and its sub committees.

- Communication

Daily and weekly bulletins and daily meetings provide opportunities for the dissemination of information and two way communication. Fortnightly publication of the school newsletter and regular articles in the local paper keep the community informed of school activities.

Parent information packs are also available for new families to the school.

Regular parent meetings and forums are organised throughout the year to focus on building parent knowledge as needed.

11. Local Community

- General Characteristics

Burra is a historical township well renowned for its rich copper history, relaxed atmosphere and friendly community spirit. It is at the hub of the state Stud Merino industry and acts as a service centre for an extensive agricultural and pastoral area. Burra is also the home of the famous “Monster Mine”, has one of the most exciting archaeological sites in Australia and caters for an increasing tourist population.

Its rich history can be seen in the vast array of historical buildings and sites. Originally consisting of five townships it now boasts five hotels, seven antique shops, a Regional Art Gallery, cider brewery and numerous boutique shops. It is a township highly revered by locals and tourists alike.

- Parent and Community Involvement

The high level of involvement in school committees and number of volunteer workers demonstrates the commitment of parents and the community to Burra Community School. The excellent facilities at the school are shared by the community for sporting pursuits, utilizing the gymnasium, community swimming pool and ovals.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Kindergarten on school site

Medical practice and surgery, fully upgraded and refurbished Hospital offering 24 hour casualty service

Day Care facility

Out of School Hours Care

TAFE Centre at Clare (located 45 kilometres away)

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Burra’s town centre has a number of retail outlets – supermarket, service stations, grocer, butcher, newsagent and pharmacy. There is a privately owned Australia Post Office which is also an agent for all banking institutions. There are cafes, hotels, a motel, caravan park and a variety of cottage and bed & breakfast accommodation.

- Other

For further information on Burra and the region, contact the Burra Visitor Information Centre [telephone 8892 2154] or go to the website www.visitburra.com.au. Regional Council of Goyder [telephone 8892 2010].