School context statement
Burren Junction Public School provides a comprehensive education for students living in the township of Burren Junction and on its neighbouring farms. Drawing children from a radius of up to 45kms away, the school has an outstanding reputation for allowing students to reach their full academic, sporting and social potential with its unique Student Parliament a feature of the curriculum.

The school has consistently achieved excellent results in external assessments with many students gaining scholarships at the start of their secondary education. The school experiences strong parental involvement with a very active School Council made up of parents and interested community representatives, who meet up to 8 times a year. The Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) is a separate body made up of parents, who take on the role of fund raising for the school and have been very supportive of the school for many years. As a result of this involvement the expectations of the parent body are very high with most students leaving Burren Junction Public School after Year 6 to continue secondary studies at either private boarding schools or Department of Education & Communities (DEC) residential Agricultural High Schools.

Student numbers at Burren Junction Public School continue will remain stable around 60 for a number of years with approximately the same number of students enrolling as are departing year 6.

The grounds and gardens are well maintained by a dedicated general assistant with support from parents. The provision of sufficient up to date computers in the school for current needs has been addressed through additional purchases. Access to the internet in classrooms has been addressed through the installation of wireless equipment. In 2014, Professional Development continued to be a significant issue for the largely inexperienced staff. The intention of these professional studies was to build the capacity of the staff to deliver quality education with an emphasis on reading comprehension.

Principal’s message
2014 has been a year of achievement on a number of levels at Burren Junction Public School. We have had great success at the Narrabri Eisteddfod, horse sports, swimming, athletics and the UNSW competitions. Tennis lessons were reintroduced, there was CWA International Day, Easter celebrations, Burren’s Got Talent, Milo Cricket, visiting performances and book week. Our students entered art work in the Wee Waa Show and provided decorative items for the ICPA Conference. The Life Education Van visited and several of our classes had guest speakers including the police and community members. Senior students participated in GRIP Leadership and the Science and Engineering Challenge. The P&C also organised the most outstanding fundraiser, The Landmark Lazy Long Lunch. However, I believe that the greatest achievement for 2014 is the instigation of the Jan Marshall Reading Program. In one semester the average growth of students in years 3 to 6 was 2 years and 3 months. This is an outstanding result. I would like to thank Kate Slack-Smith, Sandy Shearer and Karina Harris for their time in setting up this program for us and all the parents and community members who assisted students with their reading.

Of course a supportive community is important to any school. I would like to thank our parents, community, School Council and also the Parents and Citizens Association for their valuable contributions to the school in 2014.

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.

Lynn Starkey
Principal

P & C message
Hi Students and Parents of the Burren Junction Public School.

For those of you who don’t know or because it’s impossible to know everyone in such a large school I’m Craig Ferris your P and C president. This is going to be short and brief.

My year at the gavel has been a massive learning curve to which there were times I wondered what I was actually doing. That was probably
when I accepted the nomination. Then remembered it’s about the children and if I can make it better for them then I’ve done something good for everyone here.

Much thanks goes to the Fund raising committee and helpers on such a successful year considering Mother Nature’s plans. The few people who manned the tuck shop for us many thanks and let’s hope we have the same success again, maybe with some more people to take the role on to make it more consistent and easier. Because of these efforts we were able to provide the students with new high jump mats, a new flag pole and four new computers and not to forget aiding the schools fourth teaching role plus more to mention but I will bore you all day.

Thank you Lynn and your staff for your efforts this year and thank you guys for your time and patience with me this year. With that I’m ending and I will see you again next year. Thanks.

Craig Ferris
P&C President

School Prime Minister’s Message

Parents, students and teachers, this year I have had the pleasure of being your Prime Minister of Burren Junction Public School, for 2014. This year has bought our school many new and exciting events and shows, such as the Easter hat parade, Father’s day stall, Pink Stumps day, milo cricket, jump rope for heart, book fair, stamp out bullying show, Healthy Harold, CWA International day and much, much more.

On behalf of the Parliament of 2014, I would like to thank Mrs. Starkey for assisting us in making all these exciting events happen.

Also, I would like to thank all the other teachers who have assisted on our learning journey throughout our time at Burren Junction Public School.

All in all, thank you very much for electing me as your Prime Minister last year. It has been a pleasure being the leader of our school. Thank You😊

Jemima Powell
Prime Minister 2014

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

Over the last few years Burren Junction Public School has seen a steady increase in enrolments. This trend, as indicated by enrolments at Burren Junction Millennium Preschool, is set to continue in 2015. Enrolments during 2014 saw our numbers swell to 59. The gender balance of enrolments is roughly equal with marginally more boys than girls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

![Student Enrolment Chart](chart.png)

![Student Attendance Chart](chart.png)
Overall attendance rates at Burren Junction Public School were lower in 2014 due to a Chicken Pox outbreak during terms 3 and 4. However, absent rates are still within acceptable parameters. Absences are usually the result of our isolation from medical and other essential services.

Management of non-attendance

Parents are requested to send a note to the school when their child has been absent. If no note is received within seven days, a request for an explanation is sent home to parents. The Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) assists in the monitoring of individual students whose absent rate is of concern through regular visits to the school.

Class Sizes

Class Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total in class</th>
<th>Total per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2014 Burren Junction Public School consisted of 4 straight stage classes. This arrangement was made possible due to savings made in the school budget and donations from the P&C.

Workforce information

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

The workforce composition graph indicates the number of permanent positions at Burren Junction Public School. During 2014 an extra teacher was employed on a temporary contract to allow for a four class structure. Substantive staff members were on leave or seconded to other positions requiring the employment of two other temporary teachers. A School Learning Support Officer was also employed.

Workforce composition

<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 Teacher(s)</td>
<td>2.562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. There are currently no staff employed at Burren Junction Public School of Aboriginal descent.

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>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional learning and teacher accreditation

All teaching staff participated in a range of professional learning activities during 2014. Individual professional learning plans were developed for teachers, taking into consideration their level of experience and school targets. As well as mandatory training requirements, staff undertook a variety of professional learning experiences including Adobe connect sessions on the new Mathematics and Science syllabi, Small Schools Conference, Beginning Teachers Conference, training in teaching of Mathematics, coaching course and Principal development activities. 50% of 2014 teaching staff were working towards accreditation.

Beginning Teachers

There were no permanently appointed beginning teachers at Burren Junction Public School in 2014.
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>30/11/2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>$84732.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>$80868.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>$66831.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>$39113.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$2330.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>$15580.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>$289157.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**           |            |
| Teaching & learning       |            |
| Key learning areas        | $45986.13  |
| Excursions                | $8108.18   |
| Extracurricular dissections| $11098.12  |
| Library                   | $459.62    |
| Training & development    | $3230.57   |
| Tied funds                | $84871.98  |
| Casual relief teachers    | $10156.02  |
| Administration & office   | $18958.78  |
| School-operated canteen   | $0.00      |
| Utilities                 | $14823.97  |
| Maintenance               | $3446.90   |
| Trust accounts            | $14716.48  |
| Capital programs          | $0.00      |
| Total expenditure         | $215856.75 |
| Balance carried forward   | $73300.95  |

A full copy of the school’s 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2014

Arts

During 2014 students at Burren Junction Public School were given opportunities to participate in a number of cultural activities. During Term 2 students participated in the Narrabri Eisteddfod in the area of Music, where our students played the Marimbas. The K/1/2 group and 3/4 group placed 1st and Year 5/6 placed 2nd. Many students also competed in the Speech and Drama component of Eisteddfod with a large number of our students placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the poetry and mime sections. Students also completed artworks for submission in the Wee Waa Show. Again many of our students won prizes. At the end of the year presentation day Marimba, singing and drama skills were all showcased by our students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Series</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculpture</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport

Many students at Burren Junction Public School relish the opportunity to participate in sporting events. A large number of the older students tried out for the various PSSA sporting teams. Most students participated in the swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals. One student competed at the state swimming carnival in Sydney at Homebush. Students also participated in netball gala days and Milo cricket events. Our highly successful horse sports team came home with many ribbons and awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport Event</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milo</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excursions

During 2014 students were provided with opportunities to participate in a range of excursions. Students in Year 3 attended the small schools camp at Lake Keepit while years 4, 5 & 6 travelled to Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Camp on Lake Macquarie. Year 6 completed GRIP
Leadership training. Students also experienced local and virtual excursions such as a trip to the Wee Waa Museum and Easter Bilby video excursion.

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.

Summary statistics and graphical representations are not used where the student cohort is less than 10.

**Other achievements**

During the year many students participated in the University of NSW ICAS tests with some students gaining distinctions in Writing, English and Mathematics.

**Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding**

**Aboriginal education**

Aboriginal Education is embedded into all key learning areas. The Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country are used as appropriate at all major celebrations and gatherings. Acknowledgment of Country is also part of our weekly assembly.

**Multicultural education and anti-racism**

Staff at Burren Junction Public School are committed to ensure an inclusive school community and a racism free learning environment. Teaching programs include lessons which raise awareness and tolerance of other cultures. A feature of this aspect of education is our participation in the Country Women’s Association (CWA) Country of Study program each year. This year students learnt about Botswana.

**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:

- Parent surveys
- Feedback from School Council
- Feedback from Parents & Citizens Association
School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1
Literacy – Reading and Spelling

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Reading
- 80% of students in Year 3 to be achieving at proficiency in NAPLAN reading in 2014
- 80% of students in Years 5 and 7 to maintain better than state average growth in NAPLAN reading 2014
- 80% of students in K-2 achieving above grade appropriate reading benchmark levels
- 80% of students in 3-6 achieving above grade appropriate reading level as indicated on Test of Reading Comprehension (TORCH) Test

Spelling
- 80% of students K – 6 to be achieving stage appropriate outcomes (as indicated in PEG Spelling, NAPLAN and UNSW test results) in Spelling by November, 2014

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:
- All Year 3 students achieved in line with expectations. All students at Burren Junction Public School achieved the National Minimum Standard or higher.
- All Year 5 students achieved levels of growth in line with or higher than expectations.
- 86% of students in Kindergarten to Year 2 achieved at or above grade appropriate reading benchmark levels.
- End of year analysis of TORCH indicated that 72% of students in Years 3 to 6 had achieved grade appropriate or higher reading levels. This target was not achieved.
- PEG Spelling results for the end of 2014 indicate that the majority of students are achieving stage appropriate outcomes or higher. 37% of students were working at a level higher than their grade level. The average achievement across the school was 4.6 peg levels through the year.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014
- Funding was provided which allowed classes to be split into straight stage groups.
- Instigation of the Jan Marshall Reading Program.
- Instigation of leveled reading groups in Year 3 to 6.

School priority 2
Numeracy

Outcomes from 2012–2014
- 80% of students in Year 3 to be achieving at proficiency in NAPLAN Maths in 2014
- 80% of students in Years 5 and 7 to maintain better than state average growth in NAPLAN Maths 2014
- 80% of students will achieve at or above expected stage level according to the Mathletics Maths Assessment Program

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
- NAPLAN results indicate that all students achieved at or above grade expectations. The percentage of Burren Junction Public School students in the top two bands was higher than the state average.
- The average growth in numeracy results of students in Year 5 was well above both the average state growth and NSW DEC growth for students in this cohort.
- Students in Years 3 & 4 who completed the ICAS Competition in Mathematics achieved above the Australian average scores.
- 86% of students attending Burren Junction Public School in 2014 achieved at or above expected stage level. 58% of students were reported to be at stage level and 28% above expected stage level.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Funding was provided which allowed classes to be split into straight stage groups.
- Newer teachers were mentored in the teaching of Mathematics by more experienced teachers.
School priority 3
Aboriginal Education

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Aboriginal perspectives will be incorporated into all KLAs to enable all students to develop a sound understanding of Aboriginal culture.
- All Aboriginal students will have Individual Education Plans to enable them to match or better the outcomes of the broader student population.
- Increase indigenous parental engagement in supporting their children’s learning.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Regular reviews of teaching programs demonstrated inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives in all KLAs.
- Individual Education Plans were developed for all Aboriginal students and included in teaching programs.
- Aboriginal parents and family members attended special days and assemblies throughout the year.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- Staff engaged in professional discussions about their programs and followed the programming requirements of Burren Junction Public School.
- Staff underwent professional development in the writing of Individual Education Plans.
- Aboriginal families were actively encouraged to participate in the school during 2014.

School priority 4
Engagement & Attainment

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- All students will participate in the Australian Schools Dance Program & Narrabri Eisteddfod
- All students will participate in the Marimba Music Program
- Students will be provided with opportunities to participate in competitive and non-competitive sporting activities
- All students will have access to ICT within the classroom environment to enhance learning outcomes.
- Students identified as academically gifted and talented will be provided with opportunities to develop their skills.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- All students participated in the Narrabri Eisteddfod music section playing the Marimbas. A large number of students also participated in the Speech and Drama section of the Eisteddfod. Students also played the Marimbas at the annual Presentation Ceremony.
- During the year students received coaching in cricket, netball and athletics. Students participated in swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals. A number of students tried out for PSSA teams. The school fielded teams in PSSA knockout competitions and Horse Sports.
- Each classroom had access to desktops computers. There are also a large number of laptop computers and I-Pads available for student use.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- The Marimba Music Program was continued during 2014.
- Students were made aware of sporting teams and trials. Sporting coaches were sought out and hired.
- The P&C supported the school by purchasing some of our technology needs for 2014. There was also a rollout of new technology items.

School priority 5
Curriculum & Assessment

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Successful implementation of National Curriculum on an ongoing basis over the next 3 years including the implementation of a whole school scope and sequence linking KLAs together.
- By the end of 2013 the school will have developed an across the school
Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
- Staff regularly attended Adobe Connect sessions on the new syllabus documents and their implementation.
- A whole school scope and sequence for Mathematics was developed.
- A school assessment and reporting schedule has been developed for English and Mathematics.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Professional development opportunities were utilised as they became available.
- Staff attended the Anita Chin Mathematics planning day to develop an understanding of best practice.
- Staff utilized the new assessment and reporting schedule and acted on feedback from parents to refine reporting. Feedback provided by teachers enabled the utilisation of the best assessment tools.

School priority 6
Leadership & Management

Outcomes from 2012–2014
- All teaching programs will include embedded quality teaching criteria.
- Professional learning plans will be implemented and updated termly for all teaching staff.
- All staff will have access to professional development activities as described in their Professional Learning Plans (PLPs).
- School leadership capacity will be developed by utilising ongoing training opportunities.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:
- Regular reviews of teaching programs demonstrated inclusion of quality teaching criteria.
- Each staff member developed an individual professional learning plan in consultation with the principal.
- Staff accessed a number of professional learning activities during the year including video conferences and off site training.
- The principal continued to attend professional development at principals’ conferences.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:
- Staff engaged in professional discussions about their programs and followed the programming requirements of Burren Junction Public School.
- Teachers engaged in regular consultations with either their mentor or the principal to ascertain professional learning needs.
- Professional development opportunities were utilised as they became available.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

At the end of 2014 surveys were sent home to all families. There was a 70% response rate to the surveys. Families were asked to comment on school and community interactions and communication via the school newsletter and website. Information was also elicited on what we are doing well at Burren Junction Public School as well as areas for improvement.

The positive aspects of our school last year focused around academic achievement with the vast majority of respondents making positive comments about our reading group arrangements and small class sizes. Another positive feature was the level of parental involvement in the school, the quality of our teachers and the utilisation of targeted programs, such as Multilit.

There was only one clear area of concern expressed by families. This was in the area of communication, which has been targeted for inclusion in the 2015-2017 School Plan. Other responses varied and appeared to be individual suggestions rather than specific deficits within the school.
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.

Three strategic directions have been set for this planning cycle, specifically;

Burren Junction Public School will improve student learning in English through the development and delivery of consistent high quality teaching practice

Burren Junction Public School will improve student learning in Mathematics through the development and delivery of consistent high quality teaching practice

Burren Junction Public School will engender a culture of inclusiveness for all students and their families by providing a diverse variety of learning opportunities. The school will develop effective communication strategies to ensure all stakeholders are aware of opportunities for students.

More detailed information about how these objectives will be achieved is included in the School Plan.

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.

Lynn Starkey  Principal
Kate Slack-Smith  Teacher
Douglas Leabon  Teacher
Carol Cameron  Teacher
Douglas Long  Teacher
Jenny Holcombe - School Administrative Manager
Burren Junction Public School School Council

School contact information
Burren Junction Public School
7 Alma St
Burren Junction
NSW 2386
Ph: 6796 1464
Fax: 6796 1458
Email: burrenjunc-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.burrenjunc-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1447

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: