



Education &  
Communities

# Louth Public School

## Annual School Report 2014



**Growth  
Through  
Knowledge**



3594

## School context statement

Louth Public School is an isolated rural school adjacent to the Darling River in north-western New South Wales. In 2014 the school had an enrolment of four, catering for Kindergarten (ES1), Year 3 (Stage 2) and Year 5 (Stage 3) students.

Louth Public School provides a caring and secure learning environment from kindergarten to year six.

The village has a population of approximately 40. The school is a PP6 level and enrolments have been stable over the past years with minimal change.

The school continues to expand and explore new horizons to ensure the quality of teaching and delivery is current with mainstream education within Australia.

Louth Public School is strongly supported by its rich and diverse community and neighbouring communities. The school is also fortunate in having and maintaining strong partnerships between the Active After Schools Program and many rural and isolated community organisations that visit the local community annually in support.

## Principal's message

2014 was an adventurous year not to mention very busy year at Louth Primary School and though small in size our adventures and achievements were certainly large.

Students had a strong focus on Literacy working on their grammar, spelling, text type handwriting and overall literacy skills. In Numeracy, the students embarked on more complicated areas such as fractions and capacity mass.

Playgroup commenced in 2014 in the form of 'Jules Playgroup'. This became so successful that the initiative evolved into the LEAP Centre (Little Educational Access Program) which will commence in Term 1, 2015.

Stages 2 and 3 improved on their writing skills in text types - Procedure, Narrative and Response. These units of study are linked to the CAPA

drama project of making a movie "Little Louth on the Darling" which was premiered at Louth Public Schools Presentation Night on the 18th December 2014.

2014 commenced the change in the overall look of the school. External features were painted and the school uniform changed to assist in the new direction of the school.

The school took part in the Active After School Program for its final year. The program aimed to engage children in sport and other structured physical activities through a positive and fun experience and to develop a love of sport that inspires them to join a local sporting club.

We attended a week long small schools camp with many other small schools in the area at Weilmoringle. The camp involved many educational experiences.

Our school fair was a huge success, raising the majority of the funds needed to support the P&C initiatives of the school which included the exterior painting, mural and new uniform.

We had many events with visitors from near and far come and share their skills with the school. These included but are not limited to – Medicare Local (Healthy Outback Kids) and Outback Patrol.

The year culminated in a terrific showcase of the School and Community movie "Little Louth on the Darling". The movie was such a success that the school will embark on their next movie in 2015.

Stage 3 students participated in the Outback Challenge in Bourke. Other school initiatives that students participated in during 2014 were Small Schools Swimming Carnival, Cross Country and in school events and festivities.

Students in stage 2 and 3 sat the NAPLAN exam from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May.

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.

Mr. Troy Ruttley (R.I.G)

## **P & C and/or School Council message**

The Louth P&C continues to support Louth Public School whenever the opportunity arises and all members of the P&C have a good working relationship with staff.

The Louth P&C, in conjunction with Louth Public successfully held the Annual school Fete in August.

The School in partnership with the P&C has made a positive transformation of the school in 2014; highlighting the school and communities strengths and implementing strategies to enable a stronger future for the school, students and community.

2014 brought a lot to our little school; we saw our old school uniform blossom into a new colourful, sophisticated and stylish garment that all the students are proud to wear. The original colours of yellow and blue were replaced with the navy blue, red and white colour scheme.

Parents were also given the opportunity to relive their own school experiences by returning back to school for a day. This initiative proved to be fun and educational for all.

The back to school day allowed parents to have a real insight into what their child(ren) experience on a day to day basis.

To end the year we unveiled the historical mural of a childhood story told by Wally Mitchell. The hand painted master piece by our local and talented artist Fiona Somerville. The school's external walls and guttering also were painted by teachers, students and parents during a working bee.

Finally the end of year premiered the local production of the schools movie "Little Louth on the Darling". The creativity from our principal and hard work by all of the Louth community in making this project a success only proved how committed we here at Louth are in supporting our children's education and ensuring they grow

to become successful and inspiring citizens of our community and also our country.

The Louth P&C had monthly meetings which were supported by 100% parental and community attendance.

**Mandy McInerney**  
**P & C. President**

## **Student representative's message**

In the year 2014, we did a variety of things including competing in events like the Small Schools Athletics Carnival, The Outback Challenge in Bourke and the Small Schools Swimming Carnival.

In previous years, we have rehearsed and performed our annual school play for the community. However, in 2014 we worked hard at writing and starring in our own movie "Little Louth on the Darling".

In August 2014 we held our annual school fete as this is our main fundraising event for the year. This year the fete added stalls and amusements to cater for the vast growing attendance of visitors due to the Annual Louth Races. Each stall consisted of a variety of goodies to cater to the diverse attendees. These included but are not limited to; White Elephant Stall, Show Bags, Auntie Myrt's Sauce, hats, Jewellery and toys. The best introduction was the transformation of our classroom into a haunted house.

The Annual School Fete also provided a jumping castle and our local entertainer Shane Josephson singing songs and playing the guitar.

The highlight of the year was our school movie. When we first started making "Little Louth on the Darling", I felt nervous and embarrassed and because of this, I made a lot of mistakes. Thankfully you can retake the scene and get it right. I found it hard not to look at the camera, but, as I got further into the movie it a lot easier. Doing the movie allowed students to learn about acting, script writing and editing.

Participating in the Outback Challenge allows us from small schools to come together and play with our friends.

The Highlight for me of 2014 was definitely the movie "Little Louth on the Darling" and participating in the Outback Challenge in Bourke.

Louth Public School in 2014 has provided me and my fellow students with great opportunities as we find it hard to participate in extracurricular activities due to the schools isolation. I do believe Louth Public School is the place to be as a student. It opens the door to many possibilities not just for students in year 6 but all my fellow students.

**By Roley Woodberry  
School 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

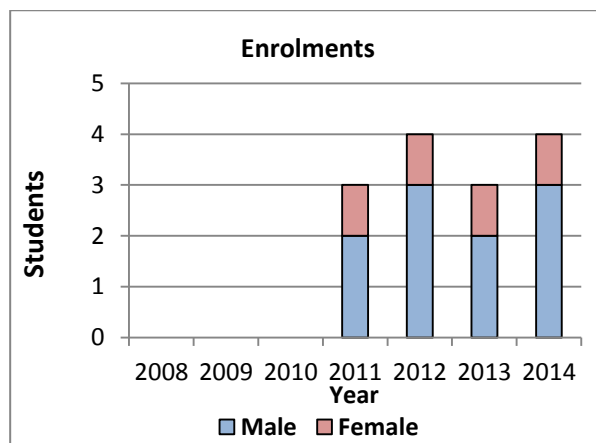
Since 2009, February census enrolment data has shown a year on year increase in total enrolments in NSW public schools.

In NSW, public primary school mainstream enrolments increased from 442,789 in 2012 to 449,810 in 2013.

Gender	2011	2012	2013	2014
Male	2	3	2	3
Female	1	1	1	1

Under the new National Education Agreement (2009) guidelines, schools must report on the Indigenous composition of their workforce.

Louth Public School's workforce is 100% non-indigenous.



### Student attendance profile

	Year	2012	2013	2014
School	K	96.3	na	97.6
	1	84.0	100.0	na
	2	na	87.3	na
	3	91.4	na	90.4
	4	na	93.7	na
	5	98.8	na	94.0
	6	na	98.7	na
	<b>Total</b>		<b>92.6</b>	<b>94.3</b>
State DEC	K	94.3	95.0	95.2
	1	93.9	94.5	94.7
	2	94.2	94.7	94.9
	3	94.4	94.8	95.0
	4	94.3	94.7	94.9
	5	94.2	94.5	94.8
	6	93.8	94.1	94.2
	<b>Total</b>		<b>94.2</b>	<b>94.7</b>

### Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2014 class size audit conducted March 2014.



Louth Public School is a one teaching principal school. All students are taught in a one multi age class.

Roll class	Year	Total in class	Total per year
K-6	K	2	4
	3	1	4
	5	1	4

### Management of non-attendance

Overall non-attendance at Louth Public School is not a current issue. All students attend the school on a regular basis. Students are absent from school due to medical reasons which is limited. Students are rewarded through the school reward system where each student receives bonus points for attending school on a regular basis.

### Workforce information

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

In 2014 Louth Public School employed 5 staff members at various times of the year. This includes teaching staff (including relief teacher), Piano teacher, Indonesian teacher, senior administration officer, Grounds staff, cleaner and teachers' aides. All teaching staff met the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

### Workforce composition

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	0
Assistant Principal(s)	0
Head Teachers	0
Classroom Teacher(s)	1
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	0
Teacher Librarian	0
Teacher of ESL	0
School Counsellor	0
School Administrative & Support	3
Total	5

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

Louth Public School's workforce is 25% Indigenous.

### Teacher qualifications

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

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100%
Postgraduate	100%
NSW Institute of Teachers	50%

### 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	30/11/2014
<b>Income</b>	\$81 439.77
Balance brought forward	11 044.00
Global funds	45 663.79
Tied funds	22 951.20
School & community sources	12 314.15
Interest	510.63
Trust receipts	0.00
Canteen	0.00
Total income	92 483.77
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	7 903.96
Excursions	3 233.79
Extracurricular dissections	6 906.06
Library	2 186.07
Training & development	0.00
Tied funds	17 714.50
Casual relief teachers	0.00
Administration & office	27 941.49
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	6 866.08
Maintenance	6 942.73
Trust accounts	0.00
Capital programs	41 751.10
Total expenditure	79 695.48
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	12 788.29

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

In 2014 Louth Public School was involved in a variety of learning experiences.

### 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>

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)

NAPLAN Year 3 - Numeracy

One student sat this assessment

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

One student sat this assessment

NAPLAN Year 5 - Numeracy

One student sat this assessment

## Other achievements

### Arts

Throughout 2014 the students and staff were involved in a variety of creative artistic activities. All Louth students and community participated in the first Louth movie "Little Louth on the Darling."

### Sport

- Small Schools, District carnivals for athletics, swimming and cross country.
- Active After Schools Program two afternoons a week across all four terms.

### Playgroup

The introduction of the playgroup was implemented in 2014. The success of the playgroup was positive and therefore is an initiative that the school will provide in 2015.

## Significant programs and initiatives

The school ran a number of significant programs throughout 2014. These were:

- Active After School Sports Program
- Intensive Literacy Program
- Small School Education Camps
- Indonesian lessons
- Piano lessons
- The Movie "little Louth on the Darling".
- Playgroup

Considerable thought was put into the planning of these programs to enhance the student's and communities' educational experiences through a variety of different educational learning mediums.



## 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:

- Student, staff and community evaluation
- Evidence based data

### School planning 2012—2014: progress in 2014

#### School Planning Process:

- **2014 August-** Western Plains network meeting, Principal attended. Discussed the direction of the SMP.
- Ongoing assessment schedule throughout the year
- NAPLAN results
- Classroom observations

#### School priority 1

Literacy writing improvement

#### Outcomes from 2012–2014

Independent writing skills improved by 20% as demonstrated on writing tasks conducted each term

#### Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Demonstrated improved knowledge of self-editing skills and ability to use writing rubric to guide expectation and achievement of standard.
- All students demonstrated improved ability to work autonomously and

complete tasks within a restricted time frame.

- 100% of K students have met the regional reading outcomes.
- All students k-6 have improved their reading levels with 50% of students making significant progress this year.
- 75% of students are at or above their expected reading level.

#### Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2015

- Continue to model and guide students in use of rubrics and self-editing skills.
- Establish publishing area and display of students published works to instill a greater sense of pride and achievement.
- Staff development of new curriculum to ensure text type focus is met.
- Math 101 Numeracy Program.
- Lit 101 Literacy Program.

#### School priority 2

#### Students reading and comprehending at regional levels.

#### Outcomes from 2012–2014

All K-2 students achieve regional Reading Recovery levels and increase comprehension levels in stage 2 and 3

#### Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Running records for levels
- Correct comprehension of reading assessment questions for reading level text as per reading benchmark kit assessments

#### Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2015:

- Continue to use reading to learn strategies with all students
- Use of Jolly Phonics program
- Comprehension and text deconstruction activities each day based on read text

#### School priority 3

Computer skills increase by staff and students

#### Outcomes from 2012–2014

Increase computer skills and exposure across the school

#### Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- Staff better equipped to teach and use a variety of technologies
- Students use a broader range of programs competently
- Students use a broader range of technologies in learning activities

#### Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2015:

- Computer skills programmed and timetabled for weekly lessons
- Use of different types of technology in learning activities, each technology modelled and programmed for use in a range of KLAs.
- Staff professional learning in technology, with emphasis on effective use of IWB

### Professional learning

In 2014 professional learning included:

- \* English continuum
- \* New English syllabus
- \* Use of Interactive Whiteboard
- \* Skoolbo



### 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.

#### Highlights

Implementation of monthly newsletter

Discussion on new uniform

Cobar Primary school days once a term

Involvement of Distance Ed students

Excursions and guest presenters

#### Areas for improvement

Library to be finished

### Program evaluations

#### Background

In 2014 all students will work on the area topic in math's each week. This will allow staff to produce better programs for math's lessons. In addition allow students to work in with each other on common topics.

#### Findings and conclusions

- Better programming techniques being used at the school.
- All students are provided the opportunity to share their math's knowledge with each other.

#### Future directions

Continue subscription in 2015

#### Targets for 2015

##### Target 1

**All K-2 students achieve regional Reading Recovery levels and increase comprehension levels in stage 2 and 3**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Continue to use the reading to learn strategies with all students.
- Use jolly phonics program daily.
- Implement comprehension lessons in stage 2 and 3.

Our success will be measured by:

- Regular benchmarking students reading levels.
- Improved quality of comprehension when reading unfamiliar texts.

##### Target 2

**Increase computer skills and exposure across the school**

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Conduct weekly computer lessons.
- Use different types of technology within the classroom to further expose and develop the children's exposure skills in this area.
- Staff Professional Learning in the areas technology.



Our success will be measured by:

- Staff better equipped to teach and use a variety of technologies.
- Students using a broader range of technology to complete work.

## 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.

**Troy Ruttley** - Relieving Principal

**Mrs. Annabel Strachan** SAM

**Mrs. Deborah Nielsen** R.F.F teacher

**Miss Amanda McInerney** P&C President

## School contact information

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**School Code:** 3594

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>