2009 Annual School Report
Cowper P.S.

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Students

Our enrolment at the end of 2009 was 19, including 9 girls and 10 boys. In 2009 there was 1 class.

Staff

A teaching principal and part time teachers support the students. This year there has not been any staffing betterment allocation. The present staffing allocations for 2009 consist of:

- A librarian/release teacher
- A part-time New Scheme Teacher
- A School Learning Support Officer
- A School Administrative Manager
- A General Assistant
- A school cleaner

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

Significant programs and initiatives

Programs that have supported students in 2009 include:

In the Creative and Performing Arts K.L.A. a comprehensive music program including instruments and performance. Students were trained, in recorder, to perform at the Sydney Opera House at the Annual Schools’ Instrumental Concert.

In Drama the children presented a whole school performance of three short plays for Presentation Night.

In the PD, PE and Health area- daily fitness exercise activities and fresh fruit program together with the Active After School Community sporting program, supported by the Australian Sports Commission were important initiatives. The students also participated in ‘Jump Rope for Heart’.

In the social skills area- a continuation of the small schools days which incorporated a Multicultural Day, Surf Living Saving Skills Day, Performances by visiting artists, and regular meetings of our Student Representative Council.

The Computer Skills program conducted in Term 4, by Mrs Cheryl Connor, culminated in the School Magazine of Children’s Writing

Our Macquarie Reading Tutor program continues to be a very important reading initiative in the school. Mrs Gay Fitzpatrick conscientiously tutors children from K-Yr 6 on a daily basis. Our students display excellent reading skills as a result of this program.

Student achievement in 2009

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Due to the low number of students in the 2009 cohort it is not possible to report using statistics.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Due to the low number of students in the 2009 cohort it is not possible to report using statistics.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

There were no Year 5 students who completed NAPLAN.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

There were no Year 5 students who completed NAPLAN.

Messages

Principal’s message

2009 has been a very successful year for Cowper P.S. Through the Australian Government’s ‘Nation Building’ Economic Stimulus Plan funding we have two new classrooms being built for use in 2010.

‘Pride in Australia’ funding has provided many refurbishments for Cowper P.S. including new carpet in the existing classroom, new vinyl flooring, a new entrance of safer steps, new taps in Girls’ and Boys’ wash rooms and drinking taps. Fresh paint and timber renovations were seen on the canteen building.

In March of 2009 the school experienced devastating flooding which inundated the Administration block, canteen, garden shed and other areas of the playground. Following this
event a new Administration building was placed on site.

During Semester One our school provided an Integration program for the neighbouring school of Woodford Dale. Students participated in Stage Mathematics Groups, Drama, Writing and Cineliteracy activities. They also joined the Active After Schools Sports Program in the afternoon session.

Once again Cowper P.S. has experienced some remarkable achievements in the Creative & Performing Arts. Ten students had the honour of performing in the Sydney Opera House together with over 800 children from N.S.W. public schools. The recorder ensemble also played in the opening segment of the ‘Small Schools Big Impact Concert.’ Parent involvement during 2009 has increased with more parents assisting in fundraising, attendance at P&C meetings and accompanying staff on major excursions.

This year we have had the Priority Schools’ Program staffing allocation to enable us to provide small groups in Numeracy activities, together with funding to buy Literacy and Numeracy resources.

PSP funding provided a Support Teacher for Learning Activities in Term 3 and Term 4. Mrs Melissa Philp gave individual tuition to identified students who were experiencing difficulties in English and Mathematics.

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.

Mrs Susan Chapple

P&C message

At the commencement of 2009 the P&C was very busy, once again, raising funds to assist our senior students to travel to the Sydney Opera House for the instrumental performance. Raffles and chocolate drives were held as fundraisers.

Many parents, and relatives, had the privilege of accompanying the children on the Sydney excursion and some of the funds were used to subsidise their fares etc.

This year the canteen has suffered from the flood event. It has been closed for two terms. Mrs Rebecca Davis will commence in 2010 with other parents to assist.

P&C meetings continue to be held over at Brushgrove where visitors can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere over a pizza for dinner.

Presentation Night prizes and Awards gifts continue to be funded out of P&C funds. A dictionary for each Year 6 student proceeding onto high school is presented on behalf of the P&C.

P&C members for 2009 were:

President Tanya Stephenson
Secretary Naomi Davis
Canteen Supervisor Rebecca Davis
Treasurer Meegan Bolton

Thank you to the parents and community members for supporting the school in 2009.

Parents and community members attended our ‘Foods from around the world’ luncheon.

Student representative’s message

This year our senior students went to Sydney to play our recorders at the Sydney Opera House. We were excited to fly in an aeroplane for the first time and for some of us it was our first visit to Sydney.

We also went on a whole school excursion to Sea World in Queensland. It was a fantastic day.

Our Gardening Groups have worked hard to produce great tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicum, lettuce and shallots to send home to our families.
Mrs Philp organised our Small Schools’ Eisteddfod performances again.

We had good fun practising for our plays at the end of the year.

Jace Clarke (School Captain)

Gardening Groups work weekly to beautify gardens and produce vegetables for the home.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2009 class size audit conducted on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

K-6 class.

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>1.0</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></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 Part Time- Principal’s Relief</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority School Program</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Learning Support Officer</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff (SASS)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no Indigenous staff members at present.

Teacher qualifications

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

Enter text here

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Choir performs at Community Carols’ night.

Science investigations taking place in co-operative learning groups.

Students enjoy participation at the annual Small Schools’ Swimming carnival.

One young student is having fun in the sandpit at lunch.

One of the students is practising for choir.

The children enjoyed their end of year, school excursion to Sea World
### 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></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>8 683.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2 630.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>783.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>98 853.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>4 428.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>7 054.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>4 552.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1 166.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>995.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>50 576.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>2 976.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>23 525.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>5 377.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>18 215.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>867.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>5 535.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>125 272.82</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,566.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full copy of the school's 2009 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the P & C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

### Achievements

#### Arts

Early in the year our Yr 3-6 students once again experienced the opportunity to perform in the Sydney Opera House with a combined recorder ensemble of 800 students from all over N.S.W. Through participation in the Festival of Instrumental Music 2009 our children visited Sydney and many places of interest linked to their H.S.I.E. unit on Early Australia.

Our school entered many items in the City of Grafton Eisteddfod, winning sections in percussion, choir and recorders. Mrs Melissa Philp trained the whole school for each of these performances.

As many of our students are privately tutored in music, on our school premises, they entered in the individual Eisteddfod items and achieved significant success.

At the Presentation Night drama groups performed for the audience. Mrs Shannon Spring prepares her actors well and they always display excellent talents in front of professional props built by Mrs Spring.

#### Sport

Funds provided by A.A.S.C. have enabled Cowper P.S. to run sport skills’ sessions on Wednesday and Friday afternoons under the guidance of Mrs Ann Chard. Fresh Fruit, water and juice is provided to the children throughout the session. This is also funded by the Active After School Sports’ Commission. We would like to acknowledge the organisation of this initiative by Mr Bruce Wallace and his enthusiasm for this sporting program.

The 'Jump Rope for Heart' team visited the school and set the children up to raise funds for Heart Research. Our students have developed good skipping skills as a result of their involvement.

### School performance 2009

Cowper Public School students experienced and enjoyed success in many areas of their school lives during 2009. Through a culture of encouragement and participation, gains in academic achievements have been sustained and strengthened.
Cowper P.S. participated in the Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival, Small Schools’ Athletics Carnival, Cross Country Carnival and a Community of Schools’ Sports day at Ulmarra. Two Cross Country competitors were selected to represent the school at the District Cross Country Carnival: Taleah Condon and Luz Chevalier.

Each year students participate in the Special Swimming Scheme at Maclean Pool. They are taught by qualified instructors and learn how to swim. In January a Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival is held at Grafton Aquatic Centre involving all children.

Community Involvement

In October, 2009 the school decided to enter a float in the Jacaranda Festival to promote the music program at our school. Students played the marimbas and other percussion instruments on the decorated float. Many parents, including Connie and Peter Foster, came along to enjoy this parade.

At Christmas time, Mrs Melissa Philp organised ‘Carols by Candlelight’ in the school grounds. This event was advertised widely and over 100 guests from the local community attended. The school’s choir showcased their enormous depth of talent singing carols during the evening with individual soloists performing.

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 the 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)

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

and/or

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

Due to the low number of students in the 2009 cohort it is not possible to report using statistics.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Due to the low number of students in the 2009 cohort it is not possible to report using statistics.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

There were no Year 5 students who completed NAPLAN.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

There were no Year 5 students who completed NAPLAN.

Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

| Percentage of Year 3 students achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Reading                         | 100 |
| Writing                         | 100 |
| Spelling                        | 100 |
| Punctuation and grammar         | 100 |
| Numeracy                        | 100 |

Significant programs and initiatives

Our P.D.P.E. & Health program incorporated the Active After Schools’ Sport Communities program providing active sport sessions twice per week.

Cowper P.S. supports ‘Jump Rope for Heart’ with the children including skipping activities in their daily fitness sessions.
The Student Representative Council met regularly to discuss student issues which affected them and provided suggestions for areas of improvement.

Our school also produced a page for The Daily Examiner newspaper for Newspapers in Education.

Aboriginal education
Aboriginal perspectives are embedded within the H.S.I.E. and Science & Technology areas. Students attended the regular NAIDOC celebrations at Wooli P.S.

During the Environmental Science Day shared at Nymboida P.S. our students listened to stories told by Aboriginal elders and participated in art activities.

Multicultural education
Cowper P.S. has a strong, weekly L.O.T.E. program. As we have two students, whose first language is French we conduct French lessons at school. Their mother, Mrs Ana Chevalier is a valuable resource who assists with the lessons to share cultural aspects of France and knowledge of the spoken language.

A special visit in Term 4 from Mrs Patricia Penner, an ex-principal from Canada, came to share a day of teaching the students about schools and life in Canada. It proved to be a valuable cultural exchange for our children.

Respect and responsibility
Student welfare is a very important focus at Cowper P.S. Every student has the right to be provided education in a safe, happy, secure and nurturing environment. The school supports one all encompassing rule ‘Be Kind to Everyone and Everything’. This is reinforced daily, at assembly and in the school.

Student leadership is encouraged at our school where the Captain and S.R.C. members are allocated responsible tasks to assist with the daily running of the school.

NSW Board of Studies Physical Education, Health and Personal Development curriculum provides a basis for student welfare. Child Protection, Drug Education, Road Safety and Anti-Bullying policies are implemented to develop students’ decision-making skills and provide information necessary for their continued safety and health.

Other programs
Priority Schools Program

The PSP Funding Program has enabled Cowper P.S. to improve learning outcomes for all students through the provision of improved pedagogy, accountability and purchase of resources. Improved learning outcomes are achieved by:

- Providing support programs for students identified with learning needs.
- Increasing professional support and development for teachers
- Adding a significant amount of new Literacy and Numeracy resources across K-6
- Expanding the STLA program
- Improving the assessment, monitoring and reporting of student achievements.

The staffing supplement for Cowper P.S. of 0.1 per fortnight has been utilized by:

- Creating smaller class groupings so that ES 1-Stage 1 had a teacher for half a day each week and Stage 2-Stage 3 children benefited from a smaller class group.
- Allowing the support teacher to plan, assess, monitor, evaluate and report on student literacy and numeracy achievements.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1

80% of students achieve Stage outcomes in Numeracy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Professional Learning Workshops for parents
- Professional learning in CMIT and Counting On to ensure the quality of implementation and assessment.
- Targeted support for individual learning needs determined by analysis of Naplan numeracy and school based data.
- Individual programs developed for particular students who are experiencing difficulties.
- Structured opportunities for staff and parents to participate in Small Schools’ Network to facilitate improved student engagement and learning.
Our achievements include:
Individual programs developed for particular students who were experiencing difficulties in Numeracy.

The Staff are implementing IWB Numeracy programs.
Teachers accessed the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TaLe) as a strategy to enhance teaching practice.

Key evaluations
It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2009 our school carried out evaluations of

Educational and management practice

Background
As part of the ongoing evaluation cycle the management area of Learning was selected for 2009. Staff, students and parents were surveyed to obtain the following findings.

Findings and conclusions
The students responses indicated that learning takes place in a stimulating environment. Parents indicated that their children were in a happy, school learning environment and were experiencing success at school.

Future directions
Cowper P.S. will continue to promote their Creative and Performing Arts program giving the children an opportunity to showcase their talents in this area.

Curriculum

Numeracy

Background
As part of the ongoing evaluation cycle the curriculum area of Numeracy was selected for 2009.

Findings and conclusions
There is still room for improvement in this curriculum area. Staff agreed that the students need extra work in basic number concepts and applying tables’ knowledge to problem solving.

Parents were involved in PSP workshops to assist them in helping their children at home with number.

Future directions
Maintain the current emphasis on Numeracy and provide more information sessions for parents so they can assist in homework exercises.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction
In 2009 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. Their responses are presented below.

Through surveying parents of families enrolled at our school there was positive feedback about the effectiveness of the newsletter and the increased access to school news and photos through the new school website.

Children expressed that they enjoyed coming to Cowper P.S. and particularly enjoyed the comprehensive music program.

P& C meetings have increased attendance and enthusiasm for excursions is evident. Many parents accompanied the children on the Sydney ‘Opera House’ excursion and the whole school trip to Sea World.

The P&C embarked on many fundraising activities to send the children to Sydney for their instrumental performance.

Professional learning
In 2009 the teaching staff attended the following courses:

- Principal attended the Leadership course- Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results
- Mrs Philp and Mrs Chapple attended Stage 2 Numeracy S.N.P. Lesson Study
- Mrs Philp attended the Best Start training.
- Principal attended ‘Teaching Principal’s Program’
- Principal attended SBSR update course.
- Mrs Spring attended ‘Numeracy- Middle Years’ course

School development 2009 – 2011
Targets for 2010
The school has determined three focus areas which will of particular importance from 2010 - 2011.

- Foundations of numeracy
- Improved spelling results
- Science & Technology - Literacy connection

Target 1
In 2010 80% of students achieve stage outcomes in Numeracy.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Analysis of individual student needs and provision of appropriate support
- Use Best Start analysis to inform individual student learning needs in Kindergarten
- Targeted support for individual learning needs determined by analysis of NAPLAN numeracy results.
- Quality teaching elements to be incorporated into all aspects of teaching numeracy with focus on substantive communication and student engagement.
- Using P.S.P component to structure Stage learning groups.

Our success will be measured by:
- Numeracy assessments in place - term and semester assessments indicate growth for every student.
- NAPLAN results indicate improvement.

Target 2
Improve student outcomes in Spelling by having 75% of students improving by one or more skill bands between Yr 3 and Yr 5 in NAPLAN tests.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Daily Spelling Bee
- Participation in the Premier’s Spelling Challenge
- Foster higher rates of Home Spelling Practice
- Systematic and explicit teaching in spelling and writing using a phonics based program.
- Introduce ‘Thrass’ language program to school using P.S.P. funding.

Increase student participation in Science & Technology through the use of Primary Connections programs.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- Teachers access units of study from Primary Connections which link science with literacy.
- Conduct a small schools’ combined Science day for students to have ‘hands-on’ experiments in Term 1.
- Access the Teacher & Learning Exchange website for Interactive lessons.

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.

Mrs Susan Chapple Principal
Mrs Shannon Spring Teacher/Librarian
Mrs Melissa Philp Part Time Teacher
Ms Debbie Davis S.A.M.
Ms Tanya Stephenson P&C President

School contact information
Cowper P.S.
Cnr. Samuel & Clarence Sts. COWPER NSW 2460
Ph: 02 66476339
Fax: 02 66 476409
Email: cowper-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.cowper-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1670

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: