

Paluma Environmental Education Centre

2017 Annual Report



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Facilities On Site

- Sleeping accommodation for 70 in three dormitories
- Commercial kitchen
- Cold room and dry store area for food storage
- Dining room
- Classroom
- Staff quarters & basic administration facility in old school building

Located in NQ Region

- In Paluma Village
- Surrounded by the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

Natural Learning Areas:

- Tropical rainforest
- Freshwater creeks
- Tin-mining & timber-cutting relics
- Wartime heritage



2017 Staff

DET Allocation:

- Teaching Principal Band 6 = 1.0 FTE
 - 2 Teachers = 2.0 FTE
 - Unit Support Officer = 1.0 FTE
 - Administrative Officer AO3 = 0.85 FTE
 - Cleaners = 1.0 FTE
- Total allocated staff headcount 2016 = 5.85 FTE**

Purchased by Centre (Casual or Contract):

- Casual Cooks = 1.0 FTE (Term Time)
 - Casual Teaching staff = 0.26 FTE
 - Upgrade of AO3 for term 3 & 4 = 0.05 FTE
- Total purchased staff headcount 2017 = 1.31 FTE**

Professional Development

Strategic – conferences & workshops – OEECPA meetings, Band 5/6 Principals Forum, OEEC Admin Conference, SBMAQ Conference, teacher visit to SE QLD EECs

Operational – workshops – Remote Area First Aid/CPR, Schools Officers meetings, SBMAQ meetings, Cleaners' Training, finance workshops



Principal's Foreword 2017

2017 saw us continue to provide quality educational experiences to students in the North Queensland Region while implementing a range of new excursions and other activities. Our key focus for the year was on ensuring that all excursion programs were built around explicit learning goals and success criteria, which were aligned to the Australian Curriculum and developed in consultation with visiting school staff. Through this approach I believe that we were able to ensure that our teaching staff had greater clarity on the content being presented, and that visiting schools were provided with an experience that met their students' learning needs.

We were very fortunate during 2016 to be awarded \$16,850 through Arts Queensland's Artist in Residence Program, which allowed us to travel across the region during Term 1 2017 delivering visual arts lessons to students in small schools alongside an amazing art teacher, Dyasley Tuck. We've continued to use the skills and knowledge we gained from working alongside Dyasley in subsequent excursion programs. Unfortunately Dyasley passed away earlier in 2018, but we are incredibly grateful for the time we spent with her, learning to view the world with 'fresh eyes'.

In-school classroom lessons on habitats, designed to assist in the delivery of a Year One C2C Science unit, allowed our teachers to gain greater access to teaching opportunities during 2017 and showcased the unique knowledge and skills of our teaching staff. Feedback from these lessons has been very positive and this is something that we will continue into 2018 and beyond whilst looking for opportunities to broaden our approach across a range of year levels.

We were also able to work collaboratively with Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre and Stanley River Environmental Education Centre to deliver a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways to students from two local high schools during 2017. During the week-long excursion we were able to spend time exploring a range of different themes and topics with the students involved, including a session where we were fortunate to spend some time with Aunty Pearl Lightning and members of the Girringun Rangers who shared some of their knowledge with the students. This was a great learning experience for us as an organisation, and highlighted the possibilities for future vocational courses in the future.

During Term 4 we held our second annual Writers' Camp, working alongside Australian author Leonie Norrington and local artist Colwyn Campbell to provide students with an immersive experience in the Paluma rainforest. The students worked closely with our experts to develop their writing and artistic skills and, as with last year, the work completed by students was of an amazing standard. It is a real treat to reflect back on the students' work and to share it with others.

My thanks to all of our staff, P&C members, partner organisations and members of the Paluma community for making 2017 such an enjoyable and successful year.


Ashley McLachlan
Principal

Visiting Teacher Feedback							
Survey Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Unable to comment
This centre was explicit about the alignment of the program to the Australian and Queensland curriculums.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	23.7%	60.5%	10.5%
Students achieved the learning goals identified for this program.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.9%	60.5%	7.9%
Students received quality teaching from the Centre staff.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	10.5%	81.6%	2.6%
Students were highly engaged in the program.	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	15.8%	76.3%	2.6%
This centre has positively contributed to the overall education of students.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	15.8%	76.3%	2.6%
Student safety was well managed by staff at this centre.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	5.3%	86.8%	2.6%
Student behaviour was well managed by staff at this centre.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	10.5%	81.6%	5.3%
This centre is well organised.	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	89.5%	2.6%
This centre is well resourced.	2.6%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	10.5%	84.2%	0.0%
This centre is well maintained.	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.9%	86.8%	2.6%

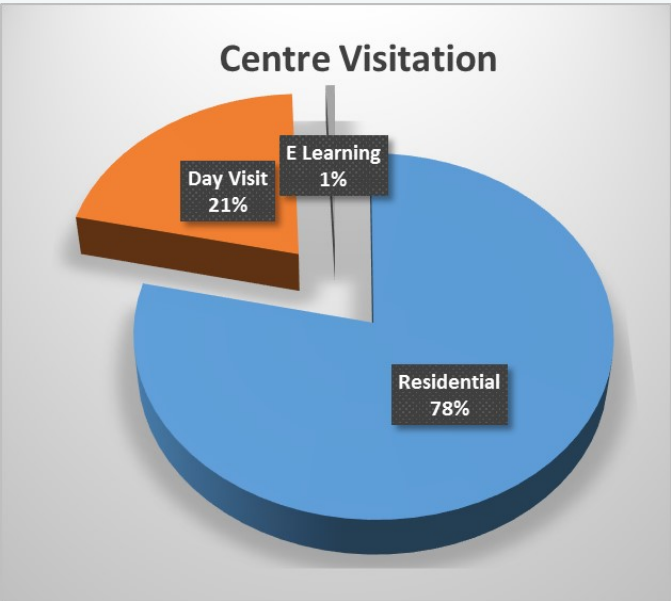
2017 Centre Income	
Agricultural Grant	16,000.00
School Groups	41,670.50
Non-School Groups	6,212.76
E&OEC Grant	33,439.00
Grounds Equipment	1,000.00
Artist in Residence Grant	16,850.00
ICT Schools Grant	5,450.00
Interest	5,435.43
Investing for Success	5,000.00
Minor Works	5,308.00
Other General Income	795.41
Catering Income	99,966.50
Teacher Relief Scheme	8,953.75
Utilities – Facilities	21,752.00
Utilities – Telecommunications	6,030.11
Maintenance	12,422.00
Cleaning – Non Labour	893.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$287,178.49

2017 Service Delivery Highlights

- Delivery of visual arts lessons to 548 students across 22 small, regional schools through the Artist in Residence Program during Term 1
- Visits to our Centre in Paluma from 32 different schools, including 27 residential excursions (45 class groups) and one day trip visit
- Two residential excursions (five class groups) on Magnetic Island
- Delivery of our first Certificate II course to 17 year 12 students from two local high schools, in collaboration with the Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre and Stanley River Environmental Education Centre
- Provision of in-school science lessons to 517 year one students across five schools
- Continued participation in S4 – Supporting Small School Science
- Delivery of a leadership program to 72 year five students at Belgian Gardens State School
- Participation in Reef Guardians Future Leader Eco Challenges with schools across the region



Environmental Impact			
	2015	2016	2017
Electricity (kWh)	44,787	57,712	59,194
Water (kL)	452	605	258



Staff Opinion Survey Data	
Total Agreement	
(Aggregation of Positive Responses – ‘Somewhat Agree’, ‘Agree’ & ‘Strongly Agree’)	
	%
I enjoy working at this school.	100%
I feel this school is a safe place in which to work	100%
I receive useful feedback about my work at this school.	100%
Students are encouraged to do their best at this school.	100%
Students are treated fairly at this school.	100%
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	100%
Staff are well supported at this school.	100%
This school takes staff opinions seriously.	100%
This school looks for ways to improve.	100%
This school is well maintained.	100%
This school gives me opportunities to do interesting things.	100%

