

# Paluma Environmental Education Centre 2018 Annual Report



53 Mount Spec Road, Paluma  
Ph: (07) 4770 8528 (Paluma)  
Ph: (07) 4772 9555 (Administration)  
[principal@palumaeec.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@palumaeec.eq.edu.au)

## 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
- \* 'Learnsaped' outdoor classrooms in World Heritage rainforest

## 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



## 2018 Staff

### DET Allocation:

- \* Teaching Principal - 1.0FTE
- \* 2 Teachers - 2.0FTE
- \* Unit Support Officer - 1.0FTE
- \* Administrative Officer AO3 - 0.85FTE
- \* Cleaners - 1.0FTE

**Total allocated staff 2018 - 5.85FTE**

### Purchased by Centre:

- \* Casual Cooks - 0.65FTE
- \* Casual Teaching Staff - 0.14FTE
- \* Upgrade of AO3 - 0.03FTE
- \* Unit Support Officer - 0.03FTE

**Total purchased staff 2018 - 0.85FTE**

### Professional Development

OEECPA meetings, Band 5/6 Principals Forums, OEEC Admin Conference, National Outdoor Education Conference, Australian Association for Environmental Education Conference, CPR, Cleaners' Training, Schools Officer Society meetings



## Principal's Foreword 2018

2018 was another busy year for us at the Paluma Environmental Education Centre, where we continued to grow in our ability to provide a range of curriculum-linked learning experiences for students from across the North Queensland Region and beyond. While last year we focussed very much on clarity around the content of our teaching, this year we took a special interest in reviewing and renewing our Centre's Pedagogical Framework, allowing us to work towards a consistent and coherent approach to teaching at our Centre.

Throughout 2018 we continued to deliver a range of in-school lessons focussing on biological science across a range of year levels. These lessons continued to showcase the unique skills and knowledge of our teaching staff and supported students to engage with the Science curriculum through a range of creative approaches.

Alongside our science lessons we also rolled out the delivery of a Digital Technologies lesson using our newly acquired class set of Ozobots. Using these tiny robots, our teaching staff have supported students with an introduction to the concepts of coding and robotics, sometimes building off the work students have done in previous years and hopefully preparing them for further studies in this area. Whilst many of these lessons were delivered in schools, we have also worked to include the Digital Technologies in many of our residential excursions, utilising these robots to highlight the plight of endangered species in our local area.

A number of schools have also included Design Technologies in their residential excursions this year by having students design and create a bird feeder, which they then bring along to test during their excursion in Paluma. It has been amazing to see the range of different ideas and designs that students have developed, and it is great to share in the excitement as they carry out a real-world test of their design in the rainforest.

Early in the year we were fortunate to work alongside our colleagues from Millchester State School to gain our canoeing qualifications. This allows us to now use the small fleet of canoes that we purchased off Tinaroo EEC to deliver programs out at the Paluma Dam and at other locations. Many thanks to Phil from Tinaroo EEC for his patience and understanding as our instructor, and to the students and staff from Mutarnee State School who offered to act as our guinea pigs during our training!

We once again collaborated with the Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre, this time to provide a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management to students from Emerald State High School and Blackwater State High School. I would like to thank those who assisted us in the delivery of this program, including the Girringun Rangers, Terrain NRM, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, National Parks Rangers from the Department of Environment and Science and Townsville Water staff from the Paluma Dam.

In Term 4 we were privileged to once again work alongside author Leonie Norrington and local artist, Colwyn Campbell to deliver our annual Writers' Camp. This camp always allows us to explore our creativity in developing a 'lived experience' for attending students. This year we were confronted with mysterious codes, angry rainforest beings, and a pesky crew of littering pirates who kidnapped our supervising adults out at the dam.

My thanks to all of our staff, P&C members, members of the Paluma Community, partner organisations, visiting students, staff and parents for making 2018 such an enjoyable and successful year.

Ashley McLachlan  
Principal



## 2018 Service Delivery Highlights

- \* Contact with students from 52 schools from across the state
- \* 35 residential camps and two day trip visits to Paluma for 1,202 students
- \* Two off-site residential excursions on Magnetic Island
- \* In-school science lessons with 945 students across 11 schools
- \* In-school robotics and coding lessons for 239 students across four schools
- \* Delivery of four in-school leadership programs to Year 5 & 6 students from Kelso State School and Millchester State School
- \* Completion of professional development to attain canoeing guide qualifications, allowing us to provide outdoor education activities at Lake Paluma and other sites
- \* Delivery of a Cert. II in Conservation & Land Management in collaboration with Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre and a range of partner organisations
- \* Hosting our third annual Writers' Camp alongside author Leonie Norrington and local artist Colwyn Campbell
- \* Continued participation in the Supporting Small Schools Science project and Reef Guardians Future Leaders Eco Challenges



## 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 Curriculum	0%	0%	0%	8%	24%	68%	0%
Students achieved the learning goals identified for this program	0%	0%	0%	2%	32%	66%	0%
Students received quality teaching from the Centre staff	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	92%	0%
Students were highly engaged in the program	0%	0%	2%	2%	14%	82%	0%
This Centre has positively contributed to the overall education of students	0%	0%	0%	4%	8%	88%	0%
Student safety was well managed by staff at this Centre	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	96%	0%
Student behaviour was well managed by staff at this Centre	0%	0%	0%	2%	14%	84%	0%
This Centre is well organised	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%	0%
This Centre is well resourced	0%	0%	0%	4%	10%	86%	0%
This Centre is well maintained	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%	0%



## Environmental Impact

	2016	2017	2018
Electricity (kWh)	57,712	59,194	63,108
Water (kL)	605	258	243

## 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%

## 2018 Centre Income

Agricultural Grant	15,360.00
School Groups	47,983.50
Non-School Groups	2,981.70
E&OEC Grant	33,199.00
Grounds Equipment	1,000.00
ICT Schools Grant	8,808.00
Interest	6,256.33
Investing for Success	5,178.00
Minor Works	5,560.00
Other General Income	578.73
Catering Income	100,901.50
Teacher Relief Scheme	9,004.60
Utilities - Facilities	22,454.00
Utilities - Telecommunications	5,876.17
Maintenance	12,670.00
Cleaning-Non Labour	875.43
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$278,686.96</b>