School context statement

Rivendell School is part of a joint NSW Ministry of Health (Health) and Department of Education and Communities (DEC) facility. It is located within the historical Thomas Walker Estate at Concord West and shares the site with the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Service.

Rivendell School has 13 classes (sometimes referred to as Learning Centres) across three sites.

On the Walker Estate we have five classes across the two Health programs, Lawson and Yaralla, and four classes for the DEC programs, Paterson and Sulman.

In the Concord Centre for Mental Health site we have two classes (which make up the Learning Centre) in the Walker Adolescent High Severity Mental Health Unit.

At Campbelltown Hospital we have two classes (which make up the Learning Centre) in the Gna Ka Lun Acute Adolescent Mental Health Unit.

Rivendell School provides a broad academic curriculum, targeted vocational programs, and the opportunity for students to participate in a range of extra curricula activities.

The school has a committed staff with a strong ethos of communication and collaboration with the wider school community.

Principal’s message

This Annual School Report for 2014 provides our community with information regarding our achievements, programs, initiatives and evaluations.

The Rivendell School community prides itself on promoting shared and individual responsibility for:

- positive and respectful relationships;
- safe behaviour; and
- cooperation and participation in quality learning.

This year we have maintained a focus on developing an inclusive school culture. While we have a diverse student population enrolled at Rivendell across different programs, our aim is for all students to have a sense of belonging to the Rivendell School community. We have changed a number of school structures to foster this sense of belonging and community, including a review of our student welfare system. In consultation with the school community our Student Support System was developed. (Details page 7)

Our positive student outcomes are supported by the strong supportive and collaborative relationship between teachers and School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs), with the Health staff, mainstream schools, Sydney Distance Education High School (SDEHS), Open Training and Education Network (OTEN), TAFE NSW, the Rotary Club of Concord, community agencies and local business personnel, especially the Kokoda Cafe.

As always, the ongoing support of our parents and caregivers is greatly appreciated.

My thanks go to the dedicated and enthusiastic staff at Rivendell for providing a quality educational experience for our students. Thank you also to all the students who took the opportunities on offer and made the most of them.

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.

Anne Reddie

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

Student numbers increased in 2014 with the addition of a second class for the Walker Unit. While Rivendell can enroll up to 72 students at any one time (not including the GKL students), the enrolment profile for 2014 indicates the number of students who were enrolled throughout the year.

Student Representative’s Message

In 2014 a School Representative Council (SRC) was established to assist students to successfully and respectfully voice their opinion. Each program elected two representatives to the council to express the views of the students in the programs they represented. The SRC consulted their peers and for the first meeting brought an agenda to discuss aspects of the school uniform and mobile phone policies and the new school rules.

The SRC met with the Rivendell executive and changes reflecting student input were agreed and implemented. Further to this, the SRC ran a poster competition to help students understand the new dress code and held a school assembly to introduce themselves and the changes negotiated with executive staff. Students report that the establishment of an SRC has been a positive development in terms of student engagement, dialogue between the greater student population and between students and staff. The aim of the SRC is to consolidate these positive first steps and to consistently act as the voice for, and in the interests of, Rivendell School students.

Post-Rivendell destinations

During 2014 68 students transitioned from Rivendell School. Their destinations are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-Rivendell destinations</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>TAFE entry</th>
<th>Tertiary study</th>
<th>Mainstream school</th>
<th>Support unit/SSP</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaralla</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workforce information

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

Rivendell’s allocation of staffing includes a teacher and an SLSO for each class except for GKL which is staffed only by two outreach teachers.

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Teachers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian/RFF</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>12.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Guidance Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principals/Learning &amp; Support</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning &amp; Support/Regional</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Transition Teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Wellbeing Teacher</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. In 2014 Rivendell School staff did not include anyone who identified as being of indigenous background.

All staff indicated in the shaded area are those whose base school is Rivendell but whose direct service is across the Region.

The District Guidance Officer, Assistant Principals Learning and Support and the Vocational Transition teacher join with Rivendell School staff for professional development and attend the school development days.

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>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional learning and teacher accreditation

All school staff had the opportunity to participate in professional learning that aligned with their professional learning plans, 2014 roles and responsibilities and the school plan. Professional learning undertaken in 2014 contributed to professional and collegial discussion and enhanced learning opportunities for students.

Professional learning areas included mandatory training and also:

- technology skills (Brekkie with a Tekkie, Sentral, the Impact of Social Networking, program builder)
- Mathematics and Literacy Continuum (skills and benchmarks in these subjects)
- curriculum and assessment (formative assessment, implementation of the new syllabus, adjustments and accommodations)
- Moomoogadetactive (physical and mental health website focusing on sporting activities, teenage issues and support sites)
- student support (strategies and school framework)
- adolescent mental health
- cultural awareness
- financial management

In 2014, five teachers met with a member of the school executive to review the accreditation process. This group of teachers continued to meet to support each other and discuss issues relating to the steps involved with accreditation. Most of these teachers also completed professional learning on this topic. By the end of 2014, one staff member completed the
accreditation process, with others continuing to work within their future submission timeframe.

**Beginning Teachers**

There were no beginning teachers permanently appointed to Rivendell 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>1011372.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>188782.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>48569.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>26985.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>404091.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>1679800.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**            |            |
| Teaching & learning        |            |
| Key learning areas         | 63588.85   |
| Excursions                 | 368.85     |
| Extracurricular dissections| 7469.61    |
| Library                    | 446.33     |
| Training & development     | 1220.74    |
| Tied funds                 | 71926.32   |
| Casual relief teachers     | 0.00       |
| Administration & office    | 59708.17   |
| School-operated canteen    | 0.00       |
| Utilities                  | 6254.16    |
| Maintenance                | 13830.83   |
| Trust accounts             | 399771.24  |
| Capital programs           | 0.00       |
| Total expenditure          | 624585.10  |
| Balance carried forward    | 1055215.75 |

Rivendell School holds funds in trust for the Ultimo Network of Schools and State Office programs as well as the Families First organisation.

Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

**School performance 2014**

**Academic achievements**

**Higher School Certificate (HSC)**

In 2014 there were nine students who sat HSC exams at Rivendell School. Of these nine students, four completed their studies and moved on to TAFE or tertiary education and five continued with their study pathway.

**Record of School Achievement**

Eleven students completed their Record of School Achievement (RoSA). This was achieved through a combination of curriculum providers including SDEHS, student’s mainstream school and Rivendell School.

**Other achievements**

**Student Wellbeing Toolkit**

Rivendell School collaborated with Canterbury Vale School as part of the DEC’s Every Student Every School initiative; special schools as centres of expertise. Together we successfully developed a product called the Student Wellbeing Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to:

- increase understanding of behaviour and mental health;
- support students during integration; and
- promote student wellbeing across the school.

The resource is suitable for both primary and secondary settings. It provides a series of modules that can be used at staff meetings and professional learning meetings. The modules encourage a whole school approach to
understanding and engaging young people with behavioural and/or mental health issues.

The collaboration produced a valuable tool in assisting schools to meet their obligations under the Disability Standards for Education.

**Rivendell Programs**

**Lawson Program**

The Lawson program is a DEC/Health program. It consists of three classes catering for students with anxiety and depression. This program provides an educational program for up to 18 students.

Personalised learning plans are developed collaboratively with the student, their family and Health staff.

In 2014, curriculum was developed by Rivendell classroom teachers or provided by student’s mainstream school, distance education, TAFE NSW or Open High School.

Some of the many highlights of 2014 have been improved student engagement through lessons delivered by Rivendell staff incorporating new ICT, particularly the interactive whiteboards that were installed in all Lawson classrooms this year.

The program focused on addressing gaps in learning and developing the skills and strategies students need to return to a mainstream setting.

Areas for future focus in 2015 are based around continuing to improve student engagement. This will include more leadership opportunities and collaboration within the program.

In 2014, 32 students were supported through the Lawson program. Seven students will remain in the program and continue their studies in 2015.

Information on post-school destinations for the Lawson students can be found in the table on page 2.

**Paterson Program**

The Paterson program is a DEC program. It consists of one class catering for up to seven students in Years 9 and 10 who are experiencing emotional difficulties.

Personalised learning plans are developed collaboratively with the student, their family and their mainstream school where applicable. Academic goals focused on addressing gaps in learning, developing literacy and numeracy skills and improving student engagement and learning habits.

Students were involved in a variety of activities designed to complement their academic program. All students participated in a ‘Skills for Life’ program. Students were involved in learning activities which included a healthy eating program, Mindfulness sessions, goal setting, physical fitness and integrated project work.

The program helped to promote social skills, students confidence and fostered a sense of belonging in the wider school community.

In 2014, a total of 7 students were supported in the Paterson Program. Four students will remain in the program and continue their studies in 2015.

Information on post-school destinations for the Paterson students can be found in the table on page 2.

Future directions for the Paterson program include becoming more involved in whole school activities that address leadership skills through involvement with the SRC.

**Sulman Program**

The Sulman program is a DEC program for students who have not engaged in a mainstream setting. It consists of three classes catering for up to 21 students at any one time in Years 11 and 12. Students are working towards attaining their Higher School Certificate or equivalent.

Students have the opportunity to follow individual academic pathways that involve study through one or more of the following educational settings: SDEHS, TAFE NSW, Open High School, Saturday School of Languages, and OTEN. Students have completed certificate and vocational courses and have attended work placements throughout the year.

The Sulman Program implemented a number of initiatives to support students. These included:

- parent and student review meetings
- student weekly reviews and daily plans
- peer teaching
- SDEHS reciprocal visits
- Morning circle and a Community Awareness Group.
In 2014, 28 students were supported through the Sulman program. Fifteen students will remain in the program and continue their studies in 2015.

Information on post-school destinations for the Sulman students can be found in the table on page 2.

Future Directions for the Sulman program include holding regular parent review meetings and providing weekly feedback on student progress. There will also be a focus on developing students’ skill set to better prepare them for all the requirements of their academic courses.

**Walker Program**

The Walker Program Learning Centre is a DEC/Health program. It consists of two classes catering for students with severe mental health illness. This program provides an educational program for up to 12 students at any one time.

In 2014 the Learning Centre increased to two classes. This has led to improved student engagement and opportunities for team teaching and larger group lessons. This year, classes have combined for science experiments with students taking on various roles such as filming, recording data and using equipment. The students frequently participate in *Circle Time* where students engage in communication and cooperation based activities and lessons.

Each student has a personalised learning plan. Academic programs are provided by Walker teachers, distance education centres, mainstream schools and OTEN.

The learning centre continues to be a welcoming and engaging space. Students are encouraged to negotiate their daily learning goals, display their work and share their achievements.

The learning centre has two achievement award programs. One is a merit system, and the other is a task based reward system. Both systems have been popular with the students and have increased their motivation and engagement.

A number of students participated in Rivendell sport sessions, workshops and specific subject lessons.

In 2014, 20 students were supported through the Walker program. Six students will remain in the program and continue their studies in 2015.

Information on post-school destinations for the Walker students can be found in the table on page 2.

**Yaralla Program**

The Yaralla program is a DEC/Health program. It consists of two classes catering for students with mood disorders, psychotic illness or who are on the autism spectrum. This program provides an educational program for up to 12 students at any one time.

The Yaralla team places a strong emphasis on building an inclusive and collaborative environment in which students are encouraged to participate, take personal risks, to have a voice in their school and be respectfully challenged to achieve their individual goals.

The academic programs are provided by SDEHS, mainstream schools, Open High School, OTEN and/or Rivendell teachers. Teachers liaise regularly with our curriculum providers to develop personalised learning programs.

A cross curriculum initiative was developed focusing on making healthy lifestyle choices. This initiative increased student engagement and collaboration between the education and health staff through gardening, cooking and sharing of meals together.

Daily *Circle Time* was implemented focusing on engaging students through relationship-building, restorative practices, the development and enhancement of students’ social skills and emotional literacy.

In 2014, 20 students were supported through the Yaralla program. Seven students will remain in the program and continue their studies in 2015.

Information on post-school destinations for the Yaralla students can be found in the table on page 2.
Gna Ka Lun Program

Gna Ka Lun (GKL) is an acute Adolescent Mental Health Unit based at Campbelltown Hospital. Rivendell School operates the learning centre in GKL, staffed by two outreach teachers and the Rivendell specialist school counsellor. When patients are admitted to GKL they have the opportunity to attend the learning centre which operates for two hours each day except Wednesdays.

The role of the GKL Learning Centre teacher is to provide young people with learning opportunities appropriate to their health so that they are able to maintain a connection with their educational pathway. GKL teachers liaise with each student’s school to enable a continuity of education and where possible support the students return to school.

Schools are advised when a student has been admitted to GKL and educational information, including student attendance, academic functioning and behaviour and wellbeing, is requested. This information is shared with the treating clinical team.

Communication is maintained with schools during the students’ admission in order to:

- update them on their student’s progress in the learning centre;
- notify them of a discharge date; and
- inform them of the community agency or mental health professional whose care the student will be transferred into.

In 2014, there were 97 young people admitted into GKL. Of these, 66% were from DEC schools. The remaining 34% were from non-DEC schools, TAFE or were not enrolled in an educational setting. The majority of the young people admitted into GKL in 2014 were in Year 10 (39%) or Years 11 and 12 (30%).

Significant programs and initiatives

Student Support System

2014 has seen an evaluation and review of the Rivendell School Rules and Behaviour Management System. This five stage process was undertaken as a result of observations by staff that there were inconsistencies with the understanding of the current rules and the way the system was being implemented. Some staff reported that they did not feel confident in using the system.

We reviewed the BMS and developed a new system which involved three simple steps. The first step is for staff to remind students that their behaviour needs to be in keeping with the school rules. The second step is to give students time to think and choose what they might do about their behaviour. The third step is to provide students an opportunity to work out a solution to the issue. We call this step working it out.

Stage 1 involved the review and writing of the school rules, explicitly stating the expectations and responsibilities for students. Staff and students were part of the consultation process which culminated in the production of new Rivendell School rules.

Stage 2 involved whole staff discussion about the purpose of having a ‘behaviour management system’. A consensus was reached that our aim was to support students to successfully manage their own emotions and behaviour, thereby naming our new system the Student Support System. The system encourages students to take a break and get back on track if they are having difficulties and to consider some alternative choices. Staff are able to demonstrate problem solving skills and to model assertive behaviour and restorative practices. The system directly relates to the Rivendell School Rules.

Stage 3 focused on the skill development of staff with the implementation of the system. Experienced staff modelled the correct language that we would use in scenarios with students. Staff then broke into groups to practice using the steps which, when evaluated, was an invaluable exercise in increasing staff confidence in using the system.

Stage 4 involved the production of visual displays representing the school rules and the system. These were placed in all classrooms and staff explicitly taught the system to the students. Throughout the year as part of staff professional learning we reviewed the system, its effectiveness and staff confidence in its implementation. Anecdotal feedback reflected that the system was most effective when staff were confident in its implementation and students knew the steps.
Stage 5 involved surveying students and staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the system. The data showed that 83% of respondents were unclear about the working it out step.

In 2015 we will orientate new students and staff to the Rivendell School Rules and the system and provide ongoing professional development relating to the three steps with the focus on the working it out step.

Circle time

This year all programs have implemented a circle time component of class time as an opportunity to provide students with a voice and a forum to explore issues relevant to each program and the needs of their students. The structure, strategies and philosophy behind circle time is based upon forming healthy relationships and fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness.

The topics explored during circle time are many and varied. Some examples include issues such as inclusivity and bullying, mental health and resilience, healthy lifestyles as well as current affairs and celebrations such as NAIDOC week.

Circle time has been used as part of classroom strategy to build social skill capacity and peer group support. Circle time was also used for students from different programs to come together for collaborative morning sessions.

All programs report that this practice has been successful in improving student engagement and allowing staff to develop positive relations with students for learning. In the future Rivendell School aims to maintain circle time and continue to use it as a way of building engagement and whole school unity.

Transition

The staff coordinating transition worked with students, their families and staff from all programs to explore a variety of alternative pathways which support positive outcomes for the continuity of the student’s education or future work directions.

The role is varied at Rivendell School and supports students according to their needs. The focus is to look at a student’s interests and goals and focus transition around achieving these goals. Some students were looking to integrate into a mainstream high school while others were focused on a vocational or higher education pathway.

Many students this year were involved in TAFE ‘taster’ and TVET courses to consolidate their educational pathway as well as providing them with some vocational training. A number of students enjoyed the ‘taster’ courses so much they then chose to continue on with further study in that area of interest.

Students completed TVET courses in Plumbing, Laboratory Skills, Beauty and Radio and Broadcasting. Students also completed preliminary and HSC subjects studied through TAFE.

Twelve students completed a three day Café skills course run at Canterbury/Hurlstone RSL club. This was a highly motivating and engaging course where they received a Statement of Attainment in Café Skills.

Students were provided with opportunities to engage in work experience programs. A number of students were involved in interest based work experience, namely cafe work. One student was so impressive in her work ethic and willingness to learn that she secured casual employment at the completion of her work experience.
Aboriginal education and Multicultural education

Rivendell teachers routinely used mandatory elements from within the curricula as opportunities to explore indigenous and multicultural experiences in the Australian community. This learning was expanded to explore multiple viewpoints along with the positivity and strength that this affords the communities of which our young people are members.

Each Rivendell program used circle time as a forum for exploration of indigenous and multicultural experiences by considering issues such as reconciliation and the multicultural history of the nation. As a whole school, these issues were explored in school assemblies and related classroom activities during celebrations such as Harmony Week.

Students were also provided with outside performances and activities to enrich their understanding of the diversity within the Australian culture. The emphasis on sense of identity was the focus of many learning activities in which students were actively involved.

These performances included:

- Lewis Parter (from the central Queensland Daranbal people whose language is Birri Gubba) presented Murri Kulcha in Education. Lewis included demonstrations on guitar, traditional dance and didgeridoo. He also explored the history, making, playing and lore surrounding the didgeridoo.

- Tony Mason presented Mana – The Spirit of Polynesia. Through dance and music Tony shared with the students an awareness of the richness of other cultures, particularly the Maori culture in New Zealand. His presentation focussed on ideas about self-worth and finding ‘the Haka within you,’ whilst promoting anti-bullying through acceptance and understanding of differences.

- Ryka Ali (from the Wuthathi tribe of Shellburne Bay, Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands) presented Kadul. Ryka is a very proud ambassador for Australia’s Indigenous youth and Aboriginal culture. His presentation revealed the richness of both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands culture. Ryka discussed the instruments pertinent to Aboriginal culture and gave a demonstration of the versatility of the didgeridoo, including the more modern sounds of DJ and beat-boxing, both popular with young people.

- Students visited the Australian Museum and participated in Australia’s First Scientists workshop. They investigated the ways that Aboriginal communities used science in their daily life. Students participated in hands on activities and were able to learn about cultural objects that demonstrated how Indigenous communities used the Earth’s resources and the stars to survive and prosper for thousands of years.

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:

- surveys to staff and students;
- reflective evaluations from supervision meetings;
- feedback from parents at our regular information evenings and family meetings;
- feedback from health and nursing staff at our weekly case review meetings; and
feedback from mainstream schools at our regular integration meetings.

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1
Literacy and Numeracy

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Improved student learning outcomes for all students in literacy and numeracy.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- the establishment of a collaboratively designed timetable that prioritised the delivery of discreet classes for Year 9 and 10 students was established for English, Maths and Geography/History;
- increased contact sessions were accessed from SDEHS teachers to better support students’ literacy and numeracy needs; and
- positive feedback from students regarding their increased confidence in their academic skills and ability to manage their integration.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- discreet classes that included all students in Stages 4 and 5;
- flexible teaching load for specialist subject teachers at Rivendell so they could support all students; and
- provision of more in-depth analysis of student’s academic abilities reported on when preparing SDEHS applications so that appropriate literacy and numeracy adjustments could be made.

School priority 2
Student Engagement and Attainment

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Enhanced engagement in learning.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- students continue to take up opportunities to complete TVET, TAFE Taster and traineeship courses.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- increased focus on TVET, TAFE Taster courses and traineeships so that all student’s interests were catered for; and
- facilitation of regular review meetings for all students who had attendance goals.

School priority 3
Curriculum and Assessment

Outcomes from 2012–2014
Increased time in quality learning for students.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

- all classroom teachers achieving Professional Competence or above in Element 5 of the Professional Teaching Standards; and
- all staff achieving competency in the ICT component of their professional learning plan.

Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014:

- professional learning that focused on best practice for achieving the Professional Competence components; and
- the inclusion of ICT components in the individual professional learning plans of all staff.

Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction

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

Our parents, students and staff were invited to reflect on their experience of being part of the Rivendell community and to contribute to the setting of our strategic directions for 2015 - 2017.

Our parents reported a high degree of satisfaction with the school and in particular commended the team approach we adopt and the positive relationships that staff develop with students. They emphasised a need for the school to continue to focus on building students’ resilience and confidence and to ensure that students are well prepared for continuation of learning post Rivendell. All parents requested more regular feedback on progress.
Our students also reported a high degree of satisfaction and requested that more formal structures be put in place for student input.

Our staff identified numerous positive aspects to the school including being a holistic, fun, innovative environment where staff go above and beyond within their roles. Positive communication was identified as taking place through parent nights, frequent staff forums such as debriefing, integration and review meetings and collaboration with health staff.

Staff expressed that a good understanding of mental health and creating supportive environments enabled them to program effective lessons, to assist students in integration to mainstream settings and to identify alternative post school opportunities.

Staff requested more ICT resources and training in this area. They also identified the need to continue to develop innovative ways to increase student engagement.

**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.

The strategic directions for our new school plan have been designed in collaboration with all staff, parents, students and our Health partners.

Our focus areas will be on:

- students being successful learners and leaders who are confident and future focused;
- staff being high performing, reflective and innovative; and
- having a collaborative and connected community of learners.

**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.

Anne Reddie, Principal
Leah Smileski, Assistant Principal
Rachael Spitzer, Assistant Principal
Kim Bold, Assistant Principal
Andrew Dickinson, R/Assistant Principal
Rebecca Bowman, R/Assistant Principal
Maria Boyle, Specialist School Counsellor
Daina Roberge, School Administration Manager
Rivendell School Staff

**School contact information**

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School Code: 5654

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: