School context statement
Avoca Public School services the communities of Avoca, Fitzroy Falls and Wildes Meadow. It is a small school, in a picturesque rural setting, which caters for the needs of a diverse range of students. The school has strong support from the local community.

Avoca Public School is a proud member of the Moss Vale Community of Schools. In 2014 our Community of Schools received an award from the Director of Public Schools NSW for Outstanding Contributions to Public Education.

Principal’s Message
Students and staff were welcomed back to school in 2014 by a new playground and seating area, adjacent to our permaculture garden and chicken coup. Throughout the year, students have loved the large table, balance beam and stepping logs, however, the chickens most love the students who sit beside the coup to feed and talk to them.

Staff have continued to support student learning in Literacy, Numeracy, Creative Arts, Science and Sporting activities. This year staff began the implementation of the NSW English K-6 Syllabus, to support the Australian Curriculum. This saw students participating in novel studies, learning more about visual literacy and learning to respond critically and creatively. Staff also spent the year preparing for the implementation of the Mathematics Syllabus and Science Syllabus in 2015. Our students really enjoy the wide variety of experiences they have in and out of the classroom.

Parents have continued to support the school in many ways. A small, but dedicated group of parents volunteer each week to garden and cook with the students. The P&C operate a canteen, once a week, with all money raised this year going toward new kitchen equipment, cooking supplies and garden supplies. The P&C regularly fund school excursions to minimize the costs to parents.

For our students Avoca Public School continues to be a special place. Here all students are accepted, respected, supported and encouraged, not only by their teachers and parents, but by each other. Sadly throughout the year, some family circumstances changed and some friends have moved away. However, students maintain their strong and caring bond for each other.

Janine Hopwood
P&C Message

2014 saw an almost new P&C committee with parents from the 2013 committee moving on as their children moved to high school. The exception being, Chloe Brumfield, who continued her role as Treasurer and once again did a wonderful job. Unfortunately for the committee we lost our secretary, Mark Faunt, as he and his family moved out of the area, however this position was taken on by another member of the committee, so thank you to that person for taking on the extra role.

This year the children participated in a number of events including the Premiers Sporting Challenge, an author’s visit, the school soccer challenge, drumming lessons and travelling to Kangaroo Valley pool for swimming lessons. These were either fully-funded or part-funded by the P and C and all proved popular with the students, staff and parents.

The P&C organized, or were involved in, a number of fundraising functions including:

- 2 Bunnings BBQ’s - $1,193
- Sports Carnival - $866
- School Canteen - $760
- Garden catering job - $720
- Clearance Sale - $624
- Country Women’s Association - $333
- Pie Drive - $295
- Principal’s Learning Development Day - $140
- Bulb Order - $134

Over the Christmas break the P&C will provide funds of $1800 toward upgrading of the Kids Kitchen and $1200 for the purchase of a greenhouse to support the garden program.

On behalf of the P and C I’d like to thank you all for a great year and wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and 2015.

Thank you.

Vince Emmerick

Student Representative Message

I have enjoyed my last year at Avoca Public School. It has been a busy and exciting final year with many events throughout the year.

The highlights of this year have been our P5 swimming relay team once again making it to state level, participating in two soccer competitions and especially for myself being selected as one of the top Under 13’s cricket players in NSW.

This year Stage 3 travelled to Morisset for our biennial Small School camp. We had a really fun time! We had lots of great experiences and made lots of friends.

We celebrated our excellent PBS record with a mad hatter tea party and a crazy hair day. We also had our Easter Fun Day and our end of year Christmas party.

Each Wednesday we got the chance to go out into the garden to look, after the plants, chooks and gather fresh produce to cook.

I have had a great time at Avoca; I came from a big school to Avoca, a beautiful small school. I will miss everyone, especially my friends but at the same time I am really looking forward to going to High School.

Ryan Emmerick
Student information
Avoca Public School formed two classes in 2014. Mrs Hopwood taught a K-3, whilst Mrs McIntosh taught 4-6. Both classes were supported by Mrs Schaefer, our Learning and Support teacher and Mrs Prattis, our librarian.

Class Sizes

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total in class</th>
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Student enrolment profile

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Student attendance profile

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State DEC

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<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>94.3</td>
<td>94.2</td>
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<td>94.8</td>
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</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.

Workforce composition

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teacher</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning and Support Teacher</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian/RFF</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>0.896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Australian Education Regulation, 2014 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.
No staff are Aboriginal.

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>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional learning and teacher accreditation
All staff value professional learning. In 2014:

- Mrs Hopwood completed professional learning in L3 ~ Early Stage 1.
- Mrs Hopwood is currently participating in the PPA Principal Credential Program.
- Mrs Hopwood, Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Schaefer completed Focus On Writing to support the introduction of the English Syllabus and to support the need of students identified in school targets based on NAPLAN results.
- Mrs McIntosh continued to maintain accreditation at Proficient.
- Staff joined the Network of Small Schools for Staff Development Days in preparation for the introduction of the new Mathematics Syllabus in 2015.
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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>$18096.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>58550.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>35616.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>9352.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>875.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>124690.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**           |            |
| Teaching & learning       |            |
| Key learning areas        | 6101.15    |
| Excursions                | 1574.9     |
| Extracurricular dissections| 8164.14   |
| Library                   | 1564.93    |
| Training & development    | 4678.39    |
| Tied funds                | 21979.84   |
| Casual relief teachers    | 8677.76    |
| Administration & office   | 25594.45   |
| School-operated canteen   | 0.00       |
| Utilities                 | 6536.66    |
| Maintenance               | 7434.08    |
| Trust accounts            | 2199       |
| Capital programs          | 0.00       |
| Total expenditure         | 94505.30   |

| Balance carried forward   | 30184.87   |

Funds were used in December 2014 to purchase a new Mathematics Program for use in 2015. Money has also been set aside to complete a kitchen refurbishment and library refurbishment early in 2015.

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

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)

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](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO to access the school data.

Due to reporting requirements specified in the Commonwealth Schools’ Assistance regulations 2005 we are unable to display graphs as there was less than 10 students who completed the testing.
Other achievements

Arts

Visual Arts is a popular subject at Avoca PS. This year student work was submitted for local art competitions and for regular foyer displays. At the 2014 Robertson Show Georgia achieved a High Distinction. Later in the year, Bodhi won First Prize and Ashton received a Highly Commended for art work entered into the Bowral District Kids on Show Art Competition.

Students participated in African Drumming Lessons during Term 2. In Term 3, as part of Education Week, they combined with Sutton Forest PS to perform at the Moss Vale Community of Schools Concert.

Sports

Swimming: The year began with Kaitlyn, Nathan and Ryan winning Age Champions at the Bong Bong Swimming Carnival. Kaitlyn, Grace, Nathan and Ryan then went onto the District carnival. As the P5 relay team, they continued onto Regional and then the State PSSA swimming championships.

Cricket: Ryan travelled as part of the South Coast Regional team to the PSSA State Cricket Carnival in March. He was selected as part of the train-on squad for the state team.

Cross Country: Grace, Kiara, Jessica, Elleah, Ryan and Nathan all competed at the District Carnival. Grace, Kiara and Jessica then went on to compete at the Regional Carnival in Cambewarra.

Athletics: Kiara, Ryan, Grace, Nathan, Kaitlyn and Alexa all qualified for the District Athletics Carnival.

Soccer: Skye and Ryan were selected for the District soccer teams. Skye was later selected for the Tablelands Zone Team.

The Avoca PS soccer team also competed in the NSW small schools knock out competition, making it to the second round. They also competed in the Bong Bong Soccer Challenge tying for First Place with Exeter PS.

Basketball: Nathan and Skye were both selected to play for the District Team.
Significant programs and initiatives – Policy and equity funding

Aboriginal education

Avoca PS students and staff continued to work closely with Aboriginal community members. This year students participated in a special day of activities to learn more about Reconciliation Day. Students and staff from Wingello PS and Moss Vale High School came to Avoca for some Indigenous games, cooking damper, Aboriginal storytelling and art activities. The art was displayed later in the year at the High School as part of Linkages presentations.

Our school also celebrated NAIDOC week with dance. Dance lessons continued in Term 4 and students performed for parents at the annual Presentation and Concert Night.

Multicultural education and anti-racism

Avoca PS continues to support students to understand and accept diversity. In Term 3, K-3 learnt more about the country of New Zealand, specifically focusing on the Maori people, their traditions and cultural differences.

Anti-racism issues are incorporated in the PBS program by upholding the values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety.

Aboriginal background /Socio-economic background/ Learning and Support

As part of the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) Avoca PS received $2418.22. Funds were used to:

- Increase the Learning Support Teacher allocation from half a day per week to a full day. This allowed the LaST Mrs Schaefer to have both a literacy and numeracy focus group.
- Partially fund a School Learning Support Officer. Mrs Yearsley worked in the 4-6 classroom assisting students with literacy and numeracy tasks. Mrs Yearsley also supported a targeted group of students to improve reading comprehension.
- Subsidize the cost for all Stage 3 students to attend school camp.
- Fund all Stage 2 and Stage 3 students to participate in the Interrelate Program. This meant there was no cost to parents.
- Fund the cost of bus travel to the end of Year / Year 6 Farewell activity day.
Other significant initiatives

Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership

Avoca PS received funding for 2013-2014. Initial data collection highlighted the need for students to receive extra support in Literacy. After much consultation staff agreed that the Early Stage 1 teacher would participate in L3 training for two years.

Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) is a research-based, cost effective Kindergarten and Stage 1 classroom intervention, targeting reading and writing. The program goal is to reduce the need for more intensive and resource demanding programs in future years.

Bowral Decorative and Fine Arts Society (BDFAS)

BDFAS continue their generous sponsorship of local small schools. Once again the society fully funded all students to attend the Oz Opera production of *The Barber of Seville* at the Robertson School of Arts.

Book Week / Science Fair

Mrs Prattis continued inspiring students to have a love of books and inquiring minds. In 2014 94% of students completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The annual Book Week celebrations are always a highlight and this year were combined with a Science Fair.

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:

- Survey sent home to each family with newsletter ~ 46% returned.
- P&C Meeting

School planning 2012-2014:

School priority 1

Literacy

Outcomes from 2012–2014

- Consistent practices developed through implementation of Literacy on Track, Reading Recovery for small schools and L3 Programs to be measured by program documentation and regular discussions.
- Curriculum delivery by teachers is consistent, uses professional learning available, includes the CLIC website, supports implementation of curriculum continuum in literacy and is observable in all classrooms.
- All students demonstrate measurable improvement through using key strategies in spelling and writing.

Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014:

- NAPLAN data shows 50% of year 5 students achieved expected growth or better in writing.
- Parent surveys returned indicate that they believe we are achieving above intended outcomes.
- NAPLAN data shows 67% of Year 5 students exceeded expected growth in spelling.
School priority 2
Numeracy
Outcomes from 2012–2014

• Consistent practices developed through use of TENs program, to be measured by program documentation and regular discussions.

• Curriculum delivery by teachers is consistent, uses professional learning available, includes the CLIC website, supports implementation of curriculum continuum in numeracy and is observable in all classrooms.

• All students demonstrate measurable improvement through use of key strategies in problem solving in Numeracy.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

• All year 2 students achieved “Counting On” stage.

• Parent surveys returned indicate that they believe we are achieving above intended outcomes.

• All teachers using TENS and DENS strategies to program mathematics.

• Introduction of extension mathematics group for students in Years 3-6.

• NAPLAN data shows 67% of Year 5 students exceeded expected growth in Numeracy. School growth average was 123.6 well above the state average of 78.4.

School priority 3
Student Engagement and Attainment
Outcomes from 2012–2014

• Utilise the Quality Teaching Framework as key instrument to improve student outcomes.

• Introduce new curriculum resources to promote learning.

• Increase parental engagement and involvement in school projects, special events and student learning.

• Increase student engagement through the use of Connected Classroom technology.

• Use interactive technologies for learning, teaching and for professional learning.

• Strengthen teaching and learning strategies through the implementation of quality evidence based programs and initiatives.

• Move middle students to top and low students to the middle with COS Helping Hand Exemplary Project.

Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014:

• Staff and students from Stage 3, continued to work closely with other schools in the Moss Vale Community of Schools to enhance learning outcomes for students.

• Continued partnership with Moss Vale High through Linkages and Transitions programs.

• Parent information sessions held as part of annual Welcome back Barbecue.
**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.

Parents/Caregivers like:
- Links with other small schools
- Swimming lessons
- Garden/Kitchen program
- Mathematics group
- Sport Gala days
- Newsletters
- PBS
- Class structures
- Home reading for K-2

Things that could be improved:
- Continue to improve library resources
- More communication

Teachers consider the best things about the school are:
- Active encouragement and support to try new approaches and programs
- Caters for the individual needs of students academically, socially and emotionally
- Welcoming, open, friendly environment for parents.
- Well-resourced school.
- School newsletter

Teachers would like to improve:
- Library ~ re-arrangement and improvement, painting, more shelving and removal of old cupboards.
- Follow-up on professional learning ~ Focus on Writing and ensure successful implementation.
- School appearance
- Raise the profile of the school in the local community.

The students like best:
- The garden and the chickens
- Teachers
- Small school with friendly kids
- Oscar

The students would like to have:
- More fun science experiments
- More reading
- More sport

The students wish for:
- New seats
- Shade for the sandpit area
- Upgrade bathrooms
- Some new playground equipment
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.

Strategic Direction 1:

Purpose:
To ensure the curriculum programs and teaching practices effectively develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of all students, using evidence based teaching practice.

While promoting the learning and growth of school leaders, empowering them to develop and support teaching that maximises impact on student learning.

Purpose:
To promote and build the identity of the school within the local and wider community in order to build on community and school relationships.

To sustain and develop Avoca PS as a significant and pivotal part of the local community.

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 Janine Hopwood  Principal
Mrs Kylie McIntosh  Teacher
Mr Vince Emmerick  P&C President
Mrs Kathryn Shaefer  Learning and Support Teacher
Mrs Kay Pratiss  Librarian
Mrs Dawn McMillan  School Administrative Manager

School contact information

Avoca Public School
961 Sheepwash Road Avoca NSW 2577
Ph: 02 4887 7224
Fax: 02 4887 7380
Email: avoca-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: http://www.avoca-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1081

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:
