

South East Education Region



2017 Annual Report

Tallebudgera Outdoor & Environmental Education Centre

Established 1967



125 Gold Coast Highway
Palm Beach Qld 4221
PO Box 909 Elanora Qld 4221
Ph: 5520 9300
Fax: 5520 9325
Email: info@talloeceq.edu.au
Website: www.talloeceq.edu.au



Principal's Reflection – 2017 at a glance

The 2017 school year has been an exciting year for the Centre with a number of significant changes, innovations and achievements throughout the year. The highlight for the year was celebrating 50 years of education service provision for students from across Queensland. The Director General of Education, Dr Jim Watterston joined student representatives on camp, Joan Bird the wife of the first Centre principal Duncan Bird, Ross Brown retired Principal of Amaroo EEC and Maureen Bailey Deputy Principal at Patricks Road SS who both attended the camps in our first year of the Centre in 1967. Past staff and special guests attended a dinner where past and present staff were able to share stories from the past and present. A photobook was published to celebrate the 50 years of this special place.

During the year the Minister of Education endorsed an application to change the name of the Centre from the Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School to the Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre. The purpose of the name change was to ensure that it reflects the evolution of the Centre's education programs and the inclusion of our second campus. A new logo was developed and launched at our 50th Celebrations.

The significant change for the Centre was the construction of our new accommodation facilities at our Currumbin Community Farm Campus. The Smart School Subsidy Scheme project cost \$933 000 and was completed in June with our first students using the new accommodation the following week. The high quality facilities has been attracting positive feedback and enabled an expansion of education services. A naming ceremony was conducted in Term 3, including a traditional smoking ceremony to settle the buildings onto country.

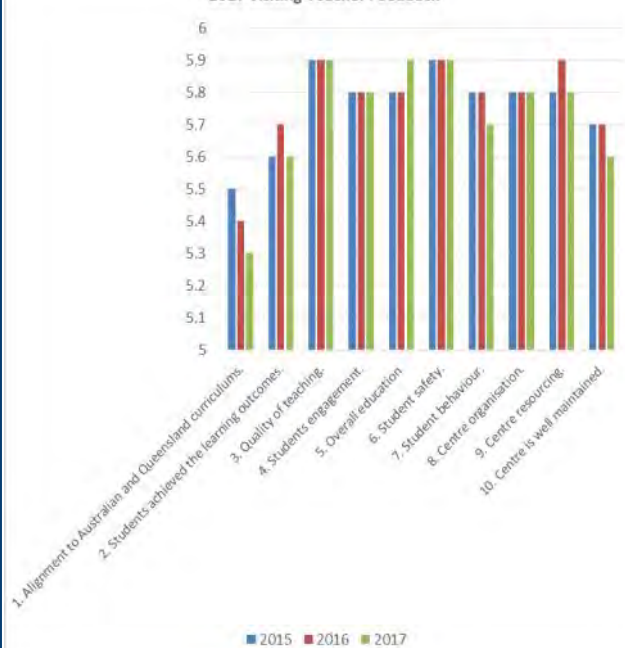
The Hero's Journey program has continued to evolve and improve with positive feedback about the level of change observed in students participating in the program. The RTO has the number of programs for Indigenous students has increased with a growing number of partnerships with other O&EE Centres across the state.

Both the Beach School campus and our Currumbin Valley campus are fully booked for 2018. Our staff are looking forward to the new school year as we continue to improve our capacity to deliver educa-



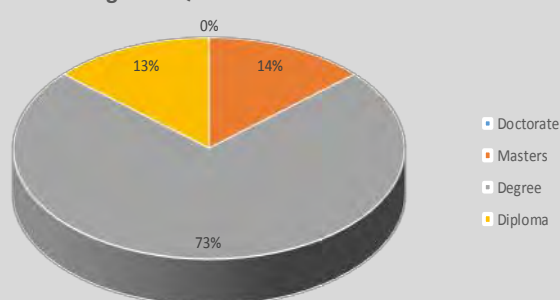
Explicit Improvement Agenda	Not Started	Started	Achieved
1. Successful Learners – Measure change in the lives of young people.		✓	
2. Teaching Quality – Formalise peer coaching and mentoring program.		✓	
3. Centre Performance – Increase frequency of data analysis to monitor performance.			✓
4. Centre Leadership - Enhance organisational capacity.			✓
5. Local Decisions - Expand networks in schools and O&EECs.			✓

2017 Visiting Teacher Feedback



	2015	2016	2017
Number of students	35	240	374
% increase		85	56

Teaching Staff Qualifications 2017



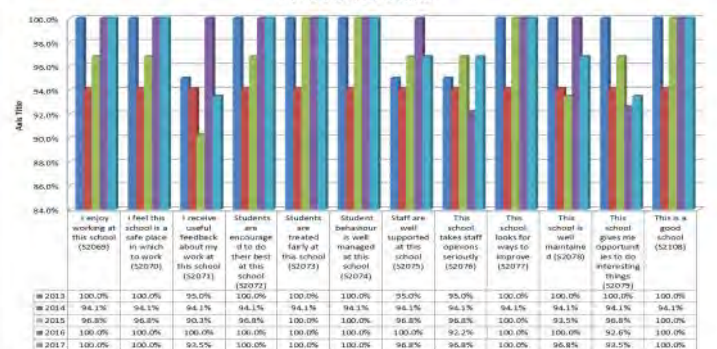
Successful Learners

The key focus in the Centre's improvement agenda was to introduce processes and tools to seek feedback directly from students in relation to the success of our programs in achieving our aims. Several schools trialled post excursion visits during 2017 and responses from students indicate that learnings from excursion was transferred to school and personal contexts. Great difficulty in coordinating visits both at school level and Centre level makes the expansion of this strategy unviable within current staffing resources. The feedback from visiting teachers during 2017 continues to indicate a high level of satisfaction with the quality of programs, teacher capacity and student engagement in learning. A pattern exists within the data collected in 2015 to 2017 that highlights a need to be more explicit with visiting teachers about the links between our programs and the Australian and Queensland curriculum.

A number of new programs were developed at our Currumbin Community Farm Campus with the closure of our Day Visit programs at the Beach School and 2 teaching staff to deliver programs at the Currumbin Valley Campus.

The RTO has expanded the number of partner O&EE Centres to 7 to increase access to quality certificate courses. Student enrolments in the Skills for Work and Conservation and Land Management increased from 35 students in 2015 to 374 students from 51 schools in 2017. The centre was able to contribute significantly to the Department's key objective of Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in attaining a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The Centre's program reduced the overall gap by 2%

2013-2017 SOS Data



Teaching Quality

The closure of the Day Programs and Champ Camp programs at the Beach School Campus resulted in the redeployment of 2 teaching staff to the Currumbin Community Farm Campus. The level of service delivery for both residential and day visit programs at the CCFC increased by 57% and 62% respectively due to increased staffing required significant professional development and training of the 2 staff in new programs and operations. All other staff participated in mandatory training and professional development relating specifically to areas of responsibility. Total expenditure on professional development was \$46638.36.

All teaching staffing at the Beach School undertook pre-visits to schools in the Herald Role and the Coordinator role. All teachers participated in web-conferences for pre-visits to remote schools attending camps at the Beach School. Staff competence in the use of portable digital devices to create photo stories to celebrate the learning journey at the end of the camp program.

Staff opinion survey data indicates high staff morale and a high level of satisfaction with the workplace and incidence of negative student behaviour has continued to reduce with rare occasions where students are removed from activities.

Work has commenced on reviewing the Centre's Supportive Learning Environment and Responsible Behaviour plan for Students in line with the positive school wide behaviour programs in schools. All teaching staff and instructors with direct contact with students participated in professional development with staff from the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre. The focus for 2017 is to embed a Positive Whole School approach more deeply within the Hero's Journey program which will further reduce the number of negative behaviour incidents.

At the beginning of the 2017 school year the Beach School hosted a workshop focussed on critical and creative thinking in the outdoor and environmental education context delivered by Eric Frangenheim. Staff have embedded a number of critical and creative thinking strategies and tools in their teaching practice deepening student reflection and scaffolding thinking processes.

The Centre invested in the refurbishment of a teaching space to involve students in active problem solving. The Escape Hunt room has proved to be a popular and engaging enhancement to the Mastermind theme of the Hero's Journey. Further enhancement of critical and creative thinking strategies will be a focus for the 2018 school year reflected in changes to the student journal.

Principal Leadership

One of the key recommendations from the Centre's Internal School Review was to unify the organisation under one vision and a clear improvement agenda. The Centre Administration team worked with human resource management officers from Central Office to undertake a review of workforce and organisational structure to prepare for a restructure in 2018. To reflect the new structure of the organisation was an application to the Minister of Education for a name change to reflect the changes in programs, service delivery and facilities. The official approval for the name change was received late in the school year.

The Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre acknowledges the two approaches to education beyond the classroom that have evolved over a long period of time.

A new logo was developed to reflect the two campuses, the Beach School Campus and the Currumbin Community Farm Campus, to celebrate the Indigenous connection to place and define our new pedagogical approach.

The planned restructure included the cessation of two centre funded leadership positions to reduce overall expenditure on staff. The loss of the two positions impact on organisation effectiveness in the short term and changes in management structure to cover the loss of leadership at the Currumbin Community Farm Campus.

Lobbying resulted in the successful application for a temporary allocation from South East Region of 1 FTE teaching position to assist in the transition to a new organisational structure and the result of an application for additional staff for the Currumbin Community Farm Campus.

The long term viability of the Centre under the current staffing model remains a challenge. Continued advocacy for additional staffing resources will be a main key strategy in 2018 as we await the outcome of Brief to Central Office to review the Centres current resource model and request for additional staff.



Centre Performance

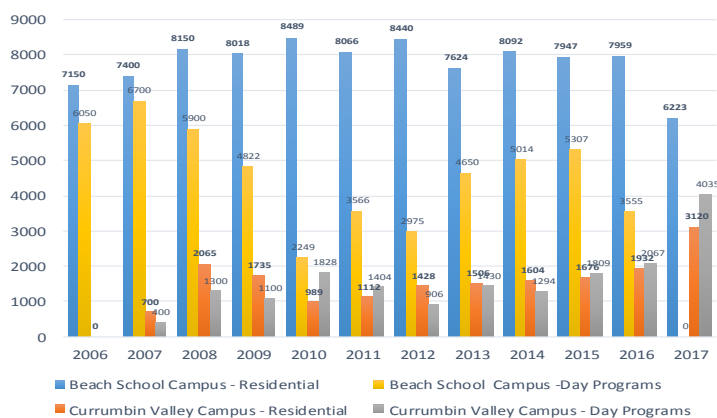
During 2016 the decision was taken to reduce the Beach School capacity for 2017 to 3 cabins with a total of 192 beds. The change has resulted in an overall reduction in the average size of groups at the Beach School from 39 students in 2015 to 26.3 students in 2017. The closure of the Day Program and reduction of groups sizes has significantly reduced competition for public spaces and subsequent reduction in complaints to the Beach School from local residents.

Further reduction in average group size is expected in 2018. The increased fees, now linked to CPI, has offset the reduced income from smaller groups.

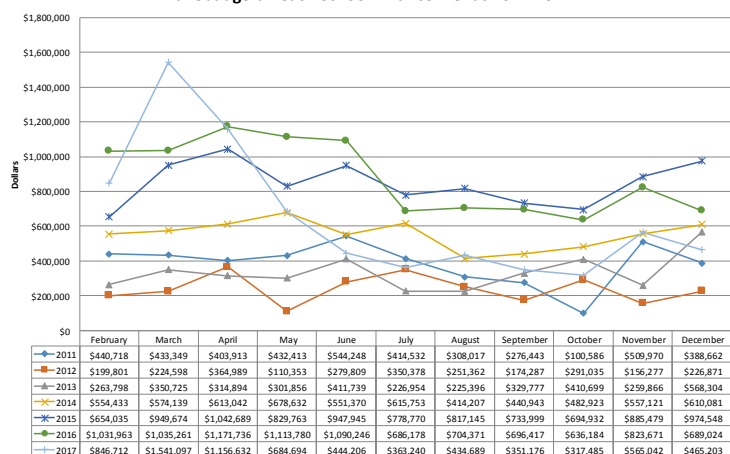
There was 40% reduction in the total number of students accessing programs at the Beach School from 11514 students to 6623 however this was offset by the growth in services delivered by staff at the Currumbin Community Farm Campus. The number of students at the Farm Campus increased from 3999 to 7155 a 78% increase on 2016. The Centres income generation has remained stable. The major expenditure item for the year was the completion of our Smart School Subsidy Scheme accommodation project. The Centres financial position remains strong at the end of the 2017 school year with an opening balance of \$138 000 for the 2018 budget.

The majority of students receiving education services continues to be the upper primary school making up 73% of the cohort. State schooling sector remains the main sector with 96% of total number of students. The Centre continues to attract students from every education region with a growing number accessing education programs either at the Centre's two campuses or through the Centre's RTO certificate courses which has experienced continued growth in the number of qualifications issued.

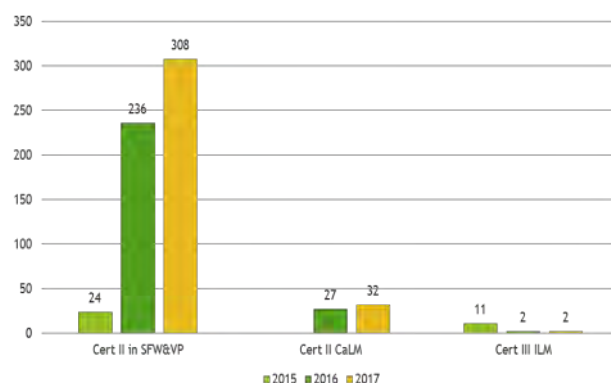
Student Visitation Trends 2006 - 2017



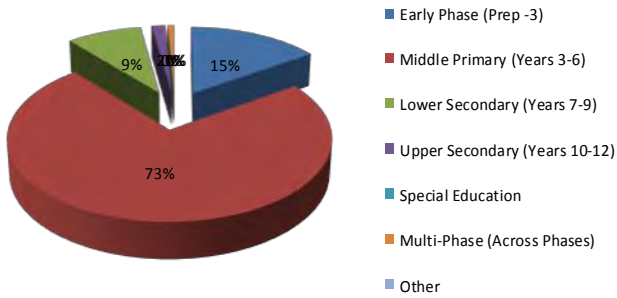
Tallebudgera Beach School Finance Trends 2011-2017



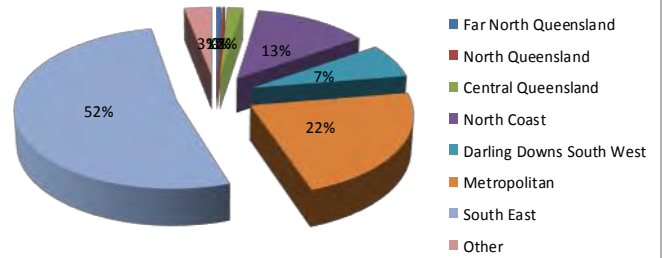
Number of qualifications issued



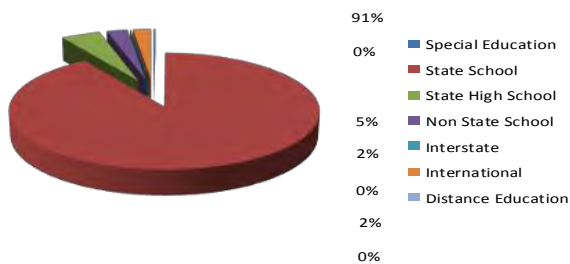
2017 Education Phase



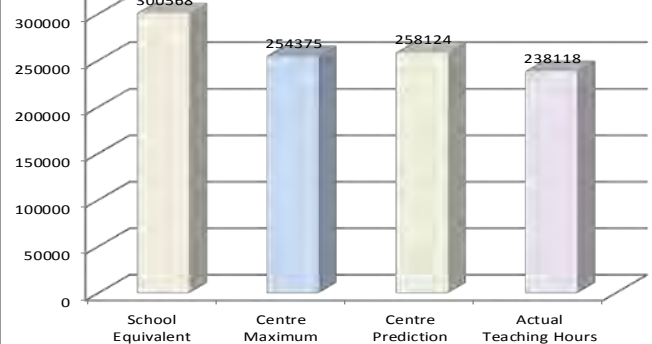
2017 Education Region



2017 School Sector



2017 Total Number of Instructional Hours



Local Decision Making

The reduction to 3 cabins for 2017 resulted in an increase in the overall rate of occupancy of the total site with the Queensland Active Recreation Centre Gold Coast experiencing an increase in occupancy as the Beach School reduced. The current MOU between the two organisation will be in place until 2019 and under the agreement the Beach School Campus will be able to negotiate the capacity in response to the level of staffing available. The number of joint programs have decreased following the closure of the Day Programs and Champ Camp residential programs. Future joint program delivery will be dependant on securing additional teaching staff allocation.

The Hero's Journey at the Beach School has contributed to a significant increase in the number of students accessing the David Fleay Wildlife Park which has greatly enhanced the quality of the education experience delivered by the Centre. The current agreement between the Centre and David Fleays will need to be reviewed in 2018 following the successful trial in 2016 and full rollout in 2017.

The partnership Tree Tops Challenge located at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has grown in popularity with visiting students and teachers and as such continue ion 2018.

The Centre's RTO partnership with Indigenous Education Unit has been a great success contributing 2% to reducing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous year 12 students. A brief was submitted to the State Schooling through the ADG of Indigenous Education to continue the partnership in 2018. The project was endorsed for another year by senior management and funding increased to \$125 000 for 2018 with the possibility of extending support in the short term. Partnerships with other environmental education centres has expanded the reach of the Tallebudgera Outdoor Education Centre across Queensland

The School Council membership changed at the beginning of 2017 with the election of a new chairperson and staff from the management team from the Queensland Active Recreation Centre Gold Coast . The new members will bring fresh ideas and new perspectives as we increase the level of input from key partners and client groups.

