

Highlights from 2008

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PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

RAY JOHNSTON (M.ED., B.A., DIP.T., J.P. (COMM. DEC.))

Introduction

I am most pleased to present this **School Annual Report for the 2008** school year.

I am very proud to be principal of Tannum Sands State High School. It is such a positive, innovative, relationship-focussed and flourishing young school. From where do our successes spring? I believe these come from clear values, careful planning for the future, spread leadership, critical self-reflection and strong partnerships – student to student, students with staff, parents with teachers and school into the community.

Please enjoy below some of the highlights, data and outcomes from our school... a school where students truly can live out our motto: **Creating Our Futures**

Future outlook

Our school's dynamic development continues...

Our school continues its expansion of an **International Education** program! We already welcome students from Germany and Scandinavia, and now we shall expand into South America, beginning with Brazil. International students enhance the diversity and richness of our school.

We will continue to refine our **Middle Schooling Curriculum**. This has seen our Year 8 students accelerating faster, students choosing from semester-length curriculum units and accessing better bridging courses from Year 10 to Year 11. In addition, we will continue to use strong links with local business and industry to see our **off-site campuses** continue to develop: business and information technology courses at Boyne Smelters Ltd, engineering certification at NRG Powerhouse and more school-based apprenticeships at the Australian Technical College (Gladstone Region).

We will have strong focus on **developing our staff skills** for teaching, leadership, support and self-reflection. In addition, our determination to maximise the use of **information technology for teaching and learning** will see us using a large range of technology, including interactive whiteboards, on-line learning and teacher laptops. Our computer to student ratio will steadily improve from 1:5 to 1:2 over the next two years.

All this, supplementing our consistent focus on **quality academic outcomes**, maintaining our excellent tertiary entrance (O.P.) scores and 94% success rate for our students in applying for university.

A key future direction is exploring what is **excellence in pedagogy** i.e. how do we capitalize on the performance of all teachers, in all classrooms, to maximise engagement of each student.

School Profile

Enrolment: 1065
Year Levels: Year 8 to Year 12
Type: Qld State School, co-educational
History: Opened 1998

Key Values:

Our school continues to be guided by Key School Values. *Showing **Respect**, Demonstrating **Responsibility** and Seeking **Excellence*** have been valuable signposts for staff, students and parents since 1998.

In turn, these values guide us in concentrating on the important aspects of Quality Schooling; the activities that make this state school a great school...

Clear **values** and purpose

- Quality **curriculum** including pathways for all kids
- Effective **behaviour** management and high **uniform** standards
- Structured award and **recognition** schemes
- Regular, meaningful **communication** with parents
- **Goal setting** and self-reflection by learners
- Wide range of **extracurricular** activities
- **Structured care** system including a strong stance against bullying
- Meeting of **individual needs** – academically, pastorally and so on
- Student **leadership**, ownership and involvement
- **Inclusive** sport, cultural and service opportunities
- Having **fun**
- Because we concentrate so hard on getting these things right at our school – your school - our students can learn and aspire in an environment that is not only **safe and secure**, but enticing, challenging and supportive of **endeavor, exploration** and **extension**.

Curriculum offerings

The following curriculum was offered to our students in 2008. (More information about current curriculum can be found elsewhere on our website):

Middle School

All students in Years 8 and 9 studied **subjects from all national Key Learning Areas**: English, Mathematics, Science, Study of Society and the Environment, Health and Physical Education, Language (Japanese), Technology (Manual Arts, Home Economics, Computing and Business Education) and the Arts (Music, Drama, Visual Arts) and Sport.

Year 10

Year 10 students completed their Middle Schooling program by the middle of year 10 and then undertook preparation courses for Senior Schooling Subjects across semester 2.

Year 11 and 12

Subjects were offered on six lines, which are arranged to maximise the students' preferences in each cohort. **Over thirty subjects** were offered in 2008 and included:

"Authority" (or tertiary-recognised) subjects

Art, Biological Science, Business Communication Technologies, Chemistry, Drama, Engineering Technology, English, Geography, Graphics, Home Economics, Information Processing and Technology, Legal Studies, Marine Studies, Mathematics A, Mathematics B, Mathematics C, Modern History, Multi-Strand Science, Music, Physical Education and Physics

Vocational Subjects

English Communication, Sport and Recreation Studies, Prevocational Mathematics, Marine and Aquatic Practices, Hospitality Practices, Certificates 1/2/3 in Information Technology, Certificate 2 in Business, Certificate 1 in Engineering, Certificate 1 in Furnishing, Music Industry Skills and Practical Visual Arts.

Learning Support and Special Needs

A unit of four teachers in this area assisted other teachers during 2008. They also worked, directly and indirectly, with students with **low incidence disabilities or learning difficulties**. We call this service unit: **Moolbee Place: Supporting Special Learners**. Students learn, with support, not only in our normal classes, but have this supplemented by some support provided in a **modern, purpose-built special needs facility**.

Gifted and Talented

Our school continued its **award-winning gifted program**, BSL-Zenith, which recognises records and rewards those students who wish to go 'above and beyond'. BSL-Zenith organises access and encouragement in extension activities on and off site, plus Individual Enrichment Programs for those requesting **accelerated curriculum**.

Goal Setting

This is heavily emphasised at our school and, each term, each student has to write down his or her goals for the term.

Off-site Learning

For students whose goal is not direct entry to university, a **range of innovative pathways** exists. A significant number of students attend off-site learning on a part-time basis, such as TAFE (technical) college, work placement and school-based apprenticeships.

Year 11 and 12 students can attend **three offsite campuses**: one at NRG Powerhouse, specialising in Engineering trades, another at Boyne Smelter, specialising in Business and Information Technology, and a third at Golding Engineering, specialising in the civil construction trades, such as pipe-laying, earthmoving and bridge-building. These campuses have received national recognition as 'cutting edge' responses to the skills shortage. In addition, other students transition to the Australian Technical College (Gladstone Region) in Year 11, whereupon they gain school-based apprenticeships and attend work/college on a 2 week on/off cycle.

Highlights from 2008

Co-curricular

The school has a wide range of co-curricular activities, including;

Sport: Opportunities abound in a wide range of sports through a variety of formats e.g.

- Weekly intra-school sport
- After school interschool competitions
- "Sport trials" pathways to represent at school, district, regional or state level in a wide variety of sports
- Knockout competitions

Arts:

- Instrumental Music program
- Choir
- Performance Evenings
- Community Art
- Biennial school productions

Debating: interschool debating and public speaking

And lots more!

Information Technology

The school has four computer rooms and a number of smaller pods, giving us a **student: computer ratio lower than 5:1**. All computers are fully networked and have Internet Access. A number of our staff has successfully applied for Innovation Grants to introduce technology in new ways to our students e.g. video editing for our special needs students. Our school also has a range of **data projectors** and **interactive whiteboards**, class laptop sets and teachers who access websites regularly for planning and resources. Each **teacher** is issued with a **laptop** to use in classrooms and for preparation.

Social climate

It is important to us that our students feel safe and secure at school.

Each student at our school has a 'family', called a House Group. A House Group consists of around five students from each Year level, together with a House Group teacher, who performs a daily pastoral care role. Eleven House Groups are in turn part of a House, looked after by a **House Coordinator**.

House Coordinators join our **Guidance Officers, Chaplain, Indigenous Aides and school-based Nurse** to form the Student Support Team, under the guidance of a Deputy Principal. This team meets fortnightly with Heads of Department to discuss and case-manage students in the team's care.

"The Harbour" initiative is but one of our **anti-bullying strategies**. Students are taught about bullying and continually told to stand up for their right to feel safe at school and to report harassment. Parents are also welcome to ring the Principal or Deputy Principal about bullying. The school does not tolerate this behaviour and will act on any reported bullying.

This may be why our Annual Opinion Surveys results in 2008 showed:

- **88% of parents** were satisfied that their son or daughter is **happy** to go to our school (and students rated us 85%)
- **80%** of Parents were satisfied about the **behaviour** of students at this school
- **92%** of parents were satisfied with student **discipline** in the school
- **96%** of parents were satisfied that their son or daughter is **safe** at this school (students 92.4%)
- **96%** of parents were satisfied that their son or daughter is treated **fairly** at this school

Involving parents in their children's education

The **home-school partnership** is crucial to us. We emphasise teachers ringing home about behaviour, attitude or work issues that arise. In turn we strongly encourage parents to ring the school about concerns, confusion, questions, suggestions or compliments.

We **welcome volunteers** at our school, including parents. Volunteers can assist in a wide range of school activities, in our outside the classroom. Volunteers are trained and coordinated by our Community Relations Officer.

School reports were sent home to parents each term. These were **written to students** and incorporated reflection upon goals. Two parent teacher interview evenings were held – we call them **Student-Parent-Teacher Conferencing** – and a number of other parent information evenings.

Planning for the future...

We have already reviewed our 2008-2010 School Strategic Plan and set ourselves these goals for 2009:

- Building upon our already strong **academic** performance *e.g. in QCS, OP Scores, Uni Entrance, National Testing*
- Continuing the implementation of the Qld Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (**QCAR**) *e.g. Essentials, QCAT's*
- Monitoring our 2008 **Middle Phase** Review changes
- Using data, including National Literacy/Numeracy test results, to decide how to further improve our students' **numeracy and literacy** levels
- Trial the "**Multilit**" program as another literacy enhancement to "Success maker" and "Lexia"
- Expand the **acceleration** opportunities offered by our BSL-Zenith **Gifted** program
- Focussing more on the **education of boys**, especially via teacher in-service
- State more explicitly our school's **pedagogy principles**
- Commence **classroom observation** program for non-probationary teachers
- Continue to educate students, staff and parents about the **Qld Certificate of Education**
- Maintaining and enhancing our school's ethos, practices, **reputation and successes**, whilst being open to change/ further improvement in all areas
- **Work consistently**, and as a team, on behaviour management, uniform and high expectations
- Expanding our **international students** program to more countries
- Embedding new **information technology** *e.g. trialling new One School modules, using teacher laptops in classrooms, National computer scheme*
- Enhancing our **environment** *e.g. sustainability, facilities, litter/grounds*
- **Communicating school policies** even better to parents *e.g. homework, assessment*
- Communicating and **enacting** our recently-reviewed **anti-bullying policies** (*incl. communication to staff, students, parents*)
- Planning for sustainability of **off-site campuses** established in industry
- Enhancing further our excellent **website** and expand **e-newsletter** distribution
- Developing further our **staff skills** for teaching, leadership, support and self-reflection
- Rolling-out annual **performance and development plans** for middle-leadership and teaching staff
- Providing corporate and staff-requested **professional development** *e.g. behaviour management, literacy, computers, website enhancement.*

Celebrating our year

CREATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We create pathways for ALL learners. However, university entrance is still the prized goal for many of our students and key objective for our school. And always will be.

The **achievements of our 2008 graduates** were excellent again. I would like to share some data with you:

- Erin Sharry created an OP1 - congratulations!
- Five students obtained an OP2, including...
- Hirruthyaa Manivasagan who will study Medicine at prestigious Monash University
- 14% obtained OP1-5
- 68% obtained OP1-15
- 91% of tertiary applicants received first round offers
- 65% received their first preference
- More than 25 Year 12's secured an apprenticeship
- 81% achieved C or above on QCS, bettering state average
- Over 10% of our school was enrolled in our BSL-Zenith Gifted Program

QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education)

The QCE is Queensland's new senior school qualification, and was awarded to eligible students for the first time in 2008. This Certificate is conferred only on those students who have mastered a sufficient quantity of learning at a Senior standard. This may be in academic subjects, vocational education, off-site learning such as school-based apprenticeships or achievement in accredited community learning.

Very pleasingly, 72% of our students achieved a QCE at graduation.

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Our year 9 students participated in national testing for the first time in 2008. Once again, our students performed above state average in all areas. Their results are tabled later in this report.

BSL Zenith, our Gifted Education program issued 187 Gifted and Talented 'Passports' to students.

Twenty-one Year Eight & Nine BSL Zenith students visited the **QUT Smart Train** in Gladstone, in recognition of their participation in the program. This train travelled throughout Queensland with interactive displays on board, and this "reward mission" was just one example of extra opportunities that this program provides.



PATHWAYS FOR ALL

You may have heard people say, "Schools should teach kids real world stuff. They should find out what industry wants?" Well, schools have responded...

- The school had over seventy students attending various **off-site campuses** – at a powerhouse, a smelter and a civil construction company. These centres have been set up through a partnership between Tannum Sands SHS, Gladstone SHS and Toolooa SHS, working together as the Gladstone Area State Secondary School Alliance
- We celebrated the graduation of the 3rd cohort of students from the **Business and Information Technology (or BITS) Centre**, a campus of our school we have pioneered inside the Boyne Island Smelter, an initiative which has attracted national and international interest
- We worked closely with school and industry partners in transitioning students to the new forms of the Australian Technical College, which specialises in school-based apprenticeships
- 25 students worked towards their **Certificate 2 in Engineering** in an authentic industry setting (the Gladstone Powerhouse, NRG). Similarly, 41 attended school one day a week at the BITS Centre in 2007, learning business or information technology, whilst attending a *real* workplace
- We arranged for the **Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation** to visit our district with TSSHS and GSHS students engaging in a one week courses. The group built a wall to partially enclose our boat storage area.
- More than 150 students (25%) across Yr 10-12 (cohort of app. 600) attended the main campus of school on ≤4 days because they were **accessing specialised programs off-site**, such as technical college courses, work experience, school-based traineeships or off-site campuses. We continued 7.30am classes in English and Mathematics at the main campus to cater for our off-site learners.

Highlights from 2008

- Students commenced working part time in indentured training whilst still attending school, via **29 school-based new apprenticeships or traineeships** in Year 11 and 12 (total).
- The school organised **414 work experience placements** in 2008, the vast majority of students electing to do their work experience during the holidays, to meet their Senior Education and Training Plan goals. This included 72 arrangements for Year 12 students during their final year.
- **Over 100 students enrolled in TAFE courses** at our local technical college. Other students accessed a Pre-Trade program for Electrical and Instrumentation trades (including weekend learning) and students also participated in a special pilot program for **girls in the Electrical trades**, in partnership with TAFE and the local group training provider, GAGAL.
- Eleven Yr 11-12 students committed to a Cert. I Infrastructure and Resource Operations offered in a 3x1 week block format plus work experience.
- Back at school, we offered a **range of nationally-recognised certificates** on its own campus, including:
 - Certificate I Furnishing
 - Certificate I Hospitality
 - Certificate I, II & III in Information Technology
 - Certificate I Work Education
 - Cert I Engineering
 - Cert I-II Music Industry Foundation
 - Cert. I & II in Business
- Senior Education and Training **Plans, resume preparation, mock interviews** and expansive work experience assisted students to create their futures beyond secondary school

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

2008 was a **stellar year for sport** at TSSHS! We had **three National Sports Champions**, and five students represented Queensland, our best representation ever. 41 students represented at Capricornia Regional level, with 71 attaining Port Curtis District selection. Two students participated in **Olympic Selection Trials**.

Other remarkable performances, in the **Year of Physical Activity**, that enabled Tannum Sands SHS to excel at all levels of school sport in 2008 were:

- Around **1 in 11 (97)** of our students were named in Port Curtis **District** sporting team across 15 different sports
- **40 students** went on to be named in Capricornia **Regional** teams to contest state trials
- **12 staff** attended Queensland Trials/Championships as Capricornia **Regional Officials**
- Our school had the **second highest representation of staff and students at Queensland Trials/Championships** for our Region
- **5 students** (Corey Brown, Matt Stark, Courtney Watt, Brad Millers and Dylan Nankivell) earned their place in **Queensland State** teams to contest National Titles
- Our school boasted **3 National Champions** in 2008 - Brad Millers (U15 Volleyball), Courtney Watt (Open Squash Doubles) and Dylan Nankivell (U13 Cross Country)
- Matt Stark and Corey Brown – competed at Open National Swimming Championships/ Beijing **Olympic Selection Trials**, Corey being the Qld Schools 100m Breaststroke record holder
- Ruby Lawler broke two records at the Qld School Swimming Championships (**Athletics with Disability**)
- Our U18 Girls Futsal team were **Central Qld Champions**, and the U16 Girls team came 2nd
- **Open Boys AFL** were **District Premiers**;
- **Open Girls AFL** were 2nd CQ Competition
- **Open Girls Netball** team played in Regional Final of Vicki Wilson Cup
- Taylor McManus had Best Gross Score (female) and Hannah Edmonstone Best Nett Score (female) at the **Central Qld Interschool Golf Championships**
- Prue Maeyke was selected as a recipient of the **Pierre de Coubertin Award** from the Queensland Olympic Council
- In outstanding personal achievements, **Zac Bond** (16 yr boys) and Charley Bond (14 yr girls, joint champion for swimming) won *all* our school's Age Championships – a clean sweep – and the **second year in a row that Zac has done this**

Major sports awards for the year included:

- **Sportsman** of the Year – **Dylan Nankivell** (National Champion Cross Country, 2 Queensland teams – Cross Country and Athletics)
- **Sportswoman** of the Year – **Courtney Watt** (National Champion Squash)
- **Carnival Champions 2008**: for Athletics – **Whoolghun**, Swimming - **Nagatin**, Cross Country – **Whoolghun**, Cheer Challenge – **Burarhl** and Beach Bash - **Whoolghun**

Highlights from 2008

THE ARTS AND CULTURE

In 2008 unprecedented numbers of students participated in our Arts curricula, contributing to the vibrant cultural life of Tannum Sands State High School...

Music:

- Tom Weber and Alex Matheson Brown continued their legendary performances both here at school and around the local community. It is difficult to go anywhere in the Gladstone region and not hear **Strictly Ballroom's** laid back sound
- **Music Industry Skills tour** in October enabled music students to put into practice the skills learned over two years of study and successfully showcased Tannum High's overabundance of musical talent for our local primary schools
- **Senior Music** saw its largest cohort since the school's opening with dozens of talented musicians honing their skills over two years of intensive study

Visual Art:

- We submitted over 40 high quality entries into the annual **Golding Showcase Art Exhibition**
- Bec Romeo, Stacey Groves and Meg Tewes tendered exceptional work for the **Minister's Art Awards**. Stacey and Bec's work was also accepted into the prestigious **Martin Hanson Awards**.
- In October, Stevie Irons and Kieran Sparks accomplished individual **gallery showings** at the Boyne Island Community Centre. The Senior Visual Art Showcase and Visual Arts Study Exhibitions were held in November, students designing, displaying, promoting and hosting the event.
- Winning designs for the EPA's **Clean & Healthy Air for Gladstone Aim Monitoring Art Project** were Dean Mansfield and Shay Machen

Drama:

- Drama students performed enthusiastically and professionally at Formal Assemblies and school functions throughout the year
- **MAD House Theatre:** Year 9 'Real Life Drama'; Year 10 'Contemporary Realism'; Year 11 'Contemporary Shakespeare' and Year 12 'Physical Theatre' were all outstanding evenings which were well attended by family and friends
- After five years of dedication to drama at TSSHS, **Thomas Bishop** secured an important Casting Agent audition which could assure his dream of becoming a professional actor

Performance:

- **Eisteddfod Results** were very pleasing. Jessica Adie received an Encouragement Bursary from the Friends of the Theatre for her performances in the Stage Show, Art Song, Modern Song and WBP duo/trio categories 15-18 years. Shanice Anderson received the **Highest Mark Trophy**, the Boyne Smelter Most **Outstanding Performer** trophy and Aggregate Trophy 15-18 years for her numerous performances in Art Song, Australian Composer, Sacred Song, Cello Study Solo, Cello Baroque Solo, Cello Own Choice, Folk Song and Modern Song categories.
- Our students turned from musicals to an intriguing **Theatre Restaurant** production in 2008. The Phantom of the Music Hall, which played to packed houses, featured the **Ballet Boys**, whose pink tutus and precision pirouettes stole the show, and won the admiration of all
- The **School Choir** performed complex a new repertoire at the Boyne Island Carols Evening and a specially formed boy's choir entertained Award's night audiences with their rendition of 'As Long As You Love Me'



Instrumental Music:

- Jason Smith was accepted into the **Queensland Conservatorium of Music State Honours Ensemble Program** for tuba, and Jordan Henderson for cello
- Excellent performances from all ensembles in the state's biennial music competition **Fanfare** saw our String Orchestra receiving a silver award and both Concert and Stage Bands placing bronze in our district
- Winning their Eisteddfod section, the Percussion Ensemble was selected as the finale for the 2008 **Gladstone Eisteddfod** Showcase Concert. They went on to impress audiences at two formal assemblies
- Queensland's Gambling Community Benefit fund contributed \$30,000 to support the development of our Instrumental Music program. Manhasset stands, a double bass and flugle horn were among the many instruments purchased but the most exciting addition is equipment to form the district's first **marching band**. With drums and lyres imported from the USA, it will add an exciting dimension to our vital musical arena.
- Our annual **Instrumental Music Showcase Concert** in August combined Concert Band, Stage Band and String Orchestra with ensembles from TSSS. These groups were, once again, in high demand for performances around Gladstone; highlights of the Volunteers Association Festival in May and excellent competition in the annual Eisteddfod in September

Highlights from 2008

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Student Leaders travelled to the Brisbane Convention Centre to attend a Student Leadership Convention. This was combined with planning and team-bonding sessions, including a treasure hunt around Brisbane City. It was pleasing to hear a fulsome report from the Student Council at our Awards Evening.

Anzac Day - This year's commemoration was held at our Anzac Garden in front of the school's Administration Building. We thank the Tannum Sands RSL for their support of our ceremony. Our students also participated as usual in both the Dawn Service on Anzac Day and in the community march and service.

Our Student Council and Mentors worked hard in 2008 and planned several initiatives including: relaying turf close to the manual arts and science block, organised student elections, presented fulsome reports and worked as a team to ensure their vision came to fruition.

Our student body continued their support of our **Healthy Choices** food and drinks policy. Huge thanks go to **M1Cycles** for its continuous support and generous donation of many bicycles as rewards for students making healthy canteen purchases. In keeping with promoting healthy choices, the student council and mentors have organised such events as whole school **Dodgeball competitions** and many Discos that seek to promote an active and social lifestyle.

Our students have not taken their own good fortune for granted. They continue to astound with their **generosity in reaching out to others**, especially overseas, continually raising money for a variety of just causes. In 2008, our annual World Vision **Forty Hour Famine** effort saw students raise almost \$4500. Leaders also had the opportunity to see first hand how a charitable organisation operates by visiting **terminally ill children at the Royal Children's Hospital** and Ronald MacDonald House in Brisbane. Here students were able to witness first hand people in the community who are less fortunate than themselves and see the importance of raising money for these organisations.

Other student fundraising led to support for many other foundations like Juvenile type 1 Diabetes Research, the school's annual Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Project and Ronald Macdonald House. Another group of students road-cycled 120 km from Rockhampton to Gladstone to raise money for our **School Chaplaincy Program**.

INDIGENOUS

Naidoc Week was celebrated once again in our school. It is pleasing that, when we monitor the results of our indigenous students, they mirror the results of our students as a whole. Our Deputy Principal John Adie plays a key leadership role in district initiatives for indigenous students. Our school is part of the **Guiding Coalition** of Australian schools who have signed up as highly committed to improving indigenous outcomes.

CHAPLAINCY

We sadly farewelled **our popular "Chappy"**, Dave Kamholtz, at the end of 2008. However, before he left, he assisted innumerable students via support, advice, friendship and referral. Dave also organised many events, including religious education guest speakers, a **120km Chaplaincy** ride to Rockhampton, a three-day **Boys Wilderness Ride** peddling mountain bikes up hill and down dale - sleeping under the stars - as well as working bees. He even ended up as Chief Cook at our Biology students' North West Island field trip - a week on an uninhabited Great Barrier Reef Island sounds great, though!

MORE NEWS

A large number of our year 12 students experienced learning in different settings this year, with **excursions to North West Island** for Marine Studies students, **SeaWorld Nara Resort for Hospitality** students and a **Brisbane University Experience** for those thinking of tertiary study being just a snapshot of dozens of excursions run during 2008.

Our students raised over \$15 000 for others less fortunate, via activities such as **Forty Hour Famine**, **Operation Christmas Child Boxes**, **Tour de Chaplain**, **Red Shield Appeal** and **Shave for a Cure**. Hospitality students served our community at **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**

Principal For A Day Matt Cooke (CEO of Nhulundu Wooribah Indigenous Health Organisation in Gladstone) was our 'Principal For A Day' in 2008, helping us to celebrate State Education Week. Matt was *"impressed by the modern teaching culture, the layout and design of the school, and the emphasis on personal responsibility."* This initiative happened all over our state, and is designed to build community knowledge on how a modern school operates and to provide an insight into the Principal's role.

Tannum High's participation in the Holden Maryborough Technology Challenge **24-hour Human Powered Vehicle Race** goes from strength to strength, as each year has seen not only an increase in the number of students participating, but in the fantastic results achieved by the students and support crews. Our **Senior Girls' team** finished an amazing **2nd in their category** by cycling 354 laps of the course, totalling 531 kilometres. Major Sponsor, Danielle Straatman from

Highlights from 2008

'Coconet', was thrilled to be able to present the MVM awards. The Senior boys came a respectable 5th in their group, travelling 579kkm (386 laps). Our three Junior Boys placed 3rd, 9th and 10th. This year saw us enter a tandem bike and placing first in that category. Our **hand powered vehicle was a show stopper**, manned by disabled and able bodied students, and placing 2nd with a very respectable 79th overall. Perhaps, not surprisingly, the group's favourite award of the day was the **'Best Support Crew'** award

Funding and Sponsorship: Our school was successful in receiving \$30,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for instrumental music and \$15,000 in the form of 'Lighthouse' Funding for Indigenous education. Local businesses continue to support our school in many ways.

Our Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association saw Petra Wheeler chosen as the P&C President. In 2008, the P&C was able to fund school **curriculum projects to the tune of \$20,500**, as well as paying off on its air-conditioning loan. The P&C will continue to operate its School Building Fund.

Gladstone Area Mathematics Science and Engineering Teachers is a group of Mathematics and Science Heads of Department and teacher representatives from Primary Schools that focuses on the professional development of teachers. Heather Moller, our Science Head of Department, chairs this group, which was successful in obtaining Federal Government funding for two projects - real life applications of Mathematics (\$60 000) and improving Science outcomes for indigenous students (\$75 000). Heather also chairs the Regional Science program.

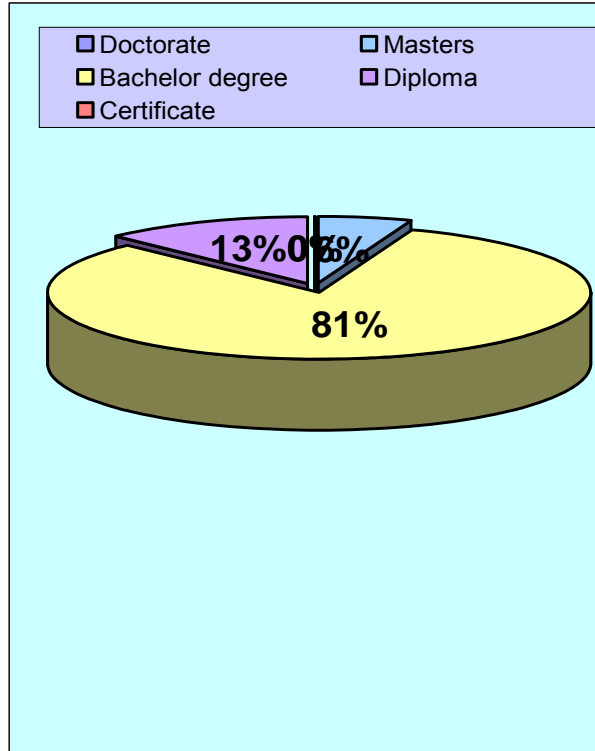
Tannum Sands State High School's **tree planting team "Tannachy"** were hard at work again in 2008, including in their work plantings for National Tree Day. Donations from Gladstone Regional Council and our Parents and Citizens Association meant there was plenty of soil turned.

Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards: Talented TSSHS students, such as Charley Bond, show us that with a little imagination and determination we can achieve stunning results. At only 13 years old, Charley impressed judges by designing and modelling her own creation and winning 3rd place in the "My Culture" category at the Awards. On the 16th August Charley travelled to Brisbane to model her design at the State Awards, and attained an impressive 3rd place.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	4
Bachelor degree	59
Diploma	9
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on **teacher professional development** in 2008 was **\$50 264**. (2007=\$40 788.38.)

The **major professional development** initiatives to keep our staff members well trained in 2008 included:

- Crossing Cultures Hidden History
- Valuing Diversity
- QLD Studies Authority - Curriculum, various subjects
- GAMSET 'A day with the TInspire'
- Gladstone Area Support Teachers "On the Same Page"
- Website Development through ICT
- CATALIST Chemistry Sharing for Senior Chemistry Teachers
- CATALIST Laboratory Technician Networking
- FCWQ Finance Team Budget workshop
- Lifeline Suicide ASIST training
- Gifted Education Regional Strategy Support Learning Beyond Boundaries
- Consumer & Financial Literacy Professional Learning Program
- Making Sense of Maths Mathematics & Snr Maths Syllabii A,B & C
- Aspiring Leaders
- Special Needs training – various areas e.g. Autism, bullying, Aspergers
- Mentor Training program
- QSA Geography Senior Syllabus, Hospitality, new syllabus for Legal Studies
- QCAR -Essentially English, Leadership Day, Essentially Science
- CQI of TAFE – Elements of Shipboard Safety
- CQU - Science assistant
- QLD University of Technology – Science, Pedagogical changes

Our staff profile

- Guidance Officer “Better Behaviour Better Learning” & others
- Arts Dept - Lithographic workshop
- New Senior English Syllabus
- ICT PD Leader, “One to One”,
- RASCT Science Acid Sulphate Soil case study PD
- Learning Japanese through Mime
- QUT “Cells and Cancer”
- Hazardous Substances
- GEM Network day
- Beginning Teachers
- Performance Culture Behaviour Management
- Strong Foundations Broad Horizons Conference
- Health and Physical Education
- QSPA Leadership Conference & Meeting
- 2008 eLearning Innovation Expo
- Code of Conduct Training
- One School configurations/updating of procedures
- School Business Managers Assoc of QLD Conference for Business Services Manager
- First Aid – including re-certification, Royal Lifesaving Accreditation,
- Clickview Licensing
- ICT Pedagogical Licence
- HPE Literacy Professional Development
- AIM – Effective Communication for BSM
- Deputy Principals Conference
- Literacy Professional Development
- Australian Govt – Copyright Laws for Educational Institutions
- QCAT District Moderation Year 9 Mathematics
- QLD Teachers Union
- Literacy Computer Programs
- Chemwatch Lab Safety Software Training
- Boat Licence for Marine Studies
- SDCS Seminar
- LibCode Administration training for Resource Centre staff
- ACSSO Conference “Parents and School as Partners”
- The Learning Alliance -Professional Development for Non-Teaching Employees
- Chemical Education Conference (ChemEd08)
- CQ Institute of TAFE – Quickbooks training
- SBMAQ Conference for Business Managers
- State Purchasing Policy training
- ADD Association Conference

In addition, all staff member attended professional development during six student-free days during the year. The **involvement of the teaching staff** in professional development activities during 2008 was **84%**.

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the **staff attendance rate was 98%**. (96% in 2007.)

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

From the end of the 2007 school year, **90% of staff members were retained** by the school for the entire 2008 school year. (86% in 2007)

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average **attendance rate** as a percentage in 2008 was **88%**. Students attend many excursions, sport and off-campus activities. (2007 91%)

Key outcomes in National Testing

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Year 9 2008

Domain	Measures	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	574
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	91%
	For Australia, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	93%
Writing	Average score for the school	571
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	91%
	For Australia, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	87%
Spelling	Average score for the school	577
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	89%
	For Australia, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	90%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	569
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	86%
	For Australia, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	90%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	574
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	94%
	For Australia, the % of students at or above the national minimum standard	94%

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12

The state average for 2008 was 71%

(Note: the *real* retention rate is hard to measure because of student mobility and intakes in Year 11. Further, the non-retained students don't necessarily 'drop out' – certainly, most of our students, according to internal data kept, left to employment or further training)

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.

79%

Performance of our students

Actual retention rate Year 7 to 8

> **95% of Year 7** students, from our state feeder schools (Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and Benaraby State Schools) **chose Tannum Sands SHS for Year 8** in 2008. Including our local non-state school, St Francis, the **percentage of ALL local students choosing our school was 91%**.

Key Outcomes in the Senior phase of learning

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	165
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA). <i>(NOTE: This is a certificate issued to students with high-level special needs, if applicable in the graduating cohort)</i>	0
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	120
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	90
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	16
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	99
Percentage of students awarded a Qld Certificate of Education	72%
Percentage of OP eligible students with OP 1-15 <i>(Tertiary Entrance score from 1 [highest] to 25)</i>	67%
Percentage of OP eligible students with OP 1-5	14%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	88%
Percentage of students awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification	55%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	94%

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – **Student Destination Report** for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be posted to our website by early September.

However, data is available from our 2007 graduates:

Summary of findings

- In 2007, **60.0 per cent** of young people who completed their Year 12 at Tannum Sands State High School in 2006 **continued** in some recognised form of **education and training** in the year after they left school.
- The most common study destination was university (23.3 per cent).
- The combined VET study destinations accounted for 36.2 per cent of respondents, including 2.6 per cent in campus-based VET programs, with 1 per cent of Year 12 completers entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.
- 33.6 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an **apprentice (23.3 per cent)** or trainee (10.3 per cent).
- In addition to the above study destinations, a further 9.5 per cent of respondents from this school deferred a

Performance of our students

tertiary offer in 2008 (deferrers are shown in Figure 1 in their current destination).

- 40.5 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either **employed (30.2 per cent)** or seeking work (9.5 per cent).

Destinations at a glance...

• University (degree)	23.3%	(100% success rate for applicants!)
• VET Certificate IV+	0.9%	(VET = Vocational Education and Training)
• VET Certificate III	0.9%	
• VET Certificate I-II/other	0.9%	
• Apprentice	23.3%*	
• Trainee	10.3%	
• Working Fulltime	17.2%	
• Working Part time	12.9%	
• Seeking work	9.5%	
• Not studying / working	0.9%	

Performance of our students

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

Our school is about students who **confidently transition** beyond schooling, whether to employment or further study, being healthy and active citizens. We truly want our students to believe that they can take charge – that they can *create futures* for themselves. Hence our school concentrates on **all aspects of the growing adolescent** – academic, sporting, cultural, health, leadership, moral development and responsibility. The 'value add' that we provide for our students is exemplified by the **data trends below**... and by the **wide range of highlights from 2008** found elsewhere in this report!

Data trends

The following examples in the table below shows the pleasing upwards trends exhibited in a wide range of our school data over the last four years:

Data Set	2008	2007	2006	2005
OP 1-5 (OP = a tertiary entrance scored, from 1-25)	13.7%	18.5%	13.8%	17.7%
OP 1-15 (OP 1 is highest, 25 is lowest)	67%	77%	66%	59%
School Absenteeism (compared to State Average; for male, female, indigenous, Overall)	Below (=better)	Below	Below	Below
School Absenteeism – Indigenous (compared to State Average)	Below	Below	Below	Below
Percentage of tertiary applicants made an offer	94%	100%	96%	93%
% of graduates with either OP or a VET qualification (NOTE: two courses had VET removed from the state syllabus in 2006; 2008 figure represent "QCE or VET")	88%	87%	84%	93%
% of graduates with a qualification in Vocational Education and Training	55%	45%	47%	45%
Number of Year 12 with a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship	16	14	10	10
Percentage of Staff Members satisfied with morale in the school	79%	81%	79%	82%

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Each year across its schools, Education Queensland conducts random-sample surveys of students and parents, and a full survey of all staff members. This survey seeks **satisfaction ratings** across categories that include:

(a) **PARENTS/STUDENTS SURVEY CATEGORIES:** Student Outcomes, Curriculum, Teaching, Learning Climate, School Climate, School-Community Relations and Resources...

Parents' Satisfaction benchmarked against Like Schools:

Parents rated our school "below" in Student Outcomes, Pedagogy and Learning Climate (a first!), "above" on Resources and "on Like-School Mean" for ALL other areas – and Overall.

Performance of our students

These results were slightly disappointing for us, as there has never been a “below” rating from parents in over ten years – so we will work on this if any trend develops over time.

Students’ Satisfaction benchmarked against Like Schools:

Students rated our school “above” for Resources, and “on Like-School Mean” in ALL other areas – and Overall.

These results were pleasing, as the year before they were slightly lower.

(b) **STAFF SURVEY CATEGORIES:** Physical Work Environment, Relationships, School Operations, Staff Morale, Support & Training, Work Roles and Work Recognition...

Staff Satisfaction benchmarked against Like Schools:

Staff rated us “below” in Work Roles but “above” in Physical Work Environment, and School Operations. In all other areas – and Overall – staff rated our school “on Like-School Mean”.

When trends are looked at over ten years, our Opinion Survey results are very consistently “on mean” or “above”.

Student Leadership Team 2008-2009

Our student leaders are short-listed by student and staff voting, and then chosen via a **rigorous selection panel process**. Our leaders take up office in semester 2 Year 11 and stand down after semester 1 Year 12. This “financial year” leadership cycle enables Year 12s to concentrate fully on their academic responsibilities in their final semester; it also offers multiple opportunities for out-going leaders to mentor new ones... and they do!

Congratulations to those students who were selected in June 2008 to serve our school community:

<i>School Captains</i>	Emma Slatter and Darcy Thompson
<i>Vice Captains</i>	Duran Stander and Jessica Adie
<i>Whoolghun House</i>	Ashleigh Burns and Jason Gilmore
<i>Nagatin House</i>	Tim Faux and Shelley Howie
<i>Ghinmhine House</i>	Zara Stross and Jack Goddard
<i>Burarhl House</i>	Jarryd Brown and Kate Gray