Our school at a glance

Students
The best of any community is reflected in its youth. The students at Bellata Public School are generous of time, caring of each other and environmentally aware of their impact on the world as a whole.

Staff
Bellata Public School has caring and committed staff that value the delivery of quality education. All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Messages

Principal’s message
Bellata Public School is nestled in leafy grounds of both native and exotic trees which provide safe habitats for a variety of birds and animals. A caring environment is at the heart of the school community which extends beyond the classroom windows.

As a school, the teaching and learning programs of both students and staff are enhanced through the addition of funds from the Country Areas Program (CAP). Our Parents and Citizen’s Association (P&C) is also an extremely valuable source offering assistance both financially and physically.

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.

Vivianne Fouracre

P & C message
2011 saw Bellata Public School P & C complete another successful year. This was possible through the hard work of our committee and helpers.

The committee comprised Sharna Gillogly – Secretary, Merrilee Tomlinson - Treasurer, Pip Hann - Public Relations Officer, Natalie Christie - Canteen Coordinator and Glenda Bettens - Uniform Coordinator.

Thank you to these generous women and the other parents who came along to our meetings and helped at our functions.

Fundraising for the year was aimed mainly at raising money to help keep the cost of the Canberra excursion to a minimum.

Our main fundraiser was the Trivia night. A big thank you must go to James Boaden and his helpers who organized the night and made it so successful. Thank you to our generous sponsors, the public and the Bellata Golf Club, who all supported the event.

Finally, I would also like to thank the teaching staff, office staff, cleaners, our grounds man, bus drivers and all the other people who continue to help make our school the success it is.

Wade Johnston

Student representative’s message
Wow! How the years fly by when you’re having fun. We have had a blast at Bellata Public. We’d like to share with you all why.

I have had many great moments being a student here but a highlight for me has been Sports Vice-Captain in Year 5 and School Captain this year.

I've had the pleasure of 3 great teachers during my time at Bellata - Miss Squire, Miss Miller and Mrs. Fouracre. I’ve also made friendships for life and that is probably my greatest achievement.

My most embarrassing moment was last year on our excursion. I was fiddling around with a squishy toy filled with water when all of sudden it popped all over my lap. Will-Will came rushing over with his camera and took a picture. I will definitely never forget that shared moment!

Bellata started the school year off with our annual swimming carnival. It was an awesome day for students, teachers and parents. Surprisingly…Chappell lost-A tragedy to say the least. Thanks to Mrs. Hann we have many photos from our year’s events to look back on and enjoy over and over.
A few weeks after our Swimming Carnival we all pitched in and helped with the Clean-up Australia Day. It weighed roughly...well; let’s see...I’ll say... A LOT! Bellata was a tidy town for at least a week after our efforts.

After that we had the Questacon Science Circus where we were able to play around and experiment with all things Science. There was liquid Nitrogen that was less than -168 degrees Celsius. Now that would make your teeth chatter and snap right off!

We were swimming in chocolate when the Easter hat parade came rolling around in April ...it came so fast. By the way, all the hats were absolutely fantastic!! This is a great school tradition we’ve all enjoyed.

Next it was time to put our running shoes on for the School Cross Country. It was tough for the 11 & 12 year olds this year. We had to run 3km, that’s 3000m around the Golf Course. But thanks to our morning training sessions with our teachers ‘watching on’ (nobody skipped breakfast those days) all of us were in great shape.

For the Eisteddfod we practised and practised and practised...did I say we practised enough? Well we did, until it was perfect. Where would our school be without Mrs. Macpherson’s talents leading us in song and drama and Mrs. Tibbett training us in dance? Thank you to you both of you. We came 1st for our choir item and our drama and were highly commended for the dance routine.

When the Biggest Morning Tea arrived to raise money for the Cancer Council so did the FOOD! One thing Bellata Mum’s and ladies do is cook like Master Chefs. Our little community raised a nice sum of money for this charity. And we enjoyed singing “Hey Baby” for all those who attended.

Jump Rope for Heart is always a school favorite. We really put the ‘fun’ in fund raiser for the Heart Foundation at our school. And this year our latest routines were on display for parents. Well done to everyone who raised so much money for this cause.

The CWA challenged us to research the country of Iceland this year. The senior schools projects looked fantastic up on the wall. The K/1/2 class did a wonderful job coloring in a picture of a landscape of Iceland. Thank you for another fascinating country to learn about ladies.

Next was the Athletics carnival. Chappell had a win this time. Which made up for our swimming loss? While we were out running and jumping the Johnston’s were trekking the countryside exploring the things that make this great land of ours so GREAT! Thanks to Mrs. Hubbard we had fun following their journey.

Healthy Harold came and visited Bellata. The Year 6 got to say goodbye to him and give him a cuddle. We will miss learning about the things we need to keep our minds and bodies healthy.

On the 3rd of August we held a Book Parade. We brought a book along to share and dressed up as a character from it. Old Mother Hubbard was absent this year, but we loved her slightly Muddled Headed replacement. A highlight to this day was the Narrabri Mayor, Mrs. Robyn Faber visiting to officially open our new school library.

From the 17th to the 21st of October years 3-6 went on an excursion to Canberra, our nation’s capital. Some of the places we visited were the Australian Mint (where unfortunately they didn’t have any free money to give us), Parliament House, the Questacon Centre and had a once in a lifetime experience of seeing the Queen. A big thank you must go to all the parent helpers on our trip away.

Finally I would like to thank my classmates, teachers, the office staff and parents for all you have done to make our years here at Bellata Public the best school days of my life so far.

Nicholas Boaden
School context

Student information

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

Student enrolment profile

Bellata Public School’s numbers have continued to remain stable at 30 students in 2011. The community and Preschool continue to encourage parents to send their children to the local Public school rather than transporting them elsewhere.

Student attendance profile

As shown by the graph, student attendance at Bellata Public School remains consistently high.

Management of non-attendance

At Bellata Public School, students are encouraged to attend school regularly. Attendance is monitored monthly, with reminders to parents of their legal responsibility published in the newsletter.

Parents of students with poor attendance are interviewed and action taken as necessary.

Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports in order to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2011 class size audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structure of classes

In 2011 classes remained in two composite groups. An early Stage One/Stage One class of 13 students and a Stage Two/Stage Three class of 17 students.

Staff information

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

In 2011, students at Bellata Public School were able to access additional support teaching services through the District Support personnel, the Intensive Reading Class and our Support Teacher Learning Difficulties.

Bellata Public School continues to access high quality casual teaching staff.

Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

Currently there are no identified indigenous members employed at Bellata Public School.

Staff retention
The staff at Bellata Public School remained the same as in 2010.

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>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>30/11/2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>54050.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>55171.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>23311.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>14627.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2931.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>2657.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>152750.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure
Teaching & learning
Key learning areas 11275.32
Excursions 9456.39
Extracurricular dissections 7373.56
Library 1422.81
Training & development 4338.78
Tied funds 24857.26
Casual relief teachers 6798.56
Administration & office 16415.87
School-operated canteen 0.00
Utilities 6761.47
Maintenance 9654.66
Trust accounts 2684.70
Capital programs 6829.77
Total expenditure 107869.15
Balance carried forward 44880.95

A full copy of the school’s 2011 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 2011

Achievements
Arts
The students at Bellata Public School have continued to excel in all areas of the arts. In 2011 students were tutored in drama and music by Mrs. Mary-Ann McPherson and in dance by Mrs. Suzie Tibbett.

Students performed at the Narrabri Eisteddfod in the drama, music and dance sections with excellent results and entered works of art and design in the Narrabri Show.

Sport
Bellata Public School strives to provide the students with a variety of opportunities to participate and excel in sports.

This year students were fortunate to participate in Rugby and Touch Football as well as the usual events.

Swimming
The school swimming carnival was this year won by Goolagong house.

The swimming champions were senior boy-Patrick Johnston, senior girl-Matilda Hann, junior boy-Tom Johnston, junior girl-Bella Stewart and minor boy- Max Christie

Zone Carnival representatives was Bella Stewart.

Athletics
Bellata Public School hosted the Quad Sports Carnival with the students competing against Mallawa, Bullarah and Rowena. It was a great day of friendship and sportsmanship.

The school’s athletics carnival was won this year by Chappell.

The athletics champions were senior boy-Nicholas Boaden, senior girl-Madelynn Child, junior boy-Will Fulton-Kennedy, junior girl-Bella Stewart, minor boy- Max Christie and minor girl- Mia Stewart.
Zone level representatives were Sophie Hann and Bella Stewart.

State level representative for 2011 was Bella Stewart.

Our Cross Country representatives at the Zone level were Matilda Hann and Bella Stewart.

**Intensive Swimming**

A ten-day intensive swimming program was held for all students this year which have led to significant improvements in style, stroke correction and confidence.

**Academic**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3 and 5 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.

Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3**

All students in Year 3 sat the NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Due to the small number in the cohort, the graphs cannot be included for privacy reasons.

From analysis of the data provided, students tended to fall in bands 1, 2 and 3 across all areas of study. A support program has been in place to assist those students and will continue in 2012.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

As with Literacy, our cohort is too small to include electronic data summary graphs.

In Numeracy, all students were placed in bands 4, 5 and 6. As with Year 3, decimals and fractions and patterns and algebra need to be areas of continued focus in 2012.

**Progress in literacy**

![Average progress in Reading between Year 3 and 5](chart)

![Average progress in Spelling between Year 3 and 5](chart)
Data in Literacy indicates that we are making significant progress in the teaching of all aspects of literacy but we still have a long way to go. Whilst matched student growth is very promising, we still do not have students performing in the top two bands for any of the aspects of literacy.

An average progress for Writing 2009-2011 is not displayed due to the change in the Writing scale from a Narrative to a Persuasive text.

**Progress in numeracy**

In Numeracy our growth rate is not as high but is still positive. Improvements in the levels of literacy are beginning to have an impact on students’ abilities to access mathematical text.

**Minimum standards**

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

Bellata Public School provides programs across all KLA to educate all students about the history, and culture of Aboriginal Australia.

This year all students attended the Vibe Alive day in Moree with a focus on contemporary Aboriginal Australia where they were exposed to concepts about health, dance, art and culture.

**Multicultural education**

Bellata Public School focuses on multicultural education by providing programs which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to live harmoniously in a diverse society.

This year our country of study was Iceland culminating in a sharing session with the Country...
Women’s Association, Bellata Branch, at our local hall. Children heard about life in Iceland, viewed artifacts and enjoyed Viking adventures.

**Respect and responsibility**

The values of Respect and Responsibility are embedded in all teaching programs. Students are encouraged to support community projects and annually participate in the local Anzac Day Service, Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, in conjunction with Country Women’s Association (CWA), Jeans for Genes Day, and Jump Rope for Heart. Students are committed to initiatives such as Clean up Australia.

**Connected learning**

This year students at Bellata Public School made use of the connected classroom participating in a visual arts program run as an initiate through the Country Areas Program (CAP). Students were instructed in remotely by an artist with a focus on sculpture and line drawing.

**Other programs**

**Country Areas Program (CAP)**

Bellata Public School receives a significant amount of funding from CAP which comes under the equity umbrella. This provides opportunities for the whole school community to improve the educational outcomes of students who are geographically isolated.

Initiatives undertaken in 2011 included:

- attending the Lane Clarke professional learning seminars and seeing the process in action in a larger city school;
- the attendance at the Technology Camp by senior school students with a focus on science and sustainability;
- involvement in the interactive classroom visual arts initiative; and
- enhancing existing educational programs within our school.

It is anticipated that CAP funding for 2012 will continue to provide access to quality learning activities for the whole school community.

**Progress on 2011 targets**

**Target 1**

*To increase the number of students in Stages 2 and 3 achieving at or above minimum standards in punctuation and grammar.*

Our achievements include:

- Whilst all students achieved at or above minimum standards in the 2011 NAPLAN tests, day to day writing in the classroom indicates that continual focus is needed to ensure students are achieving well above minimum standards; and
- Many students’ stories were highly commended in the Catchment Management Authorities story writing competition.

**Target 2**

*Improve student performance in Numeracy*

Our achievements included:

- Whilst we still have students registering in the second bottom band in Numeracy in both Years 3 and 5, our matched student growth has been positive;
- In 2012 we are implementing the North Coast Math program to more closely focus on areas of significant need; and
- In 2012 Bellata Public School will be utilising Newman’s analysis strategies as a way of better comprehending the questions in the NAPLAN test.

**Key evaluations**

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2010 our school carried out evaluations of Leadership and Creative Arts.

**Educational and management practice**

**Leadership**

**Background**

It is becoming increasingly recognized that creating sustained school improvement is reliant on strong leadership and direction. As a result, during 2011, the staff at Bellata Public School
discussed the current situation of school leaders and how it can be improved upon. As a part of this professional learning, staff explored different concepts about leadership.

Findings and conclusions

The current system of dividing the leadership up based on the number of Year 6 students is inconsistent and open to a variety of interpretations.

At times there are more leadership positions then students in the Year 6 class so how can this problem be solved.

It was decided to have just 2 main leaders- a School Captain and a Vice Captain with other members of the Year 6 class taking on the roles of Student Representative Council.

Members of the Student Representative Council will receive their badges on Presentation Night in line with other leadership roles.

It was also decided to continue to take the Sports Captains from the Year 5 cohort as an introduction to leadership at Bellata Public School.

Future directions

A policy will be written to advise the future school Principals of how the student body leadership is organized at Bellata Public School and the roles and responsibilities of its members.

Curriculum

Creative Arts

Background

Bellata Public School has had a proud history of performing well in aspects of the creative arts—particularly drama, dance and performance in music.

Findings and conclusions

Whilst the students do well in the creative arts, their knowledge of musical notation is poor and little time is spent teaching instruments.

Children showing talent, at present, have no opportunities for extension within the school and need to look further afield.

The eisteddfod is supported well within the school community but takes up a lot of classroom time allowing other subject areas to suffer.

Future directions

In 2012 the school will focus on the teaching of musical performance and extension programs for students showing talent in vocal performance and visual arts. Country areas Program monies will be used to support the programs.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2011 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

This year the questions were:

- What makes Bellata a great school?
- Are you happy with the level of services provided by Bellata Public School?; and
- What areas do you feel we can improve on?

From the responses received, all stakeholders were happy with the school stating that it is a friendly and happy environment for learning and the children get along well with each other. The senior students like the newly formed Students Representative Council (SRC).

The area that still needs work on is parent teacher communication. This will be further investigated to get a better understanding of where the staff needs to develop further in this field.

Professional learning

In 2011, staff attended a variety of professional learning courses to further develop their skills and introduce new concepts to the classroom.

In 2011 staff attended:

- Lane Clarke thinking skills;
- Musica Viva teachers class;
- Small School’s Conference; and
- the NSWPPA State Conference.

School planning 2012—2014

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas,
intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

School priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014
To increase the number of students attaining proficiency in all aspects of Numeracy.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• To increase the number of students in Year 3 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Numeracy by 30%.
• To increase the number of students in Year 5 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Numeracy by 20%.
• To increase the number of students Kindergarten – Year 6 achieving at appropriate stage level in Numeracy by 20% using SENA and school-based data.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
• Analysis of areas for improvement from NAPLAN results;
• Trialing the North Coast Mathematics program across all classes; and
• Introducing Mathletics as a home extension program.

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
To increase the number students attaining proficiency in all aspects of Literacy.

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• To increase the number of Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students reading at age appropriate PM readers by 20%;
• To increase the number of students in Year 3 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Writing by 50%.
• To increase the number of students in Year 5 at proficiency level using NAPLAN data in Writing by 20%.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
• the involvement of the District Support Learning Team for in-class support;
• accessing the Intensive Reading Class for identified students;
• the use of school-based support for individual withdrawal;
• focusing on Jolly Phonics as a Literacy base in the Infants room; and
• teacher professional learning in explicitly teaching the elements of writing.

About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analyzed 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.

Vivianne Fouracre      Principal
Melinda Squire           Classroom Teacher
Helen Hubbard           Teacher/Librarian
Gail Eulenstein           Administration Manager
Ivan Bettens           General Assistant

School contact information
Bellata Public School
Gurley Street, Bellata. NSW. 2397
Ph: 0267937514
Fax: 0267937462
Email: Bellata-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: Bellata-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 1175
Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: