

Marsden State High School - 2008 Annual Report

Empowering Individuals – Expanding Horizons – Creating Futures

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Principal's Foreword – Alan Jones

Introduction

This Annual report documents the schools achievements on a range of outcome measures for the last twelve months at Marsden SHS (2008). Marsden SHS is the comprehensive secondary school of choice for students in Logan City.

Marsden SHS has been operating since 1987 and has a long and proud tradition of providing quality public education for the youth of Logan City. Since then, the school has grown to over 1600 students. Marsden SHS has a strong sense of community and is able to offer individual attention combined with a comprehensive range of academic, sporting, vocational and cultural opportunities. Marsden enjoys an excellent reputation and has outstanding achievements across the academic, cultural, citizenship and sporting areas. We have outstanding staff who have contributed much to the lives of our students over the years. Marsden State High School provides you with many new, comprehensive and exciting opportunities for participation over your 5 years of high school. One of the hallmarks of Marsden State High School is the safe, disciplined and inclusive educational environment where young people can focus on achieving excellence in a range of academic, vocational, sporting and cultural pursuits.

As a school community we are focused upon communicating strong academic and social values where everyone is encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviours – the school is strongly focused on ensuring that each student has an opportunity to achieve their full potential by building a school culture that models and promotes **high expectations of learning, behaviour and uniform**. The School takes pride in its culture where the Academic Performance, Codes of Behaviour and Dress Standards support a strong Marsden State High School identity and school spirit within Logan City.

The school has an experienced and dynamic leadership team comprising over 50 support staff, 120 teachers headed by 14 Heads of Department, 2 Guidance Officers, 4 Deputy Principals and a Principal. The leadership team works with all staff in a collegial atmosphere where staff are challenged and supported to try new ideas to ensure continuous improvement. Marsden State High School's enrolment has continued to increase (1632 in 2009) while mobility is steady at about 30% of school enrolment.

Our student population comes from an extremely broad range of cultural and ethnic groups and Marsden SHS is proactive in valuing the diverse contributions of each of these groups to the richness of school life. Students are drawn primarily from the local government area of Logan City that is bound by Logan Motorway, and Mount Lindesay Highways. A large proportion of students however travel a significant distance from locations outside of these boundaries.

Strong and innovative partnerships and alliances with business, industry, government agencies and community organisations are a strong feature of Marsden State High School.

We are convinced that your course of study at this school will bring great benefits to you personally and professionally in the future. In the end success at school involves a healthy combination of **hard work and commitment** mixed with **fun and enjoyment**. This is an exciting, comprehensive and culturally vibrant school community where all students are challenged to work towards our school vision. We value parental involvement in our school activities and welcome visits from interested members of the school community.

Since 1987 the school has produced outstanding graduates whose education at Marsden State High School has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience – an experience that has provided them with the skills to make significant and positive contributions at local, state, national and international levels.



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Future Outlook

At Marsden SHS we understand that **organizations learn primarily through individuals who learn and grow**. As 2010 approaches Marsden SHS aims to build upon its strong traditions whilst starting think in new ways, leading in new ways and relating to the future in new ways. We need to explore new approaches to schooling that ensures we are in step with the interests and imperatives of our students.

Strong, consistent and stable leadership has been a cornerstone of Marsden SHS success over the past 20 years. In 2008 the school's executive leadership team comprising 4 Deputy Principals and a Principal has been very stable.

Throughout 2008 the Marsden SHS community continued to produce the highest possible academic and vocational education outcomes for a full range of students. During 2008 Marsden SHS has embarked on a program of curriculum reform in order to meet the changing needs of adolescents in the new age of technology and rapid global change. Other future developments included school uniform change, construction of world class training facilities in Hospitality and Construction, development of a middle school Literacy program, development of a corporate partnership with Bankwest, development of a Student Council, implementation of a school based aspiring leaders program for staff and the implementation of new Information Communication Technology infrastructures, personnel and philosophy. In 2009/2010/2011 the school aims to continue to improve its:

- Academic and Vocational Outcomes – namely OP results, VET qualifications and School Based Apprenticeship & Traineeships through the construction of the Trade Training Centre, implementation of the Federal National Partnerships for Low SES Schools and the *revolution* of student leadership across the school.



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School Profile

The Logan region is one of Queensland's most rapidly expanding with substantial residential population growth over a relatively short period of time. This growth is predicted to continue and will be stimulated further through infrastructure developments proposed in the Queensland Government South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2005 – 2016. The region is also characterised as having a community demographic comprising a relatively low socio-economic populous and an above average unemployment rate compared to other areas of the State. A disproportionately high level of the working population engages in work outside the region. These issues have impacted on young people within the community and present significant challenges to achieve work and training outcomes with local industry – generational unemployment and poverty is a real issue.

Marsden State High School is the largest secondary school operating within the Logan district of South East Queensland, with a student body of 1632. Marsden SHS is a comprehensive coeducational (boys and girls) state high school offering an extensive range of academic, vocational, cultural and sporting program including Schools of Excellence in Rugby League and Soccer:

Curriculum offerings

Marsden State High School offers students a **comprehensive range of curriculum pathways** across the Middle and Senior Phases of learning with a balance of academic, vocational, sporting and cultural experiences. Through our **Speciality Extension** curriculum model students have a real choice in determining the course that best meets their individual needs and helps them to achieve their goals and dreams.

The key to improving learning outcomes is to recognise the diverse education and training needs of young people, and provide a range of opportunities to meet those needs. Our school community believes that student engagement is a precursor to achievement and as such we strive to constantly explore new approaches to schooling that ensures we are in step with the interests and imperatives of our young people. We strive to provide high quality education experiences that makes a positive difference to the lives of all young people who enrol in our school community. We equip young people for the future to enable them to contribute to a socially, economically and culturally vibrant society.

The Curriculum in our school is flexible, broad and coherently organised around the 8 Key Learning Areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Study of Society & the Environment, The Arts, Health & Physical Education, Languages Other Than English, Technology). The school is structured around 4 x 70 minute learning blocks each day to allow us to focus on developing and extending literacy, numeracy and thinking skills. The school operates a flexible day structure with a 2:45pm finish for all students to allow them extra time for balancing their travel, study and work commitments. Students at Marsden State High school come from a variety of social/cultural groups and family backgrounds. While this makes for a diverse and dynamic learning community, it also means that students have a broad range of learning abilities and interests:

- The school offers a broad range of Queensland Studies Authority subjects and Vocational Education opportunities. Work Education is a feature of the school curriculum and this program has gained national attention.
- In the middle schooling curriculum, the accent is on providing all students with a broad education. The focus is on relationship building and cooperative learning skills necessary for Senior Schooling subject suites.
- Year 8 & 9 students study a set course with specialisation in 2 extension electives + 70min Literacy each week
- Year 10 is the commencement of the senior school where students can choose 4 elective subjects which will transition them for a learning pathway through the senior school
- Year 11 and 12 students are offered an extensive range of subjects to allow individualised learning pathways to be developed. These learning pathways are linked to each students post school options.
- Language Other Than English (LOTE) subject offered is Mandarin Chinese.
- Specialist classes are offered for Music, Mathematics, Science, Rugby League, Soccer and Netball.



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- Interschool sport is available for students in all year levels with Year 8 and Year 9 sport on Tuesdays and Year 10, 11 and 12 sport on Wednesdays.

One of the best things about Marsden SHS is the variety of activities students can participate in. Whether you are into sport, music, drama, science, debating – our school can cater for your needs and interests:

- Schools of Excellence – Rugby League & Soccer & Interschool Sport
- Debating, Academic Competitions, Tournament of Minds, School Musical, Rock Eisteddfod, Multi Cultural Concert, Marsden on Display Talent Quest
- Camps and Trips eg Ski Trip & China Trip
- A variety of modules such as Public Speaking, Desktop Publishing, First Aid and Hospitality are offered to the senior school for one session per week. Human Relationship Education is provided to all senior students in the module program.
- Instrumental Music is offered (percussion, strings, woodwind, brasswind).
- School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships, Work Education & Work Experience
- Active Student Leadership Programs

Significant improvement has occurred in the area of ICT's and the integration of technology into the curriculum. Marsden SHS is completely networked with a multi-media laboratory, 6 high-tech computer labs. The current student / computers ratio is 1:3. While we will continue to maintain this ratio, the emphasis will now be on increasing integration as a learning tool.

Social climate

Marsden SHS is the comprehensive secondary school of choice for students in Logan City. ABS Data describes the community as being in the low socio economic category. The region is also characterised as having a community demographic comprising a relatively low socio-economic populous and an above average unemployment rate compared to other areas of the State. Families work in a broad cross section of occupations. The School enjoys generous community support and families are supportive of the school's high expectations relating to Code of Dress and Code of Behaviour - we believe that everyone is responsible for his/her own behaviour and makes choices about appropriate behaviour. Hence, our school's behaviour plan is based on a positive approach to behaviour and proactive programs including "Smart Choice". All members of the school community are expected to conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others. Why do we have clear boundaries and consequences at Marsden SHS? Why do we have rules at Marsden SHS? Why are our expectations high? Although we set rules to provide order and effectively manage large groups of people, rules also play a vital role in students' learning. Setting rules and helping students follow them is part of the longer-term aim of helping young people to learn self-discipline and respect for others and to take responsibility for their actions. Our school rules are based on values such as fairness, inclusiveness, natural justice and equality and aim to make students take increasing responsibility for their own behaviour and the consequences of their actions. Consequently we enforce clear standards of academic and social behaviour where teaching and learning rights are promoted and protected. At the heart of our schools positive climate is the preservation of everyone's fundamental rights. Essential to effective learning at Marsden SHS is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment that respects the following RIGHTS:

- The rights of all students to learn
- The rights of teachers to teach
- The rights of all to be safe.

All members of the school community are expected to conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others. As a community we are aiming to create a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment that is:



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Violence Free – hands off other people and their property

Harassment Free - address and target bullying behaviours in a constructive manner

Smoke, Alcohol & Drug Free – keep drugs, alcohol & smoking out of the school environment

The welfare and well-being of our students is a high priority at Marsden High. The care of students is, in the first instance, the responsibility of the individual classroom teacher and associated Year Level Coordinator. If a problem or issue cannot be solved at this level, it may be referred to the Heads of Department, Deputy Principals, Principal, Guidance Officer, Special Needs or Learning Support staff, depending upon the specific need. Parents may contact the Year Level Coordinator or other staff listed in this Prospectus on the matter of a welfare issue at any time. It is important that your child feels happy and safe in our school environment to ensure they have the best possible chance to achieve their maximum potential. We need to be informed if all is not right. Students will be supported in their learning through government and community agencies working closely with the parents/caregivers, teacher/s and support personnel:

- Parents • School Based Police Officer
- Teachers • School Based Youth Health Nurse
- Heads of Department • Youth Support Coordinator (YFS)
- Head of Special Education Services • Career and Transition Support Staff
- Teacher Librarian • Advisory Visiting Teachers
- Administration Staff • Youth Pathways Advisor
- Guidance Officer • Student Engagement Officer
- School Chaplain • Student Support Services Staff
- Student Liaison Officer • Community Education Counsellor

Marsden State High School offers a comprehensive and diverse range of specialised student support services including a large Special Education Program (SEP) catering for students with disabilities, a specialist Behaviour Management Teacher and a large Learning Support Unit.

Marsden SHS has a diverse student population including 110 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students who are supported by a part time Community Education Counsellor/teacher aide and 351 Pacific Islander students.

Involving parents in their child's education.

Through the *Parents & Citizens' Association* we encourage active parent involvement in our decision-making processes. We strive to develop positive and caring interpersonal relationships between students, teachers and the community. The Parents' and Citizens' Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm in the school's Administration Block (Muchow Road entrance). The *Parents & Citizens' Association* serves: (a) as a forum for discussion and feedback about the school and its operations and (b) to provide students/school with resources not supplied by Education Queensland. It is vital that parents make the *Parents & Citizens' Association* their own ... it is a great opportunity to get directly involved in the school and a great way to get to know the Administration team and teachers of the school. Parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in school life and are coordinated through the Student and Community centre. The Parents and Citizen's Association manages the school canteen and uniform shop. The school holds both formal and informal interviews where parents and teachers get the opportunity to meet each other and discuss the progress and performance of a student. The school holds two (2) parent/caregiver reporting evenings each year. However, a parent does not have to wait until Parent/Teacher evening to talk with teachers - any mutually convenient time will do. Please do not hesitate to contact the school as soon as you feel there is a need.

Parent and caregiver support and the nurturing of positive caring and connected relationships at home, with clear rules and boundaries being established, can be one of the most important contributing factors to a child's success at school. Parents, in partnership with teachers, play a vital role in shaping our young people to become active, positive and productive citizens, who take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour, in their ever-changing life roles as family, community and workforce members.



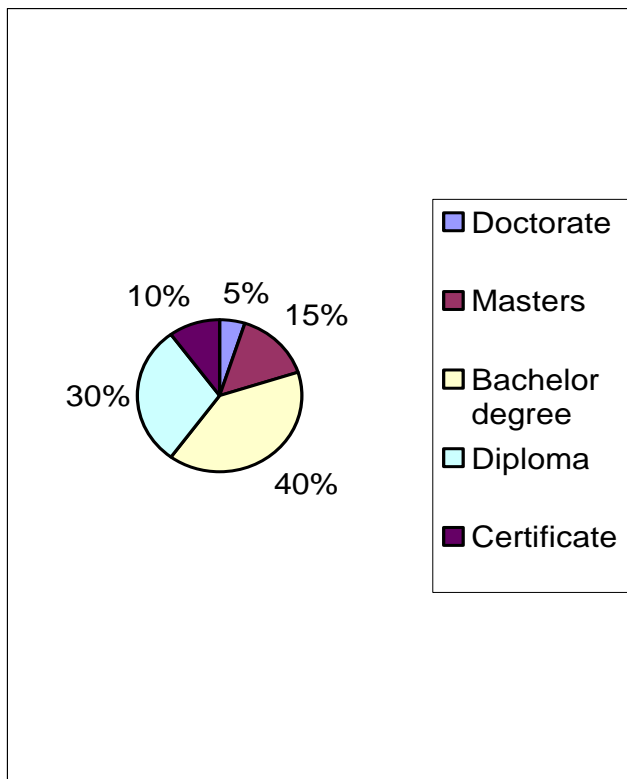
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Qualifications of our teachers:

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	5
Masters	15
Bachelor degree	40
Diploma	30
Certificate	10



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$30 000.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: Literacy, ICTs, Behaviour Support, QCAR & QCE Implementation, Syllabus Implementation and re-development of existing programs, AQTF Compliance Implementation.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100%.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 95% in 2008 (95% in 2007).

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 88% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year (84% in 2007).

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 82% (2007 was 84%).



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Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	532
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81 %
Writing	Average score for the school	513
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 70 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	548
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 78 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	526
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 71 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	531
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 82 %

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort. *(Revised in 2008 from Years 8-12 to Years 10-12)* 67%

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	182
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	10
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	79
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	NA
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	144
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	26
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	76
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	37 %



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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.	94 %
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	86 %

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.

Other Key Outcomes

Value added

The School is very active in building partnerships with industry and business and also seeks additional funds as a result of submissions and entrepreneurial activities. The school's relationship with Bankwest through the ABCN partnership has seen an increasing focus and development upon student leadership. These additional ventures provide students with enriched learning experiences and career opportunities. At the end of 2008 the school undertook a review of its vision/values statements and reinforced the following student and teacher focus areas. HIGH EXPECTATIONS are at the heart of our vision. There is no substitute for hard work and the best advice we can give students and parents is: Attendance, positive behaviour and full completion of class work, homework and assessment are the keys to achieving the best possible results for all students.

To assist students to achieve their full potential we have developed a simple yet powerful plan that we will be using on a daily basis with students. We have deliberately highlighted the "i" in **@marsden.i** to reflect our focus on the INDIVIDUAL and their responsibility in modelling and upholding the high standards of Marsden SHS:

2008 Student Focus	
@marsden.i	arrive on time, with all the right tools
	am positive and give 100%
	carry my planner at all times
	wear the uniform with pride
	show respect for people & the grounds
	will expand my horizons

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Significant improvements in all of these areas were evident throughout the 2008 school year.

- Staff morale increased from 60% in 2007 to 80% in 2008.
- Percentage of parent/caregivers satisfied that the school is a good school increased from 60% in 2007 to 86% in 2008
- Percentage of students or parent/caregivers satisfied that they are getting a good education at school...parents satisfaction has increased from 20% in 2007 to 100% in 2008, whilst students satisfaction was 34%.



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