	PO address	King St Yangan 4371
	Phone	4664 8224
	Fax	4664 8417
	Email	<a href="mailto:the.principal@yanganss.eq.edu.au">the.principal@yanganss.eq.edu.au</a>
	Website or Contact Person	Mr Ian Rathmell

## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

This School Annual Report outlines the operations and outcomes for the 2007 school year. Essentially, it examines our performance as a school community in achieving our goal – improving student outcomes.

To improve student outcomes, we track student achievement at key junctures: Year 2 (through the Diagnostic Net), Years 3, 5 and 7 testing and through other assessment strategies. Student, parent and staff feedback about the processes and outcomes of the school as an entity are vital. The School Opinion Survey is our key tool to track this data. We are very proud that we were able to maintain our high standard in nearly every aspect measured.

Our purpose at Yangan State School is to provide high quality learning opportunities that cater for the needs and aspirations of all students in becoming highly motivated, competent learners. Our school aspires to securing success for all our students by: **Caring** for one another; **Improving** our performances; and **Contributing** to our school and community. The pursuit of academic excellence for all students generates successful outcomes, and becomes the foundation for lifelong learning. Features of Yangan State School are our committed staff, innovative programs, quality facilities, and strong community ties. We have highly dedicated and talented staff. Our staff's commitment to the personal, all-round development of their students is evident through a high level of involvement in a variety of activities and programs.

### Future outlook

With so many positives coming out of 2007, it will be a challenge to maintain standards, especially community opinion. Therefore, it is vital to evolve and continue to offer innovative and responsive curriculum that meets the needs of our students and their parents. Our major emphasis in Semester One will be the opportunity to combine with other schools (cluster initiative) in a J Rock performance and exposure to a cultural experience through the Arts.

The Key Strategic directions of Yangan State School for 2008 will be:

- Consolidating ICTs outcomes for students and staff
- Focusing on Curriculum and Assessment alignment
- Continuing the engagement with Professional Standards for Teachers
- Implementation of the Triennial School Review
- The School Curriculum Plan will remain a high priority, with a review and re-alignment of our plan to come into line with QCAR's Essential Learnings and Standards
- Involvement in One School.

# Our school at a glance

## School Profile

Yangan State School is situated on the eastern edge of the Warwick Shire, on the road between Warwick and Killarney. Our small school provides a multi-grade co-educational education from Prep to Year 7 for 62 students from a largely agricultural area. Our school has a wide range of excellent facilities. Features of our school include: modern teaching spaces, modern playground equipment, extensive computer network, an irrigated sports oval, large undercover play area, music room, a fully equipped kitchen and a garden nursery.

## Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum has a central focus of developing high levels of literacy and numeracy. Integrated studies is used to provide real life and challenging learning experiences that encompass the other syllabus areas and provide an application arena for literacy and numeracy. The curriculum areas of Physical Education, Music and Languages Other than English (French) are taught by specialist teachers. The distinctive features within this design are:

- Learning experiences that are relevant, inclusive, flexible, intellectually challenging and innovative.
- Focuses on a problem based curriculum where students investigate to identify, explore and solve real life issues in their local area.
- Empowers students to become active, self-directed investigators and learners; creative, adept producers; empathetic, social leaders and collaborators; knowledgeable, complex thinkers and problem solvers; caring global contributors; responsive, effective listeners and communicators; and confident, self-managed learners.
- Assessment and reporting is constructive. It focuses on what the students know and can do and where the criterion is shared with the students.

We are currently involved in cluster based professional development with essential learnings and standards as outlined by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Framework in preparation for the review our School Curriculum Plan.

## Extra curricula activities

In addition to this formal curriculum our students:

- Participate in a regular interschool sport program with schools in Warwick, Killarney and Allora,
- Are regularly selected in Zone and District Sporting Teams,
- Participated in National Competitions in Mathematics, Science and English,
- Participated in community events; QCWA Country of Study Competition, Jump Rope For Heart, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day Markets, Tanny Sports, etc.
- Student Council fund raising for charity. Chosen charities for 2007 were Shave for a Cure, Rural Fire Brigade, Jump Rope for Heart and Asthma Foundation.
- Participate in a School Choir which performs at local and district events,
- Are involved in a leadership development program to enhance their personal development and their contribution to our school and local community, and
- Access an outdoor education program in the middle years through Jacob's Well Environmental School.

## How computers are used to assist learning

Information and communication technologies are used extensively as an integrating tool that enhances the learning process. Our school recognises the importance of computers in learning, and as such has invested significantly over the past 12 months to renew ageing resources. Each class has access to a ratio of 1 computer per 2.5 students. Digital cameras and newly installed SMART boards have enhanced the learning experiences. Staff regularly integrate ICT's into curriculum delivery and ensure students have frequent exposure to computer technologies. Computers are used in curriculum programs to constantly research, word process, construct presentations, email and undertake curriculum programs. The increased motivation will inevitably lead to a greater degree of student success.

### Social climate

At YANGAN STATE SCHOOL we aim to achieve quality educational outcomes for every student. We focus on providing an intellectually challenging and relevant curriculum while caring for each child as an individual. Our goal is for every child to respond to the school motto "*Learning Together*" and live by our school values of:

- **Caring** for one another;
- **Improving** our performances; and
- **Contributing** to our school community.

The community readily supports the school. The Parents and Citizen's Association is very active with meetings, working bees and fundraising functions. Celebration Days allow students to share learning outcomes with visitors. Special functions are organised to include the wider community in our school. Everyone appreciates the genuine efforts being made to make each child feel a special and a valued member of our community.

In the systemic School Opinion Survey:

96% of students are satisfied or very satisfied that they are safe at this school.

99% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied that their child is safe at this school.

80% of students are satisfied or very satisfied about the behaviour of students at this school.

87% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with student discipline.

96% of students are satisfied or very satisfied that their child is happy to go to this school.

87% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied that their child is happy to go to this school.

These areas are rated significantly above the state means.

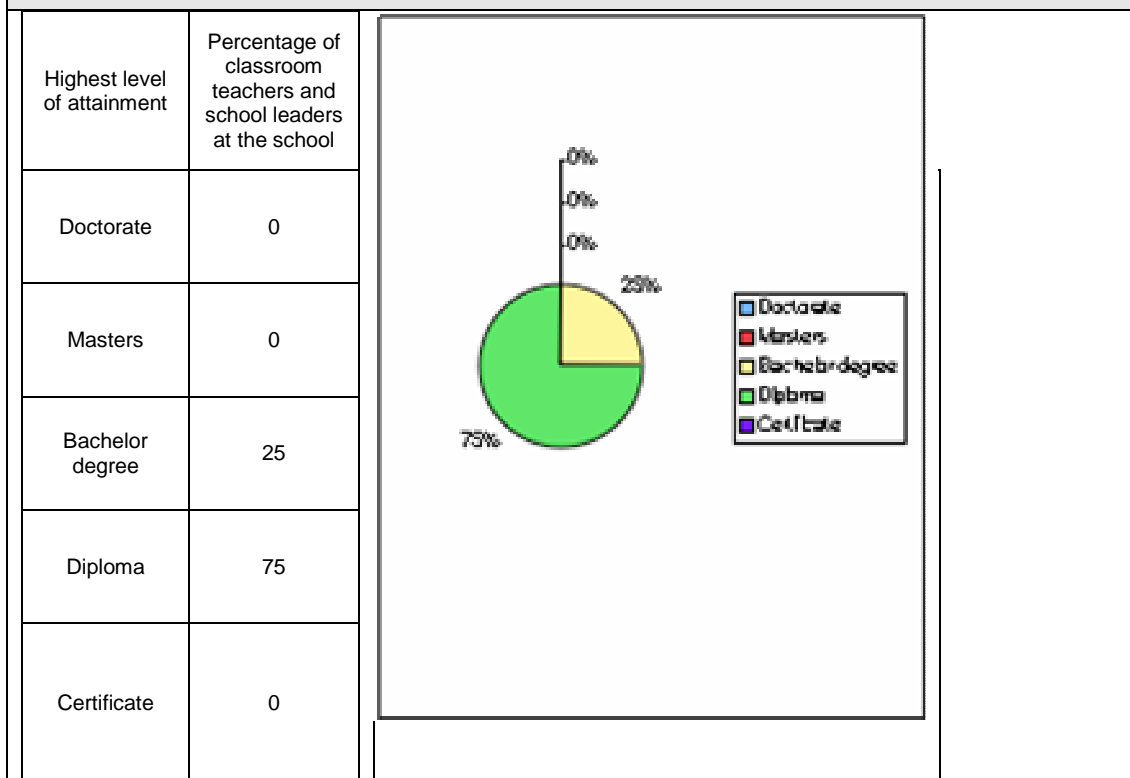
### Involving parents in their child's education.

- Positive communication between home and school is considered essential to promote achievement as well as deal with situations that are less than positive. Parents are encouraged to support teachers in classrooms and attend regular, necessary parent/teacher conferences in order to strengthen the educational partnership.
- Parents are welcome in the school at any time to observe, discuss or support student learning and to participate in the school's collaborative decision making process. Regular invitations are offered to parents to be involved in school-based activities.
- Written student reports are shared twice a year with parents and parent/teacher interviews are offered each semester. Yangan State School uses a range of strategies to involve parents.

Our school community actively participates in the school through:

- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Celebration days
- P.A.C.T. reading program
- Sporting events
- Formal parade
- Information evenings
- Attendance at Parents and Citizens Meetings
- Volunteering their support in maintenance of the school grounds.
- Regular informal contact enables the partnership between home and school to foster and grow.

## Qualifications of all teachers.



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2007 was \$7472.40. The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- The Prep Curriculum - Early Childhood Education
- Literacy (Teacher Aides)
- Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (Assessment Immersion)
- Mathematics Syllabus Workshops
- EAP Training
- Crossing Cultures
- Primary Connections (Science)
- First Aid
- Teacher Aide conference
- Information and Communications Technology - Use of SMART Boards

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2007 was 75 %.

## Our staff profile

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2007.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2006 school year, 100% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2007 school year.

# Performance of our students

## Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2007 was 95%.

## Key outcomes in the early and middle phases of learning

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net	
	Percentage of students not requiring additional support
Reading	80 %
Writing	80 %
Number	100 %

## Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Years 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.

		Yr 3	Yr 5	Yr 7	
Reading	Average score for the school	543	570	662	
	Average score for Queensland	527	606	672	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	60 %	100 %
		2006	91 %	83 %	75 %
Writing	Average score for the school	544	608	729	
	Average score for Queensland	523	600	681	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	100 %	100 %
		2006	91 %	100 %	100 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	534	582	686	
	Average score for Queensland	521	588	648	
	Percentage of students at the school above the national benchmark	2007	100 %	90 %	89 %
		2006	92 %	100 %	100 %

## Other Key Outcomes

### Value added

Maintaining high expectations for student performance, provision of support to improve learning and a focus on the adoption of effective teaching strategies and classroom management is reflected in student achievement. The mean score for student performance during 2007 is flagged significantly above the mean score for state and like schools for Years 3 and 7 in most aspects of numeracy and literacy in state wide testing. Year 5 mean results are similar to or above the state mean in all areas of literacy and numeracy. The continued improvement in literacy and numeracy outcomes reflects the schools commitment to providing support for uninterrupted literacy and numeracy blocks each school day.

### Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The student, parent and teacher responses as identified in the 2007 School Opinion Survey data displayed strong satisfaction with the school, which was significantly above state mean. The following information outlines the strengths identified when reviewing the data available from the 2007 School Opinion Survey.

#### **Students satisfaction:**

87% of students are satisfied that they are getting a good education from this school

**Strengths:** that this is a good school, that you are getting a good education, with what they are learning and variety of activities that they do in the classroom, all aspects of learning climate – teacher support, help and interest, happy and safe, access to computers and internet and all aspects of resources.

#### **Parents satisfaction:**

87% of parents are satisfied that their child is getting a good education from this school.

96% of parents are satisfied that this is a good school.

**Strengths:** that the school makes them feel welcome, resources within the school grounds, that the school is preparing their child for the future, that the school provides good learning opportunities for their child.

#### **Staff satisfaction:**

Staff are very happy to work at Yangan State School, with 100% being satisfied or very satisfied with staff morale at the school.

**Strengths:** physical work environment, relationships, staff morale, work roles, school operations- know what is going on.