

Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre

2008 School Annual Report

School Details

PO Address:	PO Box 6511 Mackay Mail Centre Mackay QLD 4741
Phone:	4954 1426
Fax:	4954 1005
Email:	the.principal@kinchantoec.eq.edu.au
Website:	www.kinchantoec.eq.edu.au

Principal's Foreword

Introduction

Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre is a unique school located at Kinchant Dam in the scenic Pioneer Valley. The Centre is located half an hour west of Mackay near the township of Mirani. It is a Band 7 school that is staffed by a Principal, a teacher, three teacher aides (instructors) who assist in program facilitation, and other skilled ancillary officers.

Services offered by the Centre include student programs, professional development programs, resource support services, consultancy and conference facilities.

These services are available to students and staff from primary, secondary and special education campuses, as well as other Education Queensland personnel. Community groups may also access the Centre during non-school booking times. Residential facilities allow clients to remain on site throughout their visit.

The curriculum encompasses the areas of personal and social development, adventure and the environment with links to the KLAs. It addresses broad educational aims for all clients and can supplement specific subject areas for school groups.

Future Outlook

Learning

- * Develop assessment and reporting tools and integrate Essential Learnings.
- * Expand the High Ropes course (middle and team courses).
- * Relocate the Eagles Leap and Flying Fox.
- * Establish VET programs.
- * Integrate ICT into programs.
- * Introduce mobile programs/team challenge.
- * Establish an onsite bush campout site.
- * Installation of wireless network access points.

Schools

- * Partnerships with CTQ and Manual Arts departments to construct cabins and other projects.
- * Tent platforms and roofing.
- * Replace marquees at campsite with a multi-purpose undercover area.
- * Progress the Learnscape project.
- * 12 bay shed to protect and secure craft.
- * Replace tractor/mower.
- * Recommissioning of the new treatment plant.

Workforce

- * All staff enrolled in further education courses to complete them successfully.
- * Expand the pool of suitably qualified and experienced personnel from which the Centre can draw upon in times of staff absences or turnover.
- * Advocate for an additional teacher and a Unit Support Officer (combination of a Janitor Groundsman and Teacher Aide unique to Centres).

Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total enrolments:	N/A
Year levels offered:	P-12
Structure:	Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings and Extra Curricula Activities:

* In a school setting most of the Centres' regular curriculum would be considered as distinctive (refer to hyperlink for matrix of activities).
* Although our curriculum and setting might be considered as unique, our pedagogical approach is no different to any other which seeks to engage learners and create a supportive environment that fosters an atmosphere of trust, co-operation, and feelings of accomplishment.
* By placing students in a novel setting and presenting them with unique problem solving situations, individual barriers are broken down and a heightened level of cognitive arousal develops. We believe that this state of disequilibrium created is essential for learning to occur.

Parents, in the Opinion Survey, reported a level of satisfaction with the variety of school activities at N/A%

Students reported their level of satisfaction at N/A%

How computers are used to assist learning:

Every staff member has a personal desk top computer in addition to a dedicated multimedia computer to facilitate creating challenging learning experiences for students.
The Centre installed a server in 2007 and is now operating within the departments MOE.
The Centre now has four desktop computers, two laptops and a multimedia entertainment system that visiting teachers and students can access.
Centre teachers have received their laptops under the "Computers for Teachers " rollout and are in the process of obtaining their pedagogical licence.

Social climate

Our strength is our commitment to providing every individual with a memorable and valuable learning experience. Each program is designed to meet the specific needs of each school and contribute to:

- developing the skills and desire for lifelong learning,
- preparing young people to become active and reflective Australian citizens,
- supporting students to become active in community, economic and political life and;
- building students' confidence in their relationships with other cultures in Australia and abroad.

School beliefs about behaviour and learning

"Using Adventure to Strengthen Learning"

Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre operates under the belief that for effective teaching and learning to occur, appropriate relationships must be developed. Students are encouraged to reach toward an acceptable level of 'maturity' and accept responsibility for their own behaviours. The behaviours of visiting students, visiting staff, and centre staff are affected by a wide array of societal values and beliefs. Each individual has personal rights and also responsibilities which affect the nature of their relationships with others and the behaviours they demonstrate within this learning environment. There is a recognised joint responsibility between the individual (and their family) and the education system (the school and the centre) for their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. It is acknowledged that the education system has a responsibility to systematically plan for learning experiences that further develop attitudes, values and beliefs that are in accord with those generally accepted in our society.

Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre

Our school at a glance

Whole-school behaviour support

Kinchant OEC's proactive and preventive whole-of-site strategies focus on:

- facilitating the development of acceptable standards of behaviour to create a caring, productive and safe environment for learning and teaching
- promoting an effective learning and teaching environment that allows positive aspirations, relationships and values to develop
- fostering mutual respect
- encouraging all students to take increasing responsibility for their own behaviour and the consequences of their actions.

The network of student support

Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre endeavours to complement the team approach to behaviour support that schools bring with them to the Centre. Where appropriate this includes the involvement of school administrators, staff, students, parents and members of the wider community and personnel from other agencies.

N/A% of students reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

N/A% of parents reported satisfaction with the behaviour of students at this school.

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Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education

- * Parents are always welcome to visit their children when on program during the day or even reside on-site for part or all of the duration. Not having a stable student population or parent body, the opinions of visiting parents and students are sought both formally (surveys/evaluations) and informally (conversations) whenever possible to help guide future development.
- * An information booklet is provided to schools to pass on to parents to explain the purpose of the program and expectations of their students when attending.
- * Parents are fully welcomed at the Centre, either in the capacity of assisting with the program or just to visit and share part of the experience with their child. No fees are charged for either parents or teachers so as to encourage the maximum support.
- * Parents are also invited to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the program.
- * Students, along with their parents, are encouraged to access the Centre's website either pre or post program.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

N/A% of parents expressed satisfaction that their child is getting a good education at school.

Students reported their level of satisfaction at N/A%

Parent responses to the Opinion Survey question about this being a good school indicated a level of satisfaction at N/A%

85.7% of staff members reported that they were satisfied with the morale in the school.

Value added

The Adventure Based Learning Experiences (ABLE) and the way in which they are designed and facilitated, value add to and enrich students' capabilities in areas such as skills for life long learning:

- * Social and personal competence.
- * Meeting challenging complex, real life challenges in a supportive environment.
- * Problem solving and critical enquiry.
- * Developing and managing self.
- * Becoming an active participant in local and global contexts.
- * Developing cross-curricular capabilities and life skills.

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was N/A%

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Our Staff Profile

Qualifications of all teachers and school leaders

Highest level of attainment

Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school

Doctorate

Masters

Bachelor degree

50

Diploma

50

Certificate

Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$3302

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

Courses and converences included:

- * Regional learning development and training days.
- * Regional, state and national Outdoor Education conferences.
- * First Aid and CPR.
- * Advanced Resusitation.
- * Website design and maintenance.
- * Canoe and kayak instructors.
- * Food safety.
- * Microsoft Office software training.
- * Multimedia studies.
- * Vertical Rescue.
- * Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment.
- * Construction Blue Card.
- * Purcasing and Procurement Training.

The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was N/A%

Average staff attendance

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate in 2008 was 99%

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

100% of staff were retained by the school from the end of the 2007 school year for the entire 2008 school year.