Waikerie Primary School is considered to be an outstanding school by the local community, a reputation I am extremely proud of. As principal of Waikerie Primary School, I have worked hard with staff and parents to ensure we are driven by the philosophy of educating the ‘whole child.’

To educate the whole child it is important that our school values are embedded in our policies, procedures and day to day activities. Our values of respect, responsibility, care, confidence, honesty and persistence are the backbone to everything we do.

The 2015 Annual Report is an avenue for us to review our past 12 months and look to the future. It provides an array of information that validates the achievement and endeavours of students at Waikerie Primary School.

As a staff we use the information in the annual report as evidence to support the culture of improvement that drives the school. We are constantly looking at ways to improve teaching practices to ensure our students receive the best possible education.

Our progress towards being ‘better’ at what we do was confirmed during the External School Review conducted by the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) in June 2015.

The chairperson of the review panel, reported: ‘Waikerie Primary School is performing well. The school has comprehensive data available to guide the school’s direction-setting and monitor achievement, growth and well-being. The school has a demonstrated capacity to self-review effectively and plan strategically for improvement using the analysis of the data. The leadership team demonstrated capacity to lead curriculum and pedagogical change in accordance with the directions it has established. The school works in partnership with the parents and community.’

The report from the External Review validated the extensive training and development undertaken by staff over the past few years. We worked together as a team to develop strategies to assist students using data from the previous years as evidence.

Staff were proud to read the positive comments from the review panel that highlighted this work. The report provides us with a magnificent blueprint to guide our goals for the coming years. To read the report, please visit our website.

At Waikerie Primary School we aim to create a challenging learning environment with the support system a student needs to succeed. Our individualised approach to learning ensures all children have a clear vision of the steps they need to take to progress well.

I am proud of our school and want to take the time to thank all of the staff for their dedication in creating unique learning opportunities. Every day we work hard to ensure your child’s education is as engaging and challenging as possible. We want a bright future for all Waikerie Primary School students.

As principal, I am encouraged by the results and highlights and look forward to your feedback about this Annual Report.

Belinda Krollig
Principal
60% of students achieve the DECD Standard of Education Achievement in reading by the end of Year 1.

63% of students reach the target by the end of Year 2.

Good progress in one year but there’s more to do!
Site Improvement Plan

A Site Improvement Plan outlines a school’s priorities and goals for the future. It is an important document for a school and provides all stakeholders with clear directions for the future.

The Waikerie Primary School Site Improvement Plan focuses on our students being powerful learners.

We aim to:

• Improve student engagement in reading
• Develop higher level comprehension skills
• Strengthen understanding of problem solving strategies
• Increase mathematical vocabulary
• Encourage students to use positive and optimistic language to build social skills

Your child is growing up in a rapidly changing globalised environment. It is vital to have the skills that allow you to work anywhere in the world. We have recognised the changing nature of the society we live in and have made it our focus to provide students with the skills to communicate effectively and express their feelings appropriately in different settings.

Through a consistent and collaborative whole school teaching approach, students at Waikerie Primary School are supported to reach their potential. We look forward to seeing many alumni from Waikerie Primary making their mark on the world in the future.

Student Achievement

One of the proudest achievements for our school in 2015 is our case management strategy.

All students at Waikerie Primary are monitored regularly to provide timely and targeted intervention to ensure success. Our data system follows your child throughout their schooling and is proving vital in gauging student progress.

The External Review team applauded our annual self review processes and how we reflect on our systems and programs. This learning translates an update of the Site Improvement Plan.

Standardised testing reveals that our students' comprehension skills and higher order thinking skills (reasoning, critical thinking, analysis, judgement and applying knowledge to new situations) still require additional development to meet our targets.

In 2016 we will continue professional learning in Sheena Cameron’s strategies to ensure consistent implementation of these strategies across the school. Consistency in our teaching practice reduces variation between classrooms and builds on student knowledge across the years.
The most impressive statistic from our NAPLAN testing is how many of our students score in the top 3 proficiency bands compared to similar schools.

**YEAR 3**
- Reading: 69%
- Writing: 59%
- Numeracy: 45%

**YEAR 5**
- Reading: 40%
- Writing: 35%
- Numeracy: 25%

**YEAR 7**
- Reading: 69%
- Writing: 34%
- Numeracy: 58%
The $24,632 Better Schools Funding we received in 2015 allowed us to employ School Service Officers (SSOs) to deliver personalised learning programs to support students. Waikerie Primary School is a medium sized rural school with students all at different points in their learning growth cycle. It is important that as a school, we provide programs that cater for the individual needs of our students.

Our frequent monitoring of individual students provides us with the knowledge we need to direct our school resources to where they are needed. Using this data we can determine which students may need additional support with their learning. This could be in the form of an individualised intervention program or in class assistance from an SSO.

The funding we have received from the Better Schools program is a major component of the fantastic results Waikerie Primary School has achieved in the past year. Using data to direct resources means we are spending money in the most important areas with our students being the ultimate winners. ATSI students and students with English as a second language have both benefited from small group support to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes.

In 2015, our Early Years funding was directed towards supporting students to develop their reading skills with before school reading and early intervention in phonological awareness. This has supported the early acquisition of reading skills.

Our kindy to school transition was further strengthened in 2015. Staff and Support Services worked together as a team to support children prior to enrolment. We also met with parents to personalise their child’s entry to school and ensure their needs were met from day one.
School attendance is a joint responsibility between school and the home. It is our goal to continue to work with families to ensure children have every opportunity to maximise their learning.

It is vital that children attend school as often as possible. Staying home for illness and significant family issues are reasons that are acceptable.

Our intention is to further open up the communication lines so that we can hear the story behind absenteeism and develop strategies to improve attendance.

The attendance rate for our Reception to Year 3 students is reasonably steady at approximately 93%.

Unfortunately there was a 4% drop in our attendance rate for Year 6 and 7 students from 2014 to 2015. This is an area for concern as some students will go on to high school having missed 10% of their school year.
Staff Qualifications

Staff at Waikerie Primary School are all fully qualified professionals who commit their time and energy to educating your child. We continue to dedicate significant time to professional development to learn the best ways to support our students.

We have adopted the KidsMatter initiative to support the mental health and wellbeing of students at our school. The KidsMatter program aligns with other schools in our partnership to provide all students in Loxton Waikerie with the best learning environment possible.

It is always our intention to maintain a safe and secure environment for students at our school. All community volunteers and parents are screened and inducted before working with students as required by DECD.

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<td>Bachelor Degree or Diplomas</td>
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Finance Report

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<tr>
<td>2 Grants: Commonwealth</td>
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