

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Raywood Primary School (1844)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

About Our School

School context

Raywood Primary School is a small rural school in the township of Raywood, 26 km from Bendigo. Our school has the values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and RESILIENCE which we actively teach to our students by way of identifying positive behaviours expected across the school and wider settings. Raywood Primary School's Statement of Purpose is to ensure that we equip our students to have the knowledge, skills and confidence for personal success. We treat each child as an individual and recognise that each student brings to school their own unique set of experiences, beliefs and dispositions and that they should always feel accepted, valued and capable of success.

In 2022 our school began the year with 14 students, reaching an enrolment of 15 students in second term, before declining to 13 students by the end of Term 3. In 2022, Raywood Primary School had two full time classroom teachers, a part-time tutor learning specialist (0.2), Education Support Staff (part-time, shared between two different staff members during the year), a part-time business manager and a full-time principal with some teaching duties. The students were organised into two classrooms with six students in a Prep-Year 3 class and nine students in a Year 4-6 class. Our Tutor Learning Specialist attended school each Wednesday and worked with small numbers of students in the areas of Reading, Writing and Numeracy; their program was altered throughout the year so as to best cater for student point of need learning at any given time. Our school was also fortunate to continue to be a part of the Mobile Area Reading Centre (MARC) program, which saw our students receive fortnightly library sessions which focused on literacy skills. In addition to the core curriculum areas of English (Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening) and Mathematics which are both focused upon daily, our students also had bi-weekly Integrated Studies sessions where they learned via high interest topics with a geography, history and science focus. Students enjoyed daily fitness sessions as part of our Health and Physical Education Program as well as specialised sporting sessions and experiences such as Kelly Sports, cluster athletics, cluster swimming, cluster winter/summer sports and an intensive swimming and water safety program. In 2022, Raywood Primary School also introduced fortnightly Outdoor Education Sessions for our students and Respectful Relationships sessions were also held each fortnight. In the second half of the year the curriculum was boosted with specialised music sessions and drama lessons for all of our students.

Enrolments have been in decline over the past few years and the school staff have worked hard to promote Raywood Primary School within the local community. In 2022 a new website was launched which included lots of written and photographic information about the school, we also made the shift to an online digital newsletter which broadened our circulation and allowed for coloured copies of our news to be sent far and wide. School flyers were also produced and distributed.

In 2022, we did not have any students who were funded under the program for students with disabilities. Around half of our students were from outside of the Raywood Township, with some living in Bendigo but still choosing to come here after having moved away from Raywood in recent years. All of our students speak English as their first and only language and no students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. All of our students were born in Australia.

Our school facilities are excellent with a modern main building that houses two classrooms, and open learning space, a withdrawal/resource room, offices, sickbay, staffroom/kitchen and a room to store ICT infrastructure such as the server. Outer buildings include the original school building consisting of two classroom spaces, a store room and a foyer- this building is where our specialist classes take place. We also have a toilet block and old staffroom- which we have turned into a kitchen to host Breakfast Club and cooking classes. The school is very fortunate to have access to the community stadium which is on our grounds, this large area provides space for play on rainy days, court space for games and sports and a large area for hosting events (such as Science Day). In addition to these buildings, the school has expansive grounds with an oval, play equipment area and an outdoor court.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Our Teacher Judgements show that 91.7 % of our our students in Years P-6 achieved English results that were at or above the standard expected for their particular year level. This score was well above the "Similar Schools" Average of 77.3% and also higher than the State Average of 87%. NAPLAN results in the English areas could not be published for 2022, due to small cohort numbers;

however, the school's four-year average in Year 3 and Year 5 Reading demonstrates that Raywood Primary School students achieved results well above the "Similar Schools" scores and also above the state averages. The Teacher Judgements for student achievement in Mathematics demonstrates that in 2022, 100% of our students in all year levels achieved at or above the expected standards, exceeding the State Average by 14% and the "Similar Schools" Average by over 21%. Similarly, Raywood Primary School's four-year average in NAPLAN Numeracy achievements demonstrate that 90% of our Year 5 students were in the Top Three Bands, compared to half of that in the "Similar Schools" category. These scores see the school tracking well to reach the Strategic Plan goal having less than 10% of our students in the bottom two NAPLAN bands for Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The scores also indicate that we are on track for achieving 95% of students making 12 months or more growth using Teacher Judgements by 2025 (when averaged across Years 1-6). Small class sizes with experienced teachers are strong contributing factors in these results. The Tutor Learning Initiative also has meant that students who were identified as requiring specialised assistance in particular areas of Reading, Writing or Mathematics were able to be provided targeted teaching and assistance. Teacher professional development in the areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, throughout 2022, meant that these were areas of focus and classroom teachers were able to provide increased targeted programs and set meaningful student learning goals for our students.

Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing was the core of all decisions we made with regard programs, day to day interactions and initiatives. After two interrupted years of schooling, a decline in student numbers and a change in leadership, staff set about ensuring that our students felt connected to school and were excited and inspired by the programs and initiatives on offer. We introduced initiatives with a Wellbeing focus such as the Schools Breakfast Club Program, East Loddon FoodShare, Year 6 Values Leaders and a fortnightly whole-school Respectful Relationships Program. The Schools Mental Health Funding meant we could offer our families holiday respite through the Kelly Sports Holiday Program as well as train a staff member in the Berry Street Education Model. These were all Actions and Outcomes listed in our 2022 School Strategic Plan. The 2022 Annual Improvement Plan had a Wellbeing Target related to our Student Absence Data, which was to show that 100% of our students would have less than 20 absence days. The school fell short of meeting this target with 72% of our students having less than 20 absence days in 2022. Many of these absences from in the first part of the year were due to Covid isolation rules being in place, student illness and some students being on family holidays for the first time in years due to Covid restrictions being lifted. Raywood Primary School's Annual Improvement Plan 2022, had a target of 90% positive responses in relation to Resilience in the Student Attitudes to School Survey. Our results were a little disappointing in that we had a positive endorsement of 63% and 37% of students giving a neutral response. We hope that after a full twelve months of our Wellbeing initiatives that student resilience has further improved. Our daily morning fitness program and morning check-in provided teachers with an opportunity to engage with each student and start the day off with a warm greeting and getting our bodies and minds active. It provided teachers with the opportunity to check in with the students and notice if there was anyone that was in need of some extra support or monitoring, understanding or assistance that day.

Engagement

Raywood Primary School worked hard to focus on Student Voice and Agency throughout 2022. The staff wanted the students to truly understand what is meant by the terms voice and agency when it comes to their learning, their class and the school as a whole. Students were all asked to work through a series of lessons around identifying values that they would like our school to adopt. The teaching staff worked alongside the students to explore possible values, what they might mean and look like in our school and how we could go about representing them. The students took full ownership of these values and the associated positive behaviours and remained totally engaged throughout these activities. The Student Attitudes to School Survey results for Student Voice and Agency was at 81% positive endorsement and was just shy of our 89% Strategic Plan target. Teaching staff recognised individual differences and needs in their students and worked hard to explicitly cater for each student at their point of need. The Student Attitudes to School Survey results for Differentiated Learning Challenge came in just 2% shy of our 98% Strategic Plan target.

Teachers used mentor texts to better engage our students in reading and exploring the writing traits. This method saw our students become extremely engaged with particular books, authors and topics. Our students looked forward to the days when mentor texts were being used in the Reading/Writing classes.

Raywood Primary School recognises the importance of our students engaging within their local community and we therefore incorporated many events and activities into our school programs. Students participated in the Walk Safely To School event and the Clean Up Australia Day schools' event and were supported by the local policeman at these events. Students also led the local Anzac and Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the school, inviting community in to our grounds to participate.

Raywood Primary School students were given many opportunities to mix with students from other schools at a range of events in 2022. Being a part of the Campaspe Small Schools Cluster, our students participated in Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Camps (Yr 3/4 to Camp Kookaburra and Yr 5/6 to Anglesea), Science Day, Summer and Winter Sports.

Our students were very fortunate in 2022, in being able to access opportunities where learning could take place outside of the classroom. Our students were visited by representatives from Bendigo Shire Waste Management and provided a very engaging lesson on Recycling (which aligned with our Outdoor Education Program) and we also had an in-school visit from Coliban Water to learn about the water cycle. Students travelled to Quantum Science Centre and were thoroughly engaged in the activities on offer (bringing their learning back into the classroom), the students visited Scienceworks and the Planetarium- which gave them the opportunity to expand their classroom learning.

Outdoor Education Sessions which saw our students learn within and explore their natural surroundings was very popular amongst the students. The vegetable garden revamp saw us be able to grow our own produce and use it for cooking, which the students loved doing. Community donations of seeds and seedlings meant that our school felt supported by the local community.

Student absence data for 2022, showed that the average number of absence days for our students (21.4 days) was below the State Average and the Similar Schools Average which was pleasing.

The staff at Raywood Primary School made a concentrated effort to strike the right balance between traditional classroom learning, hands-on learning, explorative learning and learning by engagement and experiences beyond the classroom.

Other highlights from the school year

The year began at Raywood Primary School with our school being awarded the Healthiest School Award- seeing us win against much larger schools with more specialist programs. Our students and school community were excited to be given a trophy and a cash grant. Students later used the cash to purchase a 3D printer (after seeing what these printers can do at Quantum Science Centre). Winning this award got the year off to a great start.

The Bendigo City Mayor came to visit our students to congratulate them on their award and to explain what she does in her role. This visit meant a lot to our students and they gained a great deal of insight from it.

Our students were able to attend camps for the first time in years. Our Year 4 students attended a three day camp at Corop (Camp Kookaburra) which saw them engage in outdoor pursuits alongside students from five other small schools. It was a very successful camp. The Year 5/6 students were fortunate to have a camp that utilised the government camps grant and was therefore provided free of charge. This camp was once again with their cluster peers and was a beach adventure- themed camp at Anglesea. Both of these camps were well received by students, parents and staff.

During 2022, our school received many (much appreciated) donations of books for our library. We did a library revamp and were able to add these new books to our reading selection. We were so fortunate when one of our favourite authors won the Picture Story Book of the Year but were even more delighted when we were given the chance to meet her and an illustrator that we were familiar with; spending a few hours with these ladies was not only a highlight for our students but staff also.

Although already mentioned above, the gardening and breakfast club programs were a real highlight for our school. Both of these initiatives saw community groups contacting us and allowing us to work with them and support our students. We also became involved with the East Loddon Food Share Organisation and our student leaders packed donation boxes for the community each term.

Our book-fair was also another highlight which saw the wider community access our site and initiated the start of a relationship with the local playgroup (which is now an ongoing relationship).

Graduation is always a highlight for our Year 6 students and their families, albeit a little sad for the teachers. In 2022, it was once again a very special event and a chance for our school to formally recognise and pay tribute to our three Year 6 students.

Financial performance

The financial position of Raywood Primary School is varied, depending on if one is looking at the Student Resource Package and Operating Summaries or the physical bank balances. Whilst our High Yield Investment Account and Official Accounts held a balance of \$ 244,296 at the end of 2022, the operating summary shows a shortfall of \$34,015. This shortfall is due to a decline in student numbers over the past few years which has meant that funds received via the Student Resource Package were not sufficient to support the ongoing employment of all of the existing staff. During 2022, the school successfully applied for and secured Workforce Bridging Funding (of \$108,000) which helped offset the deficit due to staffing funding. Due to the school being in deficit at the end of 2021, we did not receive the Term 3 portion of the Student Resource Package payments, so as to assist with the offsetting of the deficit.

Grants received in 2022 included Bushfire Preparedness Program funds - we received a total of \$16,796.66 (which was 80% of the total grant and the remaining 20% being due in early 2023). The school still held Shade Sail Grant funds (carried forward from 2021) totalling \$20,000. The school was funded to run the Tutor Learning Initiative and received a credit allocation of \$25,000 to employ a teacher in this program. Raywood Primary School was given a total of \$15,299 for Mental Health Funding in 2022. Our school successfully applied for and received a total of \$4500 through the sporting schools funding, with which we ran our swimming program (coupled with the \$810 Swimming in Schools Funding), attended Jets Gym for a series of lessons and held Kelly Sports sessions at school.

Equity funding totalling \$71,404.80 were allocated to our school and we received \$17,608 for Disability Inclusion (Tier 2) funding in 2022.

An extra-ordinary expenditure in 2022 was to repair our power and lighting system in the main building which was hit during a storm in the January holidays. The cost to the school ended up being a total of \$10,716.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
<https://www.raywoodps.vic.edu.au/>