

# Annual Report 2015

THE KOORALBYN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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# PRINCIPAL'S FORWARD :

## INTRODUCTION :

TKIS is a small school and as such, it has its advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages of being 'small' include ...

- Being able to offer more 'personal' attention to your child's educational needs. With student-to-teacher ratios below 10:1 - students are not simply names or numbers to us ... They're young men and women with passions and ambitions, with strengths and weaknesses and with a shared goal to 'be the best that they can be'. Since our average class size is around 16 students it's impossible for a child to 'slip through the cracks' or have problems go unnoticed.
- Being able to effectively deal with many of the perceived 'problems' often associated with larger schools like bullying, drugs, gangs, crime, truancy, etc. In a small community like ours, these sorts of problems can't be hidden. As such, they're dealt with immediately.
- We are better placed to be able to build our educational programs around the specific needs of our students.
- We can change and adapt quickly, for example, the school is currently working to become the first school in Australia to offer 'paperless' classrooms.

The disadvantages of being 'small' include ...

- We don't have the larger budgets of larger private schools. We don't have the Olympic pools, the massive theatre complexes, the manicured lawns that wealthier schools can boast.
- We have difficulties offering a wide range of team sports ... We barely have enough students to field ONE team in any sport let alone two teams to practice and play against each other. For this reason, we tend to specialise in 'solo sports' like golf, tennis, equestrian, athletics, etc, where we have found some success.
- As our NAPLAN and OP Results for the last few years would indicate, a small school with excellent student-to-teacher ratios like ours, will tend to attract either the gifted and talented students or those who are struggling academically ... Both of whom seek a greater level of personal attention and micro-management than otherwise exists in larger, more traditional schools.

To summarise ...

If you're looking for a large, traditional school with a wide range of team sports and vocational education options - then TKIS is probably not going to be suitable. If however, you are looking for a school with high academic standards that will take a 'personal' interest in the education of your child ... Where the quality rather than the quantity of options is important ... Where your children can develop and flourish in a safe, secure and friendly environment ... Where your son or daughter can access specialised programs in Golf, Equestrian, Athletics, Tennis, Swimming, Theatre and Performance or Specialised University Preparation ... then TKIS is certainly worth considering.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK :

The immediate objectives of TKIS are to enhance the benefits provided by the school to its students and its community.

Our potential areas for growth are based around the school's focus on academic excellence and its successful range of specialised Mastery Programs including Golf, Equestrian, Athletics, Aviation, Tennis, Drama, Performance and Swimming.

The school's mission over the next three to five years is ...

- to maintain and improve its already fine record in Grade 12 OP Scores
- to continue to focus on academic fundamentals in its primary years and
- to continue to support the amazing achievements gained by our students in sporting and artistic pursuits.

## SCHOOL PROFILE :

Number of students enrolled :	269 (as at August 2015 - 12.8% Indigenous)
Year Levels Offered :	Prep to Year 12
Coeducational or Single Sex :	Coeducational
System :	Independent / Non-religious
Day or Boarding School :	Both Day and Boarding School

## CURRICULUM OFFERINGS :

Apart from the core Australian Curriculum subjects in Years P-10 (English, Maths, Science, History and Geography) the school offers the 8 KLAs for Years P-9 plus a range of Senior School subjects: English, English Communications, Maths A, Maths B, Pre-Vocational Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Visual Art, Arts in Practice, Film TV and New Media, Drama, IPT (Information Processing & Technology), Physical Education, Agricultural Practices, German and Japanese. This range of subjects is being constantly added to each year with several currently being considered.

## SPECIALISED CURRICULUM OFFERINGS :

The school also offers a unique range of specialised programs integrated into our weekly timetable, including ... Athletics Mastery, Golf Mastery, Equestrian Mastery, Performance Arts Mastery, Tennis Mastery, Music Mastery, Digital Communications and Design Mastery, a Specialised University Preparation (SUPr) Program and planned additions include a Cooking Mastery (Mastery Chef) and depending upon the status of the Kooralbyn Air Strip, the re-opening of our Aviation Mastery.

## **SOCIAL CLIMATE :**

Being an International school located in a small, rural community, TKIS has the benefit of being able to draw on both a rich multi-cultural background and a small friendly rural community background. The blend of these two give the school its unique character.

As a small Boarding and Day School, TKIS also has the luxury of building a 'family' atmosphere among students and staff.

The school has a very high approval rating among students, staff and parents. In a 2014 survey of staff, 100% indicated that they believed the behaviour of students at the school was 'of a high standard'.

## **THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS :**

Since local families qualify for a Bursary Scholarship at TKIS, the involvement of parents in Working Bees and various fund raisers and exhibitions (like our Open Days, Awards Ceremonies, Book Fairs, etc) is exemplary. The school works hard to be able to offer local families a financially viable access to non-government schooling for which its rates are significantly lower than other non-government schools in our catchment area.

## **QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHERS :**

Of the teaching staff employed at TKIS in 2015, the breakdown of highest qualifications is as it has been for the last couple of years, namely...

Doctorates	9.5%
Masters	4.5%
Bachelors	86%
Diplomas	0%
Certificates	0%

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT :

The total school funds expended on Teacher Professional Development in 2015 was \$48,615 which included five (5) full timetabled days for all available staff and a large number of staff seconded from classroom duties to attend specialised training and PD activities. In all, 100% of teaching staff were involved to some capacity in Professional Development throughout the year.

With additional funding provided through the **Great Teachers : Great Results** program, the school has implemented the **Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework** which includes...

1. **Australian Curriculum Implementation** : Ensuring staff are kept up-to-date with the latest developments in syllabus and curriculum changes.
2. **Peer Review Program** : Commencing in 2015 an assigned Relief Teacher (funded by the Great Teachers : Great Results program) provided timetabled non-contact-time support to ensure all teaching staff had access to a peer review mechanism that assists our teachers identify and meet the **Australian Standards for Professional Teachers** across the 7 standards and 37 sub-standards assigned to the four levels of teaching experience as defined by the Queensland College of Teachers.

## AVERAGE STAFF ATTENDANCE :

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the Staff Attendance Rate for 2015 was 92% up from 91% in 2014.

## PROPORTION OF STAFF RETAINED :

The proportion of staff that were retained in January from the previous December was 96% which is a 5% improvement from the previous year.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE :

The attendance rate of students at TKIS in 2015 was 91% with each year level achieving within +/- 2% of that average. Though non-attendance is not normally a problem at TKIS, parents/carers are contacted each morning to ensure their child's absence is reported and verified. Attendance of Indigenous students was 87% which was a little lower than the previous year.

# KEY OUTCOMES :

## NAPLAN RESULTS 2015 :

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.

		Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
<b>READING</b>	TKIS Average	406	483	534	567
	National Average	426	499	546	580
<b>WRITING</b>	TKIS Average	407	449	497	551
	National Average	416	478	511	547
<b>SPELLING</b>	TKIS Average	424	481	539	550
	National Average	409	498	547	583
<b>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</b>	TKIS Average	423	482	560	553
	National Average	433	503	541	568
<b>NUMERACY</b>	TKIS Average	407	468	528	549
	National Average	398	493	543	592
<b>OVERALL</b>	TKIS Average Overall	413.4	472.6	531.6	554
	National Average Overall	416.4	494.2	537.6	574

## OP RESULTS 2015:

	State	TKIS
% of OP eligible students with OP of 15 or better	69%	83%
% of OP eligible students who were offered University places	67%	100%
Number of OP eligible students completing Year 12	NA	14

