2008 Annual School Report
Gundaroo Public School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Students
In 2008 Gundaroo Public School ended the year with 77 students. There were four classes as follows:

Kindergarten / Year 1 20
Year 2 18
Year 3 15
Year 4 / 5 / 6 24

Staff
Gundaroo Public School had five full time staff members in 2008. This included four classroom teachers and a full time School Administration Manager (SAM). Gundaroo Public School utilised three part time teachers for Library, Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) and Release from Face to Face teaching (RFF). We also used one Teacher's Aide, one general assistant, one cleaning staff and numerous support staff including officers from District Office.

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Significant programs and initiatives

Smart Start
Gundaroo Public School achieved an outstanding SmartStart health and fitness profile in 2008.

The school average results for both males and females were above the SmartStart database peer average in each of the SmartStart physical fitness areas. This was achieved through significant improvements for both males and females in the area of muscular endurance, combined with improvements in cardio-fitness, flexibility, power and coordination.

Rostrum Public Speaking

This year at Gundaroo we continued our proud tradition of competing in the annual Rostrum public speaking competition. We entered in the ACT and south west regions of NSW Rostrum zone. Every child, Kinder to Year 6, entered the competition. We ran class heats to determine school finalists. Ebony Brady, of Year 4, won the school final and Rhys McCarthy of Year 6 was runner-up.

Ebony then went on to represent Gundaroo in the quarter final, held in Sutton, which she won. She competed and won the semi-final, held in Jerrabomberra. The grand final was held at Hawker College auditorium and Ebony performed brilliantly. There were eight grand finalists out of a competition field of about 82,000 students. This was an absolutely outstanding result! Ebony is the second Gundaroo student in eleven years to make it to the grand final.

Gundaroo children are strongly encouraged to keep practising their wonderful public speaking skills throughout the year at assemblies and many kinds of presentations.

STLA (Support Teacher Learning Assistance)
Gundaroo Public School receives an allocation to provide assistance for children requiring support with their schoolwork and to screen the Kindergarten pupils.

In 2008, 20 days were allocated, to which the school added 10 days. These days were spread over the year and targeted those children who were identified by the class teachers as needing assistance. These children received approximately half an hour individual or small group tuition weekly.

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3
During 2008 16 students sat for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy, (NAPLAN). This year the bands went from 1 to 6.
All students were in band 3 and above for overall literacy. Gundaroo Public School was 55.8 points above the region and 45.9 points above the state in overall literacy.

**Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5**

During 2008, 6 students sat for the NAPLAN. This year the bands went from 3 to 8. 100% of students scored in bands 6, 7 or 8. Our school was 51.9 points above the region and 37.8 points above the state in overall literacy.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3**

16 students sat for the numeracy section of the NAPLAN. All students were in band 3 and above for overall numeracy. Gundaroo Public School was 66.5 points above the region and 57.7 points above the state in overall numeracy.

**Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5**

6 students sat for the numeracy section of the NAPLAN. All students were in bands 4 to 8 for overall numeracy. Gundaroo Public School was 33.4 points above the region and 16.1 points above the state in overall numeracy.

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First day at school for the new 2008 Kindergarten students in the front row

**Messages**

**Principal's message**

Gundaroo Public School is a small school situated in the picturesque, historical village of Gundaroo, 20 minutes from Canberra. The old brick school building is now used as the school library.

Gundaroo Public School aims to meet the educational needs of the children in the village and surrounding rural areas through quality educational programs for all students. The curriculum is balanced, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. Proficiency in literacy and numeracy is closely monitored through regular assessment. Our overall school NAPLAN results were fantastic with achievements above the region and state levels in all areas.

Programs aim to assist the students become life-long learners through a self-directed and positive values based curriculum. Self esteem, confidence and teamwork are developed through Gundaroo’s Peer Support Programs, which include creative and performing arts and sporting programs.

Students and staff combine with other small schools in the Queanbeyan district for public speaking, sporting and cultural activities. This year our school participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge and the Premier’s Spelling Bee with Faith Myers achieving equal third in the State. Many children represented in sports with Rhys McCarthy representing at State softball.

I wish to thank the parents and school community for maintaining the positive relationship and wonderful support it has offered in 2008. The students benefit greatly from continued involvement.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Ms Kathryn Connell
Principal

**P&C message**

2008 has been another great year for Gundaroo Public School P&C. We have had a lot of fun and excitement raising money as well as spending it, all to improve the welfare of the students who attend Gundaroo Public School.

The P&C has worked extremely hard in collaboration with the school to provide the best achievable outcomes in 2008. Our net funds raised in 2008 were in excess of $25,000 through our annual quiz night, the Gundaroo Bush Festival, coffee and cake drives, grape picking mornings and the Airscale Model annual fly in. These events have enabled the P&C to purchase:
- double garage shed for storage.
- 1 interactive whiteboard
- laptops
- sports equipment
- circus equipment
- numerous reading and education books
- new oven/hotplates for the staff kitchen
- hands free phone for staff room and SAM
- hire of buses for the school excursions
- plants and trees for the front garden
- painting and maintaining the memorial garden
The P&C would not survive without the commitment, time and dedication of all parents, teachers and the wider community. The P&C happily held our annual community breakfast in December to welcome the new families to our school in 2009 and farewell families who are leaving the school. Thank you to everyone for their support over the past year.

Sally Haseler  
President P&C

School Council message  
Firstly I would like to thank all School Council members for their time and effort in ensuring that 2008 was a productive year. The School Council plays an important role in policy support and student welfare, as well as monitoring budgets and school property. Some of the achievements this year included ratifying policies on communication to parents, anti-bullying and discipline, student benchmarking, healthy food guidelines and plans for a new school website. It is very important that the School Council continues to be transparent and the broader school community remains involved so the children of Gundaroo School receive the best all round education package.

Scott Harding  
School Council Chairman

GOSH message  
GOSH has completed another year, with the re-application for accreditation (the results of which will be known early in 2009), though we are quietly confident this time of achieving it. It has not been an easy year, as the costs of maintaining the program increased considerably and insufficient staffing has at times reduced the capacity of the centre to offer the very popular after-school sports program to the wider school community. The Committee has attempted to reduce costs and the administrative workload by recently increasing fees in order to maintain viability.

The two most experienced staff members have taken on new positions, but we have been successful in appointing a new coordinator, along with new casual childcare staff, which places GOSH in a very positive position for the start of the new year. The Active After School Sports program has been very popular, with a wide variety of sporting and dancing activities offered on three days each week. This will continue to run in 2009. GOSH cannot survive without the support of the parents who use the service and the other community members who give their time to the administration of such a vital service. The 2008 GOSH Committee thanks all those who have given their time this year, and offered their assistance through next year.

Julie Bray  
GOSH  
Convenor

School Captains’ message  
During Term 1 we had school and district swimming carnivals and started training for the cross country. The school achieved a milestone with no ‘Stop and Think’ sheets. We participated in ‘Clean up Australia Day’ and raised money for Stewart House with a dress up ‘S’ Day.

During Term 2 we had students who made it to the District Cross Country. We had students who sat for the NAPLAN and University of NSW tests. In our peer groups we worked on the Anti-Bullying Policy. Our fund raiser was ‘Plane Crazy’ where we raised money for The Royal Flying Doctor Service.

In Term 3 we bought in a revised Anti-Bullying Policy which was very good. One student went to the District for softball and was then selected in the State team. We performed at Canberra Theatre which was a great hit with everyone. Year 5/6 went to Mogo Historic Village for their camp. We raised money for the Heart Foundation with Jump Rope for Heart.

During Term 4 we had a student compete in the Premier’s Spelling Bee finals. Jane Goodall came to visit and talked about her work. Dalton School visited for the Remembrance Day ceremony and Mr Pankhurst brought his donkey and Waler horse and talked about the roles animals played in the wars. Our charity was the Christmas boxes. We had swimming lessons at the AIS which was a great way to end a great year.

Sarah Connor and Rhys McCarthy  
School Captains

At the National Museum.
School context

Staff information

It is a requirement that reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Staff establishment

The staff was stable during the year. Ms Kathryn Connell, Mrs Sue Kominek and Mrs Liz Harris were the permanent teachers. Mrs Sarah Dunkerley was on maternity leave for 2008 and Mrs Rebecca Henderson filled her position. Mrs Margaret Fisher was the French and STLA teacher. Mrs Lynne Karlsson was the Librarian and Mrs Carole Nicola was the RFF teacher. Mrs Helen Curtis was the SAM (Senior Administration Manager) and Mr Colin Lee was the one day a week SAO (School Administration Officer). The following table indicates the number of staff positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief from Face to Face teaching</td>
<td>.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff retention

Ms Kathryn Connell retired at the end of 2008. A new Principal will be appointed in Term 1 2009. Mrs Sarah Dunkerley indicated that she would not be returning to Gundaroo Public School.

Staff attendance

Staff has access to leave entitlements such as sick leave. In 2008 the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department, was 97.4%.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class sizes

In March 2003 the Government announced its commitment to publish primary class sizes in annual school reports to provide parents with as much local information as possible.

The following table shows our class sizes as reported at the 2008 class size audit conducted on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll Class</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total per Year</th>
<th>Total in Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial summary

This summary below covers funds for operating costs but does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>94 944.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>63 597.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>18 457.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>42 440.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5 482.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>8 535.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>233 457.16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

Teaching & learning
- Key learning areas: 47 800.28
- Excursions: 5 622.13
- Extracurricular dissections: 8 849.58

Library: 1 422.17

Training & development: 440.64

Tied funds: 31 457.64

Casual relief teachers: 12 045.92

Administration & office: 26 219.21

School-operated canteen: 0.00

Utilities: 12 189.67

Maintenance: 6 097.28

Trust accounts: 8 705.16

Capital programs: 12 252.30

**Total expenditure**: 173 101.98

**Balance carried forward**: 60 355.18

A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2008

Achievements

Arts

2008 saw a Creative and Practical Arts rotation of music, visual arts, rhythmic gymnastics and circus skills for each class over a seven week period. After each cycle the children showcased their skills at an assembly. The final one was the annual cocktail party and Art Show at the Gundaroo Soldiers Memorial Hall. A great night was had by all, dressed in cocktail finery and being entertained by tumbling gymnasts, skilful clowns and musical marimbas as they viewed the art work produced by all children K-6.

The Queanbeyan District Performing Arts night was once again held at the Canberra Theatre. The theme this year was “Colours.” Gundaroo wowed the audience with their underwater performance of “Yellow Submarine”. King Neptune, his sea creatures and the mer people were surprised by a visit from the nine metre submarine filled with wacky dancing divers and the Beatles.

Sport

Gundaroo students enjoyed a great year of sporting activities. The highlights included:
- rock climbing wall
- skills lessons in AFL
- Jump Rope For Heart
- two week swim school
- six gymnastics lessons
- district carnivals for swimming, cross country and athletics (8 years old and up)
- Attendance at gala days and sports expo (yrs 3-6)
A special mention goes to the following students for their achievements:

- Rhys McCarthy – school boys state level in softball
- Zoe Haseler – regional level in swimming, cross country and athletics
- Sarah Connor – regional level in cross country
- Tait Hankins – regional level in cross country
- Benjamin Fawcett – regional level in cross country

Our Gundaroo School Champions for 2008 were:

SWIMMING – Emma Murphy, Dylan Harding, Zoe Haseler, Benjamin Fawcett
CROSS COUNTRY – Sarah Connor, Tait Hankins, Zoe Haseler, Benjamin Fawcett
ATHLETICS – Sarah Connor, Tait Hankins, Zoe Haseler, Atticus Toyne

Circus

This year children have been involved in the Circus Arts Program as part of the CAPA rotational groups. Circus was introduced into the school as a performance activity to encourage focus and perseverance of the students. All students experienced many disciplines including staff, poi, skipping, hoops, unicycle and acrobatics. They have progressed through levels of increasing difficulty. All students have been awarded certificates of achievement as they passed levels.

Academic

In the NAPLAN, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

- Yr 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)
- Yr 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 3

In 2008, sixteen Year 3 students sat the NAPLAN at Gundaroo Public School. The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 3 & 5.

The performance of the students in our school in the NAPLAN – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported in the light green tables. LSG - schools in a Like School Group.

The graphs indicate the percentage of students in each band at Gundaroo Public School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 Reading Average mark</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSG</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>476.3</td>
<td>406.9</td>
<td>412.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year 3 Writing
Average mark  | School | LSG  | State
2008          | 467.3  | 403.9| 409.6

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 3

Year 3 Maths
Average mark | School | LSG  | State
2008         | 447.6  | 418.9| 427.8

Year 5 Reading
Average mark | School | LSG  | State
2008         | 561.5  | 489.8| 494.4

Year 5 Writing
Average mark | School | LSG  | State
2008         | 511.7  | 484.8| 495.5

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 5

Due to the small cohort in Year 5 percentage in band is not recorded.
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 5

Progress graphs between Year 3 and 5 for 2008 show Writing and Numeracy are below the state. These will be focus areas for 2009.

Plane Crazy Day at Gundaroo

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

Gundaroo Public School educates all students on Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary Aboriginal Australia. Our curriculum contains content in the Key Learning Areas (KLA) of Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) and English. During NAIDOC week the students, in Peer Support groups, studied Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, painted boomerangs, learnt Aboriginal dance and planted ten Australian native trees in the bird garden.

Multicultural education

LOTE

At Gundaroo, the children learn French in line with the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) syllabus. Learning another language enhances students’ abilities to communicate, increases their cultural awareness and adds to cross-cultural
understanding. It also assists them to develop a greater understanding of their own language and culture.

All children K–6 receive one hour per week French instruction. The lower grades (K-2) experience songs, dances and some basic vocabulary. The upper grades (3-6) begin to form simple sentences. A strong emphasis is placed on French culture.

In Term 3 the whole school participated in Les Jeux Olympiques with each team representing a French speaking country. “C'était formidable!”

Respect and responsibility

Throughout 2008 Gundaroo Public School revisited the Ant-Bullying Policy. A major part of this was to align steps with the school’s Discipline Policy.

Each week in the school newsletter a value was included to promote respect and responsibility of all. The Year 5 and 6 Peer Support Leaders were instrumental in supporting school decisions involving activities on values for all students.

Young Leaders

In March, the seven Year 6 students, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Harris headed to Sydney for the Young Leaders Conference. The conference was held at the Entertainment Centre for 5000 primary school children from all over New South Wales. There were four keynote speakers who told their amazing stories and inspired each and every one of us to aim high, not give up and to believe in ourselves. We were delighted when Rhys and Sarah, our school captains, were asked to go up on stage and thank Catriona Rowntree on behalf of all the children there.

Peer Support

In 2008 there were 10 Peer Support groups led by Year 5 and 6 children. The Peer Support groups met each fortnight. Many activities were done in these groups including:

- mini Olympics
- excursions
- maths days

Student Support Worker

During Term 1 2008, Mr Kevin Woodward was successful in being appointed as the Gundaroo Public School ‘Student Support Worker’.

Kevin works with students in each class on a rotational basis, assisting with learning and games. Kevin has been involved with the schools gymnastic program and participates in the peer groups and assemblies. When Kevin brings his guitar to school, children are keen to listen to his music. This is usually in a quiet part of the playground where gentle play occurs. More recently the senior boys bring their electric guitars to school and entertain the younger children.

Kevin is also available to talk to parents and staff. This position has been made available due to the National Chaplaincy in Schools' program.

Progress on 2008 targets

Target 1

Develop quality Teaching and Learning programs and assessment to improve and extend student performance in Literacy and Numeracy.

Our achievements include:

- a speech pathologist assessing students in Kindergarten for expressive and receptive language levels
- a new ‘PEG’ spelling program which has seen the increase of student achievement
- staff attending training and development courses.

Target 2

Quality teaching and learning programs reflect QTF and well resourced COGS units.

Our achievements include:

- teacher professional development and attendance at COGS workshops
- collating resource lists for programming COGS units and ongoing purchase of resources to compliment the units
- alignment of science, literacy and spelling (PEG) into the COGS units where appropriate.
Target 3

Effectively engaging the school community to determine a common set of values that is reflected in welfare and explicitly taught.

Our achievements include:

- reviewing the discipline and anti–bullying policies resulting in a significant increase in positive interaction between students
- Peer Support Groups continued with emphasis on promoting explicit values education through group activities
- Gundaroo’s Student Support Worker working with students, staff and parents.

Gundaroo students at the District Cross Country.

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum.

In 2008 our school carried out evaluations of mathematics and learning. Parent and teacher satisfaction data is also taken from the survey. 20% of parents returned surveys. Due to the number of responses, conclusions may not be accurate for the whole school.

Curriculum

Findings and conclusions

Of the parents who returned surveys 95% indicated that their child was developing in their numeration, space and measurement skills. 70% of parents indicated that the school had kept them up to date with their child’s progress in maths. 95% indicated their child did receive maths homework.

Future directions

Following the survey, future directions include:

- continued communication with parents on expected outcomes and progression of their children.
- purchase of a new mathematics text book covering grade outcomes within the stages
- analysis of mathematics benchmarking procedures
- continued communication with parents on expected outcomes and progression of their children.

Management

During 2008 ‘Learning’ at Gundaroo Public School was surveyed.

Findings and conclusions

20% of parents returned surveys. Results indicated that:

- 100% strongly agreed or agreed that the classroom was an interesting place to learn
- 90% felt the school expected students to perform to the best of their abilities.

Future directions

- Continual upgrading of teacher skills.
- Encouraging students to revisit work to see improvement.
- Continued teacher/parent communication to discuss child’s learning.

Professional learning

During 2008, all staff were involved in training for the newly purchased Interactive Smart Boards. Teachers were also involved in District conferences on technology, literacy and numeration. Continued staff development will be essential in 2009 to maximise the investment made in technology in the school.

Year 456 line dancing at the Cocktail party.
School development 2009 – 2011

Target 1
Developing and implementing quality teaching practices to ensure continuity in Literacy and Numeracy Outcomes

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- implementation of Best Start Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
- ensuring best practice by implementing K-12 Literacy Policy “Teaching Literacy”.
- ensuring best practice by implementing K-12 Numeracy Policy “Teaching Numeracy”
- continued implementation of “Peg” spelling program and explicit teaching of spelling to address areas identified in the 2008 NAPLAN results.

Our success will be measured by:
- improved student performance in the NAPLAN in spelling, mathematics and writing for all students
- an increased percentage of students improving by one or more skill bands of growth between Year 3 and Year 5 in spelling, writing and mathematics
- provision of individual learning programs for identified students.

Target 2
All students will be happy, healthy learners in a safe, friendly environment.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- maintaining school values and expectations through continued explicit teaching practices of values
- continued community consultation and involvement
- implementation of high quality transition programs for Kindergarten and transition to High School

Our success will be measured by:
- proactive student welfare strategies evidenced by data
- appropriate personalised learning programs and curriculum differentiation provided; evidenced in teacher programs
- parent and student involvement in all relevant areas of school life sought and valued.

Target 3
All students access information and communications technologies enhancing broader curriculum options

Strategies to achieve this target include:
- providing explicit tutoring and programs for students and staff in ICT
- ensuring broader curriculum options for students through ICT in all KLA’s.
- Reviewing ICT scope and sequence K-6 with a checklist of stage appropriate stage outcomes
- Teachers accessing the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TaLe) as a strategy to enhance teaching practice

About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school’s future development.

Committee Members
Ms Kathryn Connell  Principal
Mrs Sue Kominek  Teacher
Mrs Liz Harris   Teacher
Mrs Helen Curtis  SAM

School contact information
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Lot St Gundaroo NSW 2620
Ph: 62368115
Fax: 62368181
Email: Gundaroo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

School Code: 2104
Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr

District cross country representatives 2008