1. General information

Part A
School Name : SWAN REACH AREA SCHOOL
School No : 0423
Principal : Kylie Eggers
Postal Address : Box 31, Swan Reach SA 5354
Location Address : Showground Road, Swan Reach SA 5354
District : Murray and Mallee
Distance from GPO : 140 km
CPC attached : No
Phone No : 08 8570 2053
Fax No : 08 8570 2325
Email : info@swanrchas.sa.edu.au

Part B
Staffing numbers: Teaching 11.7 FTE including Principal, Coordinators and Key Teacher, SSO = 156 hpw including SWD support, Agriculture, Community Library hours
Enrolment trends: Declining

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- Special arrangements
  The Swan Reach and Area Kindergarten is part of the school campus.
- Year of opening
  The school buildings on the present site were opened during 1972.
• Public transport access
  The Mid Murray Council provides a bus service to Murray Bridge, Tanunda and Berri.

2. Students (and their welfare)
• General characteristics
  Swan Reach is located in a relatively isolated rural area of South Australia. Broad acre mixed farming, intensive irrigation for horticulture and viticulture, and small tourist ventures account for most of the economic activity in the district.
  Three school buses bring a majority of our students to school each day.
  There is a strong sense of community in our school and in the district, and our school is the centre of much community activity.
  Parents demonstrate a high level of involvement in school events, and generally are very supportive of the purposes of our school.
  We are a Sun Smart school. A 4-term policy for wide brimmed hats exists for all staff and students.
• (Pastoral) Care programs
  Home class teachers direct a home class for a period of 10 minutes at the beginning of each day. Attendance is accounted for and students are informed about daily school activities.
  Students from year 6 to year 9 attend two Pastoral Care lessons per week. The Pastoral Care program provides time for teachers and students to work through different topics relating to emotional wellbeing, career pathways, study skills, safe behaviour in out of school and the promotion of positive self image.
  A fitting conclusion to the year for year 10, 11 & 12 students is their attendance to the Self Esteem Course. This annual course allows the students to practice life skills in real learning environments.
• Support offered
  Course and career counselling is provided as a part of the curriculum offering at the school.
• Student management
  The school has a published code of conduct.
  A well-established set of procedures for dealing with inappropriate behaviours supports procedures / expectations developed in each classroom by the teaching staff.
• Student government
  A Student Representative Council has a focus on student advocacy and on broader community issues such as fund raising for charities.
• Special programmes
  VET and Special Ed are in operation within the school.
  Some community members volunteer their time to the Junior & Middle School reading program.
  ATSI students are additionally supported through the APAS tutorial scheme.

3. Key School Policies
• Statement of Purpose
  We seek to provide every student with an education, which will equip them to live and work confidently, wisely and effectively in a complex and changing world.
  To achieve this we aim to:
  ❖ encourage in each student a desire to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life.
  ❖ develop a sense of self-worth and the ability to create and maintain healthy relationships with others.
  ❖ encourage good citizenship and a sense of social and environmental responsibility.
  ❖ provide an environment that will be conducive to the establishment and adoption of sound ethical values.
• Site Learning Plan
  Key foci for 2011 are: Literacy, Numeracy, Student Voice and Staff Progress. The full Site Improvement Plan for 2011 is available from the school website.
Recent Key Outcomes

- Stage 2 students attained an average Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 88.70 meaning our students are in the top 12% of the state! Each student gained entry into the Tertiary course of their choice.
- SRAS took part in the Supporting School Improvement (SSI) - Diagnostic Review.
- Implementing Stage 1 of the New SACE with few hiccups and training and getting ready for Stage 2 implementation in 2011.
- SRAS hosted the Doorways to Construction course who completed the extension of the PE Shed.
- The NAPLAN results had 100% of students in Years 5,7&9 achieving Middle to Upper Level improvement in Reading and 100% (Year 5), 60% (Year 7) & 100% (Year 9) with Middle to Upper Level improvement in Numeracy.
- ICAS Science, English, Maths and Spelling Competitions where 38%, 23%, 24% & 4% respectively received honours at a credit level or higher.
- Japanese language program added SACE classes, Kindergarten lessons and the Interschool Japanese Quiz for the Year 2-5s. The student exchange occurred both ways with 6 SRAS students and 2 staff travelling to Hineno High School in September and, earlier, SRAS hosted 18 Japanese students. Strong relationships formed over the blended teams at Undokai where Akagumi was victorious.
- The sporting year started with the intra- and inter-school Swimming and Athletics carnivals where the students excelled in their competition and as ambassadors for their school. SRAS won the CMASSA Swimming carnival.
- SRAS Pedal Prix finished 4th in the state after the 3 races.
- SRAS endeavoured to address the disadvantage students experience simply by their location through external and extra-curricula activities. In 2010 these experiences included: Circus Oz, Dance Workshops, Life Education Van, Mock Accident, Ski Camp, Sailing Camp, Middle School Camp, EPSA Camp, Bush Walking Camp, Zoo Snooze, West Adelaide Footy Clinic, Hills Formal, Clean Up Australia Day, Swimming Lessons, Book Week.
- 80% of families were able to attend the Junior School Acquaintance Night.
- SRAS congratulated Nick Schmidt on attaining his Advanced Skills Teacher accreditation.
- Building Education Revolution: Projects included new blinds, carpet and linoleum through most of Building 2, new bench tops, a refitted science lab and student kitchen, an extended staff room kitchen, additional resource centre storage, ICT cabling, new Interactive Whiteboards, and a sliding door between the two primary classes.
- The 6/7 Class participated in the Growsmart Science Awards and Nathaniel Pillar and Shannon Collins won 3rd prize in their age group.
- Tammy Stoeckel (Year 9) received a commendation for her National Cannabis Prevention Information Centre Poster.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

  : Our core business is teaching and learning through the curriculum areas:

    The Arts
    English
    Health and Physical Education
    Mathematics
    Science
    Studies of Society and Environment
    Technology
    LOTE: Japanese offered in years R to 12.

  This is extended into our Secondary Senior School to provide a reasonable choice of subjects within the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) framework.

  The school is well equipped with computers to serve learning in a number of curriculum areas. Teachers at this school have the opportunity to teach across the R-12 range.

  Extension Studies is offered to middle school students
• **Open Access**
  : Curriculum choice is extended in the Secondary classes by accessing some courses of study through Open Access.

• **Special Needs**
  : Students with Special needs have Negotiated Education Plans. These plans are worked through with a Special Education teacher, teachers and parents. Older students with an NEP are included in the development of the plan.

• **Assessment procedures and reporting**
  : Reporting on student learning to parents is carried out through written reports each term, Parent Interviews once per year, Portfolio Reports on two subjects per term, and DECS results in LaN tests.
  
  Our Senior Secondary students receive SACE Board of SA reports each semester.

5. **Sporting Activities**
• **House & Inter school competition in swimming and athletics.**
• **Our Sports and Community Centre offers further opportunities for school activities as well as community sports.**
• **Opportunities for students to participate in SAPSASA & SSSSA**

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**
• **General**
  : Open Day for Primary, Middle and Secondary classes is held annually for students to display their schoolwork, and for parents to observe students in the classroom activities and to discuss class protocol and routines.
  
  A Self Esteem course is offered annually to our year 10 to year12 students.

  Our Senior students have the opportunity to complete a Senior First Aid Certificate.
  
  An Outdoor Education activity is offered through an Aquatics Camp at Murray Bridge to each Year 6,7,8, &9 (Middle School) students on a bi-annual basis. This activity is subsidised by the Rural Index initiative.

  Pedal Prix is offered as an extention studies subject

  Swimming, tennis and football lessons are offered annually to our R–5 students.

• **Special**
  : VET subjects in horticulture and viticulture is available for year 10 and 11 students. SRAS hosts the Doorways to Construction Course for the Mallee area. These subjects are recognised by SACE Board of SA and the TAFE for accreditation purposes.

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**
• **Staff profile**
  : Relatively few staff changes are made on an annual basis due to high permancy of staff.

  **2011**

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• **Leadership structure**
  : The leadership structure has the Principal as the leader of the school community with coordinators to focus on the specific needs of Junior & Middle School students. In 2011 the principal will also coordinate the senior school activities. The Director of the Kindergarten and Administrative SSO are also part of the leadership team.
• Staff support systems
  : Support to teaching staff is available through a word-processing service and construction aids by the SSOs.

• Performance Management
  : The leadership team recognises the need to support staff meet whole school goals and personal goals. A performance management program needs to reflect this. This policy will be reviewed in 2011. Each staff member meets formally with their line manager in term 1 and in term 4. The Principal is line manager to all executive members and groundsman. Subschool coordinators line manage relevant staff. Executive SSO is the line manager to all SSOs excluding the groundsman.

• Staff utilisation policies
  : SSO staff are involved in classroom activities as well as withdrawn activities for students with special learning difficulties.

• Access to special staff
  : Speech pathologist and Guidance Officer personnel are available through the District Office at Berri. ISBM support is available through personnel at the District Office at Murray Bridge.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff
• Housing assistance
  : There are 5 government houses available locally for staff to rent.

• Cooling for school buildings
  : Cooling/heating for buildings - reverse cycle air conditions are installed in each learning area, the Community Library, Canteen, Administrative and office areas.

9. School Facilities
• Buildings and grounds
  : The air-conditioned school buildings are located on well-kept, attractive grounds.
  : Land for agricultural and horticultural activities is part of the outdoor learning area.
  : A Community Library, a grassed playing oval, heated swimming pool, sealed courts for tennis and basketball and netball are located on the school grounds.
  : A Sports and Community Centre is situated next to the school oval.
  : VAC SWIM occurs each January.

• Specialist facilities
  : Specialist facilities and equipment is available for sport/physical education, library for school and community, information technology, technology studies, science and home economics.
  : An established orchard for horticulture and viticulture is a specialist facility for VET subjects.

• Student facilities
  : A school canteen services student and staff requirements from Monday to Thursday.

• Staff facilities
  : A general staff area is available for all staff, and computer access is available in most teaching areas.

• Access for students and staff with disabilities
  : Entry ramps have been provided to most classrooms, library, Technical Studies, Performance room, and administrative block.

• Access to bus transport
  : There are two private contractor buses and one DECS bus to provide transport for most of our students to school.

10. School Operations
• Decision making structures
  : The Governing Council is the decision making body for school wide issues and concerns. A network for community members is established.
  : School operation decisions are made through staff association.
  : PAC deal with teacher workloads and staff concerns. Membership includes Principal, EO representative, AEU representative and SSO representative.
The school is identified for Rural Index funding. This money is used to support a wide range of learning activities within the school and for travelling to other places such as Inclusive Travel funds, Reading program, payment of Open Access courses etc.

- Regular publications
  - A school newsletter is published and distributed each fortnight. A community calendar is published with the newsletter.

- Other communication
  - A school magazine is published annually. School achievements are published in the River News, a weekly publication in the Riverland District.

- School financial position
  - Finance Reports are presented twice each term to the Governing Council, and reported annually to the school community. The Finance Committee meets once per term. The school’s Finance Officer uses the School Budget Planning Tool to manage the school funds.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  - The town has a population of 380 people, and services include a hotel, a general store, hairdresser, Post Office, fast food outlet and a garage. Other services are available from nearby towns such as Mannum and Angaston.
  - The school community is characterised by a high level of parent involvement in school-based activities. Sports days, special assemblies and visiting afternoons typically attract a high percentage of parents.
  - The Mid Murray council operates from Mannum.
  - Active local sporting organisations include football, netball, cricket, golf, bowls, 8-ball, tennis on a regular basis. Swimming, fishing, skiing and other river sports are available on a casual basis.
  - A resident Lutheran minister is based at Swan Reach.
  - Bank SA has an agency at the General Store. Money can be accessed through an ATM at the Swan Reach Hotel.
  - Local bus charter is available.
  - Volunteer CFS, SA Ambulance, Progress Association, Local History Group and Museum exist within the community.
  - Tourist attractions are: Big Bend by Night, Yookamurra and Illawonga.

- Parent and community involvement
  - Parents and Friends conduct two meetings per term.

12. Further Comments

- The Kindergarten offers 3 hours of government subsidised childcare services on a Friday morning.
- Doctor service provided one day per week.
- No dental services.
- Mid Murray Council offers an immunisation service on a monthly basis.
- A police officer resides in the town.