



## Annual Report 2015

### Vision

To transform the lives of children experiencing social, emotional and behavioural disorders.

### Mission

To provide a positive and therapeutic school environment for children whose social, emotional and behavioural needs are unable to be met within mainstream education.

### Goal

To work intensively with children to develop the learning and coping strategies which will allow them to re-enter mainstream education with healthy self-esteem, established work habits, and acceptable behaviours. To achieve this goal, children are treated respectfully as individuals, given responsibility for their own behavioural choices, taught to be resourceful in solving problems, and accepted as valued members of the school community. Children are encouraged at all times to seek positive rather than negative ways of belonging.

### Governance

The Currajong School Limited is a company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors forms the School Council which acts as the governing body, appoints the school principal, and establishes and monitors the strategic direction of the school. The operation of the school is delegated by the Board of Directors to the school principal.

Information on directors is as follows:

Mr Andrew Cooper (Chairperson) B.A. (Melb)

Dr Jennifer Bars B.A. (Hons), M.A., D.Phil

Ms Phillipa Murray B.A. (Monash), Grad. Dip. Public Relations (RMIT) M. Ed (Primary)

Mrs Deborah Negri

Mr Peter Carlin Dip. Management (Swinburne)

Ms Anne Maree Downes B.Ec, Diploma in Australia Tax Law

Ms Elizabeth Pattinson B.Sc (Hons)

Ms Connie Linney-Barber B.App. Sc in Computer Science (RMIT), Dip. Comm. Services - Child Care (Swinburne)

*Company Secretary: Belinda Wright*

## Staffing

Principal

**Jenine Pallant**

Dip. Tchg. Primary (Vic. College), B. Ed. Primary (Vic. College), Post Grad. Dip. Ed. Studies - Student Welfare (Melb), M. Ed. (Melb), M. Ed Studies - Leadership (Monash)

Administrator

**Belinda Wright**

## Teachers

<b>Cris Payne</b>	(Deputy Principal) Dip. Tchg.Primary (Monash), Grad.Dip.Sp. Ed. (Vic.College), B. Ed. (Deakin)
<b>Paul Crick</b>	Dip. Tchg. (W.Sydney), B.Ed. Sp. Ed. (New England)
<b>Kerri Ledingham</b>	Dip. Tchg. Primary (Christchurch College of Ed), Cert Teaching People with Disabilities (Christchurch Polytechnic)
<b>Sonia Dunne</b>	B. Ed (University of Tasmania)
<b>Ashlee Lord</b>	B. Art Ed (College Fine Arts University of NSW)

## Teaching Assistants

<b>Jamie Choon</b>	B. Applied Science – Disabilities Studies (Deakin)
<b>Nicole Eykman</b>	B. Fine Arts (Monash)
<b>Noelle Eykman</b>	Certificate in Childcare, Certificate III in Education
<b>Janine Hamilton</b>	Certificate III in Education - Integration Aide
<b>Susan Hughes</b>	B. Arts (Monash), Grad Dip. Educ. Secondary (Monash), Dip Counselling, Dip. Family Intake and Support Work.
<b>Sarah Hunt</b>	B. Visual Arts (Monash), B. Fine Arts (Monash), Grad. Dip. Ed Secondary (Monash)
<b>Beth Mennie-Carter</b>	Certificate IV OSHC, Certificate III – Meetings & Events
<b>Frances Moon</b>	B.Ed. Music (Deakin)
<b>Nancy Moss</b>	Certificate III in Education
<b>Sarah Rockliff</b>	Certificate IV in Education Support
<b>Bernadette Young</b>	B.Arts (Caulfield Inst.Tech.) Certificate of Education (Deakin)

## Specialist Support

Psychologist

**Julia Seedsman** B.A., Post Grad.Dip. Applied Psych. Assoc. M.A.P.S. (Term 1, 2015)

Psychologist

**Sharon Crowley** B.A., Grad.Dip. Applied Psych, M. Psych - Child and Educational (Monash). (Commenced Term 2, 2015)

Speech & Language Therapist

**Suzanne Goldin** B.A. Speech & Hearing (Univ. of Witwatersrand, Sth Africa), M.S.P.A.

Direct Instruction/ Transition Co-ordinator

**Marnie Nyhuis** B. Tchg.(Deakin), Grad. Dip. Sp. Ed. (Deakin)

Student Assessment

**Lucy Chia** Grad. Dip. Sec. Studies (RMIT), B. Arts (Melb)

**Music** – Australian Institute of Music & Childhood Development

**Dance** – Pivot Dance Studio

**Swimming** – Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre

## Programs Update

During the 2015 school year students enjoyed a wide range of activities and excursions, including weekly dance, music and swimming classes. Other highlights included:

- Annual Concert for family and friends
- City Survival Program for transition students
- Currajong Footy Day, including AFL visit to the school & AFL Footy Roadshow
- Art Activities including Heide Museum of Modern Art excursions
- Living Eggs Program
- ANZAC Day 1000 steps challenge at Mt Dandenong
- Sovereign Hill excursion
- Adventure Days for transition students - rock climbing, high ropes, gymnastics
- Wild in Action incursion
- Melbourne Zoo excursion
- Ten-Pin bowling
- National Buddies Day
- Taiko Drumming incursion
- Indigenous Infusion incursion
- Annual swimming carnival
- Wednesday afternoon club activities throughout the year

## Improved School Facilities

### **General:**

- Maintenance/repair to paintwork throughout school
- New Hi-ace school van
- New furniture for parent room and psychologist office
- Replacement of phone system throughout school

***A donation from the following charitable foundation enabled the following improvements to be made:***

- Australian Hotels Associations - \$15,000 grant toward new school van

***Bursaries enabled financial assistance to be provided to a number of families:***

- Invergowrie Foundation- \$18,000
- Rotary Club of Chadstone/East Malvern - \$8400
- Hein Otten - \$2500

## Conference

The presenter at the annual conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 was David Cherry (clinical & forensic psychologist). The presentation “*Dealing with Difficult People*” focused on strategies for managing a range of potentially difficult behaviours including managing passive-aggressive behaviour, looking after individuals who are acutely emotionally distressed and coping with bullying.

## Staff, Parent and Student Satisfaction with The Currajong School

When asked for feedback on their satisfaction of Currajong, staff reported a high level of satisfaction including the following:

- Making a positive impact on the students, and making a difference
- It is rewarding when the children feel proud of their improvements and achievements
- It is rewarding and satisfying to work with dedicated staff
- It is rewarding to see the progress of the students throughout the year
- Helping the students achieve their goals both academically and socially

Parents reported the following:

- It is wonderful for me as a parent to feel included and not judged
- My child is making progress and wants to go to school every day
- My child has had the benefit of truly dedicated teachers and assistants
- The discipline in this school follows established and well-known procedures
- Currajong has made a real difference to our family in such a rich and positive way
- I know the lessons in self regulation that my child has learned here will remain with him

Students reported the following:

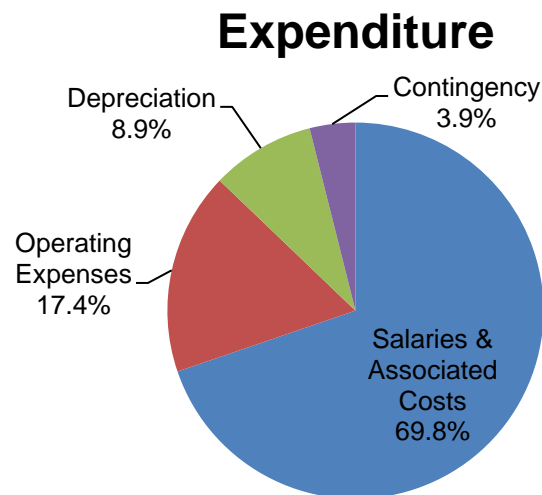
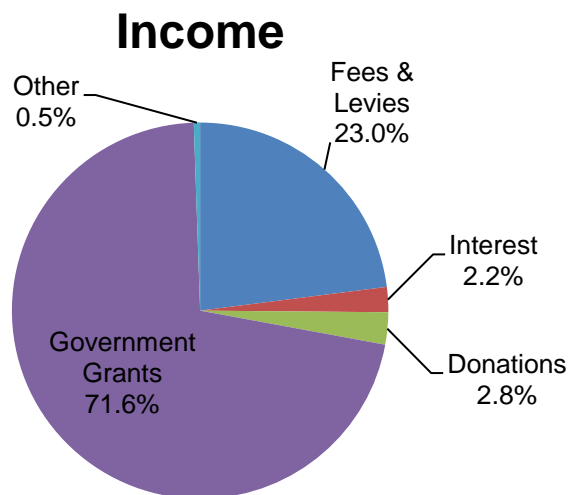
- The teachers are very nice and they look after me
- I feel like my teachers know me really well
- I have worked hard on my friendship skills and being kind to others
- My teachers help me to understand the mistakes I make
- My teachers provide excellent help and support for students when needed
- Adults at this school act on students' concerns

## Student Attendance

Overall attendance rate for 2015 as measured during the DET collection period was 85%.

Currajong families are required to notify the school of an absence either in person or by telephone, email or note. All absences are recorded daily and systematically by the school. We encourage regular attendance, it is important if appropriate levels of progress are to be made. Currajong will work with parents and psychologists to support a student's regular school attendance.

## School Operations



#### Income:

Fees and levies	414,757
Interest	38,807
Donations	49,850
Government Grants	1,292,329
Other	9,758

#### Expenditure:

Salaries and Associated Costs	1,300,576
Operating Expenses	324,461
Depreciation	166,269
Contingency	73,195

## Contact information

### The Currajong School

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 East Malvern Vic 3145  
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