SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 24/01/2013

School Number: 1020

School Name: Melaleuca Park Primary School

1. General Information

Part A

School name: MELALEUCA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No.: 1020
Principal: Brian Duke
Deputy Principal: Mandy Carpenter
Postal Address: Boandik Terrace, Mount Gambier 5290
Location Address: Boandik Terrace, Mount Gambier 5290
District: Limestone Coast
Distance from GPO: 450 kms
Phone No.: 08 8725 1404
Fax No.: 08 8725 0297

Part B

• School e-mail address
dl.info_1020@schools.sa.edu.au

• Staffing numbers
  Classroom teachers 8
  Tier 2: 0.96 (Special Ed)
  Principal: 1.0
  Dep Princl 0.1
  School Counsellor: 1.0
  Literacy Coach 0.3
  Num. Teacher Coach 0.2
  AC Facilitator 0.15
  RST 0.2
  AET 0.4
  ACEO 14.0 hours
  SSOs 234 hours

  Total: Female: 23  Male: 7

• Enrolment Trends
  Census data has shown enrolments have remained constant in recent years.
  Year of Opening
  1956
• Public Transport Access
  Mt. Gambier City Bus Service – some students do use this service to access school. Travel between Adelaide and Melbourne is serviced by a bus service and one airline.

2. Students (and their welfare)

• General Characteristics
  We have a high number of new enrolments during each year and have developed structures to enable students to be successful as they move in and out of the school. A high percentage of our students qualify for School Card support (approximately 60%), which adds to the school being identified as Category 2 for the Index of Educational Disadvantage. Approximately 15% of our students are identified as having learning difficulties and 15% are Indigenous. A high proportion of our students are from single parent or blended families. The mobility of families is high. Much of our community is experiencing the effects of long term and compounded disadvantage and unemployment.
  The AEDI identifies 37% of our students as being Developmentally Vulnerable. Current state average is 22%.

• (Pastoral) Care Programmes
  We aim for a safe and supportive environment for all. For the first two weeks at the beginning of the year we run a Setting Up For Success Programme that focuses on setting up classes for successful learning. Classes work together to develop vision and mission statements and establish class rules, expectations and consequences. These are published in a ‘Class Learning Plan’ This week also incorporates Well-being, Brain Theory, Quality Classroom and Myself/Community. A modified programme runs at the beginning of Term 3. The Student Counsellor works on whole class programmes with teachers and also co-ordinates special programmes specifically targeting students identified at risk. These programmes include Friendly Schools and Families, Child Protection Curriculum and Anti-Bullying lessons.
  Skills and values for social living are taught as an integral part of the curriculum with particular emphasis in Year 6/7 with the Living Skills Programme.
  A Learning Assistance Program (LAP) is coordinated by one of our School Services Officers. More than 40 students benefit by spending individual time with a volunteer through one of our programmes.
  The local ministries group employs a Christian Pastoral Care Worker based on site for 15 hours per week.

• Student Management
  At Melaleuca Park Primary School we believe that:
  1. It is important for students to have the opportunity and support to be successful in their learning and their behaviour.
  2. Both teachers and students have the right to a safe, caring orderly and happy learning environment.
  3. Students should be taught to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
4. The management of student behaviour will be most successful when teachers, students and families work together.

5. The School has a strong focus on Restorative Practices procedures and since 2006. It has become embedded in our behaviour management strategies.

We have developed a behaviour code that supports this happening, which focuses on MARBLES: Manners, Attitude, Respect, Body Language, Language, Effort and Smile.

We implement “SAFE” grievance procedures for students, which help students to effectively deal with bullying. (Solve it yourself, Ask a friend for help, Find a teacher, Explore other options)

We celebrate students’ successes.

- Student Government
  Student Leadership Team – This consists of six Year 7 students who have applied and have been interviewed by a panel of peers for the positions. They run assembly and take an important leadership role in our school.

- Special Programmes
  All classes have a Literacy Block each morning. It involves up to 2 hours of Literacy skills including reading, writing, listening, speaking and spelling. Students are placed into groups based on a variety of tests conducted early in the year. Each day groups rotate to different reading and writing activities practicing literacy skills through games and activities at their levels. This programme is supported with an SSO working 1 hour per class each day.
  The school has a strong focus on Social Inclusion, with programmes to support student participation, social learning, special needs and student behaviour
  The Breakfast programme is run by parent volunteers and caters for about 15% of our students daily.
  The ACEO works collaboratively with the Aboriginal Education Teacher to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for indigenous students through community involvement.

3. **Key School Policies**

- Site Improvement Plan
  Our 2013 priorities are:
  - Numeracy, Literacy and Well-being
  At Melaleuca Park Primary School our vision is that every one will achieve their potential as learners.

  Our values are Respect and Hope.
4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  Teachers are moving towards the full implementation of the Australian Curriculum Teaching Science and Maths from 2012 and English and History in 2013. In other subjects we are using the SACSA Framework. Students from Reception to Year 7, learn across the eight areas of study, which are English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Health and Physical Education, Society and Environment, The Arts, and Japanese.

- Special Needs
  Speech programmes are offered to students who need support with articulation and language development. Literacy Block, Numeracy Block and learning in small groups operate for all students.

- Teaching Methodology
  Classes are organised to provide a range of placement options for students. An understanding of social justice principles is a key requirement for staff.

- Assessment Procedures and Reporting
  Teachers plan for assessment in their programmes. Teachers use formal and informal ways to collect and record information about students’ learning. Students’ progress is regularly reported to parents through Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences, student self-assessments, Student Portfolios, term reviews and a summative report in Term 2 and Term 4. School level assessments include
  - PAT Maths Plus
  - PAT-R Comprehension
  - WRAP
  - Running Records
  - SEA Booklets
  - Westwood Spelling
  - Writing sample compared against a school rubric
  - NAPLAN
  - SPAR - a JP Phonologocal Awareness test

- Joint Programmes
  There are transition programmes Kindergarten to Reception and Year 7 to high school, with a particular emphasis on supporting students with special needs.
5. **Sporting Activities**

- The emphasis is on participation and skill development. Each year we hold Sports Day.
  
  The Activity Hall – Gym continues to provide indoor sports facilities on site.
  
  Our Active After School Program runs 2 afternoons a week in our Activity Hall.
  
  Once a year students participate in the Footsteps dance programme.
  
  A wide range of Saturday morning sport is available through the school throughout the year including T-ball, Football, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Cross Country and Athletics

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General**
  
  Most years the school participates in ‘Move it at the Helpmann’ that focuses on dance. The school enters a choir in the Adelaide Primary Schools Music Festival and the South East Primary Schools Music Festival.

- **Special**
  
  Activities include Life Education visit every 2 years, Book Week, Student Discos, one visiting performance per term, Special Days organised by the Student Leadership eg Bad Hair Day, Loud T-shirt Day, a Year 7 Graduation Dinner, celebrating Reconciliation Week.

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff Profile**
  
  The staff has a core of continuing teachers supplemented by a high number of contract teachers. Inspite of an extremely high staff turnover, they are a cohesive unit and enjoy working and socialising together.

- **Leadership Structure**
  
  Senior Staff work together as a collaborative team. The principal, deputy, counsellor and coordinator form the Leadership Team, which meets on a regular basis for training and planning. All promote collaborative practices through their work.

- **Staff Support Systems**
  
  Staff work on an agreed training and development programme as part of weekly staff meetings and pupil free days.
  
  A management group consisting of staff representatives from each teacher team and SSOs meet weekly. This is the key decision making body for the staff.
• Performance Management

Each term teachers meet with the Principal to reflect on their classroom practice and plan for their own professional development. Individual goal statements are an integral part of this process. Teachers are also expected to set goals in the areas of each of the schools’ current priorities. SSOs meet with their Line Manager to discuss practice and own professional development twice a year.

• Staff Utilisation Policies

Special Education hours are allocated to specific children. An SSO provides technical support across the schools. NIT is provided as a part of a teaching team with 3 teachers working in 2 classes. SSOs work in classrooms, the Resource Centre and in Administration. They also provide Special Ed support. The Finance Officer works 37 hours per week, which includes time in Administration. The ACEO works with Indigenous children and families 14 hours/week.

• Access to Special Staff

The school is also supported by a Disabilities Coordinator, who supports staff in the development of Individual Education Plans and Negotiated Education Plans for students with disabilities. A Guidance Officer and Speech Therapist also support students and teachers. We rarely need the Regional Behaviour Support Officer. A district instrumental music teacher offers music tuition in clarinet and flute to 6 students from Year 5-7.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

• Complexity placement points
  : 0.5

• Isolation placement points
  : 4.5

• Housing assistance
  : Government housing is available in Mount Gambier

• Locality allowances
  : Available

• Relocation assistance
  : Available
9. School Facilities

- Buildings and Grounds
  The Schools share a central administration, with classrooms located in stone buildings. All classrooms are carpeted and heated. There is a large Gym that is also used at lunch times. An oval, asphalt playing areas, two playgrounds and shady surrounds provide play areas for students. The school has recently undergone a major redevelopment, however due to over entitlement the Open Space Unit and 4 class transportable have been demolished.

- Cooling
  The School is equipped with reverse cycle split system air-conditioning throughout.

- Specialist Facilities
  The School has a Resource Centre and a computer room which is used by all staff and students. There is site wide internet access with computers in all classrooms. Electronic whiteboards are in all classes.

- Student Facilities
  Students may also order lunches, which are provided by a nearby school. A recreation program in our Activity hall is offered at lunch times. Students are also able to access the Resource Centre during lunch and recess to read, play games or use the computers.

- Staff Facilities
  Staff room, team preparation areas, access to curric and admin computers.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities
  The school has access for students and staff with disabilities, with ramps to all main buildings. Facilities also include a disabled toilet.

- Access to Bus Transport
  Local bus companies are hired to transport children to swimming, camps etc. As we are close to the centre of Mount Gambier, many venues are accessible by walking.

- Other
  A Dental Clinic operates at the local hospital.

10. School Operations

- Decision Making Structures
  We believe the following about decision making:
  All groups within the school community have a right to be involved in the decision making process. The level of involvement will vary according to the issue under consideration.
  Each staff member has an integral role in the school decision making process; working with Principal, students, Governing Council, wider parent groups and the school community.
  Everyone has the right to freely express his/her opinion and that is possible only in an atmosphere of trust, respect and tolerance.
Every effort should be made to achieve consensus (i.e. a decision everyone is prepared to accept and implement, even though there are differing levels of individual satisfaction). Good decision making requires open communication and access to quality information.

- **Regular Publications**
  A number of publications are available to staff to ensure communication is effective. Every staff member is issued with a staff information booklet that includes copies of school practice and all school based policies. Daily communication is through the “Day Book” and a weekly bulletin; “Melaleuca Bark” keeps staff informed with up to date information. A newsletter is produced fortnightly to keep parents informed of school events, curriculum information and community news. Class teachers regularly produce class newsletters.

- **Other Communication**
  The school has an open door approach. Parents can meet with the Principal, Deputy or Counsellor for individual concerns.

- **School Financial Position**
  In the last few years there has been a major commitment to improving technology available to students and its use in the curriculum. School fees are kept low in recognition of the low socio-economic area. Approximately 60% of families receive School Card.

- **Special Funding**
  The School is in a sound financial position.

### 11. Local Community

- **General Characteristics**
  Melaleuca Park Primary School is located on the southeast side of Mount Gambier, a city of 23,000 people. Mount Gambier is a well-organised and close knit community, with a variety of medical, commercial, recreational, cultural and sporting facilities and organisations available.

- **Parent and Community Involvement**
  This is an important element of our school community. We have an active Governing Council which supports school programmes. Parents are also involved with hands on activities in classrooms. We have links with Boandik Lodge and the wider community.

- **Feeder Schools**
  Children mostly attend the Melaleuca Kindergarten which is located on the same site as the school. A significant number of students enrol each year from Interstate. We average a transition in and out each year of about 30% of our students.

- **Other Local Care and Educational Facilities**
  The educational community is well established with excellent facilities for child care, pre-school, primary and secondary education. The local TAFE
also offers a range of courses for both vocational and personal development. Schools are well serviced by other government agencies.

- **Commercial/Industrial and Shopping Facilities**
  Mount Gambier is a large regional centre with excellent commercial/industrial and shopping facilities.

- **Other Local Facilities**
  Mount Gambier is a well-known tourist centre. A number of medical clinics, a public and private hospital, cinemas, theatre and library are amongst the facilities available.

- **Availability of Staff Housing**
  A range of housing options are available including private and government rental or purchasing your own home or unit.

- **Accessibility**
  Mount Gambier is easily accessible from major cities, with daily bus and air services available.

- **Local Government Body**
  The local council is The City of Mount Gambier Council. Their offices are located at the Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace Ph 8724 1711. Information about Mount Gambier and Districts is also available from “The Lady Nelson” Tourist/Interpretive Centre, Jubilee Highway (East). Phone: 8724 1730.

### 12. Further Comments

The school is challenging due to its diverse clientele. But is also extremely rewarding as the students and parents are appreciative of staff efforts. Our staff are a close knit team and provide each other with strong collegiate support. Staff are committed to providing quality programmes in a safe environment.