

Kimberley School of the Air



SCHOOL REPORT

2016

OUR SCHOOL MISSION

To ensure students at Kimberley School of the Air develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to engage effectively with and prosper in a globalised world.

School Profile

Kimberley School of the Air is located in the West Kimberley town of Derby. Derby is approximately 3000 km north of Perth. KSOTA services children from all over the Kimberley who for a variety of reasons can't access regular schooling. KSOTA services children from Pastoral stations, remote Aboriginal communities, tourist facilities, Road Houses, remote Nation Parks and travelling families. We are part of the SOTA network of schools which cover the state of Western Australia.

The model of distance education employed by the SOTA's is iconic in the history of the outback. In the past lessons were delivered by radio. Teachers at KSOTA now use computers and the internet as the platform for air lessons. KSOTA uses the work packages developed by SIDE (School of Isolated and Distance Education) as the cornerstone of the curriculum delivery to our students.

At the conclusion of the 2016 school year KSOTA has a school population of 39 students. The number of enrolments has dropped to a certain extent over the past few years and this can be attributed to, in part, the fact that the year 7 cohort has begun the process of coming to an end at KSOTA and the changing face of the Pastoral Industry.

The school is committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive attitude towards learning that will ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their potential and contribute to society.

Our Objectives

- * Prepare students to have a valuable and successful role in society.
- * Comply with WA Department of Education's Policies and initiatives.
- * Ensure our school is a good school.
- * Provide practical support and a proactive communication network with all stakeholders involved with the learning programme of our students.
- * Deliver meaningful accountability

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2016 was a year where KSOTA began to manage the changes in the way we do our business that had started in the two years previous.

By 2016 the school fully grasped the fact that funding was only going to tighten and that the school was best placed if it stayed ahead of those changes and at the same time responded to those changes and made shifts in how the business got done day by day.

During 2016 the work that begun in 2015 with school plans and curriculum materials continued. Unfortunately by the end of 2016 SIDE had not completed the last remaining "new" sets. This fact was really to be viewed as one of the last remaining external hurdles that we at KSOTA needed to face. The school planning process continued to draw down on the process of making real connections between the planning process and the work the students were actually doing. I personally continued to see the reality that within a couple of planning cycles all the links would be made and a process that saw real cohesion between the teaching, learning and reporting processes would be fully implemented at KSOTA. By the time that this process is completed it will reflect a complete audit and restructure of how the teaching and learning programmes at KSOTA are constructed, implemented and reviewed. The vagaries of previous years will be completely replaced with a coherent, trackable and completely useable system that will provide a sense of clarity in how all systems at KSOTA are run.

This kind of planning is critical to a school meeting the needs of its students but at the same time the day to day activities within the school continue to take place.

In that regard 2016 was no different to other years. KSOTA carried out:

- 1) Home visits
- 2) Home Tutors Seminar
- 3) School assemblies and special days
- 4) Canberra Camp Yrs 4-7
- 5) Junior Primary Base camp Yrs K-3
- 6) ECE Camp Broome
- 7) SOTA Muster Perth
- 8) All normal teaching and learning programmes

The budget continues to place challenges on this school and at the point of writing KSOTA continues to manage the resources and budget allocation that it is given. The new fiscal reality was perhaps finally fully understood by the school community and this fact was reflected by the P&C fully funding the bi-annual trip to Canberra which took place in the second half of 2016. The group that goes is understandably small and the costs are kept to a minimum. This is the kind of school event that will

only continue if the P&C continues to fully fund the event. Other SOTAs are contemplating reducing the numbers of home visits as a way to reduce costs.

This school has no appetite for that scenario. The Kimberley SOTA is committed to the current quota of home visits per year. It is also committed to the Home Tutor's Seminar and the Muster and ECE camp to round out the yearly calendar. These activities have been identified as core elements of our service delivery. Once again I continue to be pleased as Principal how the staff recognises that the school is in a period of transition and that we are day by day mapping out what is to be the "new normal" at KSOTA. I would much rather spend energy now with this transition than simply waiting to see what the new reality will be. KSOTA continued to map its course during 2016 and our reaction to change will enable us to be in control of the change that will be presented to us over time.

The transition from the "old" KSOTA thinking to the "new" KSOTA thinking continues to be front and centre on the agenda of the school. Whilst we still suffer the vagaries of "Distance Education", it is more than true that the current teacher in a SOTA has much more avenues by which real communication can be achieved with our isolated students, families and Home Tutors. Part of the new emerging culture at KSOTA is that the quantity and quality of communication that the teacher can have with their charges continues to evolve. Being a proactive teacher in a setting where traditionally the tyranny of distance and very limited opportunities for immediate contact meant that the teacher in a SOTA could be at "arms length" means that all current teachers have the opportunity to instant access with their charges. Student email, SABA and the traditional methods all adds up to create the environment that the "virtual classroom" can and in many instances is a place where world class teaching and learning takes place on a daily basis.

Having a teaching force that has these increased capacities coupled with the meaningful restructure that we are undertaking at KSOTA means that the way that we do our business is absolutely world class.

Paul Noble

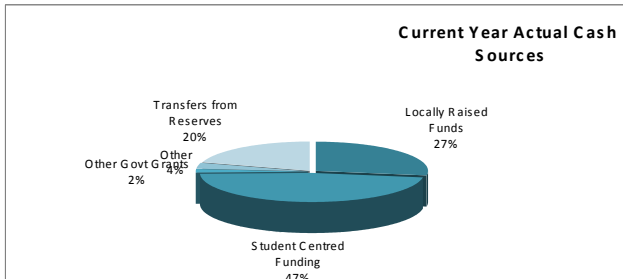
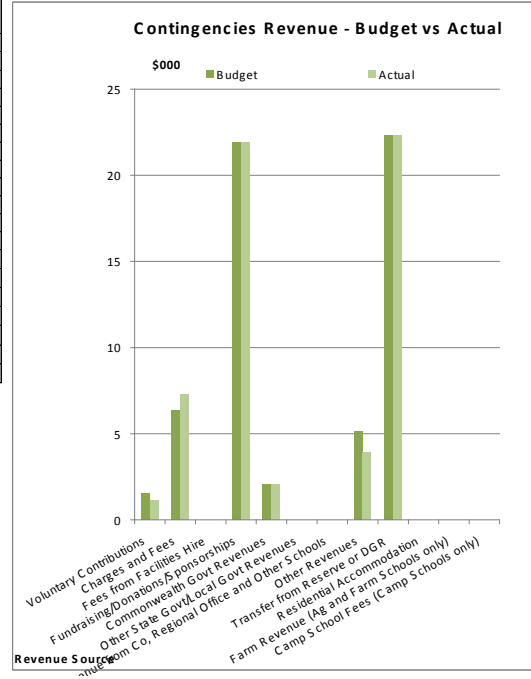
Principal

KSOTA

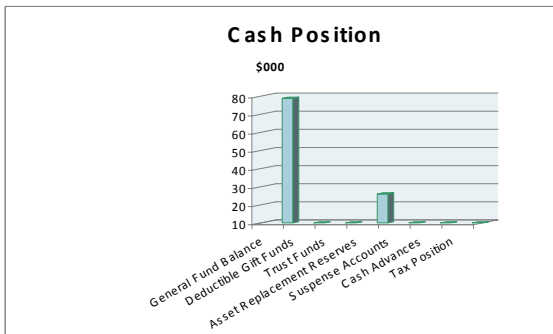
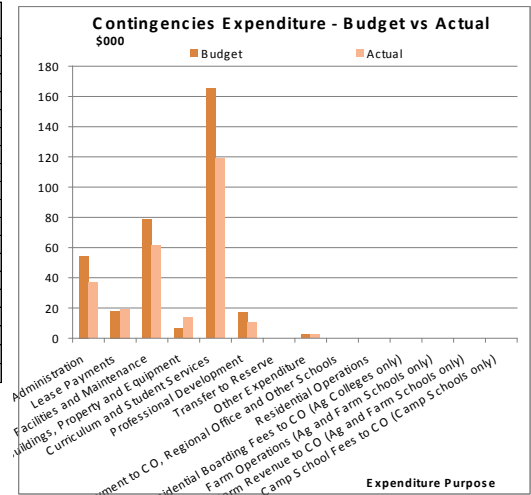


Kimberley SOTA
Financial Summary as at
31 December 2016

	Revenue - Cash	Budget	Actual
1	Voluntary Contributions	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 1,110.00
2	Charges and Fees	\$ 6,378.00	\$ 7,290.73
3	Fees from Facilities Hire	\$ -	\$ -
4	Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 21,929.23	\$ 21,929.73
5	Commonwealth Govt Revenues	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,080.00
6	Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	\$ -	\$ -
7	Revenue from Co, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ -	\$ -
8	Other Revenues	\$ 5,150.50	\$ 3,889.30
9	Transfer from Reserve or DGR	\$ 22,331.43	\$ 22,331.43
10	Residential Accommodation	\$ -	\$ -
11	Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
12	Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Locally Raised Funds	\$ 59,429.16	\$ 58,631.19
	Opening Balance	\$ 230,852.41	\$ 230,852.41
	Student Centred Funding	\$ 51,919.23	\$ 51,919.23
	Total Cash Funds Available	\$ 342,200.80	\$ 341,402.83
	Total Salary Allocation	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Funds Available	\$ 342,200.80	\$ 341,402.83



	Expenditure	Budget	Actual
1	Administration	\$ 54,438.74	\$ 36,626.43
2	Lease Payments	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 19,183.66
3	Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	\$ 78,491.00	\$ 61,422.64
4	Buildings, Property and Equipment	\$ 6,407.00	\$ 13,933.31
5	Curriculum and Student Services	\$ 165,348.87	\$ 119,024.98
6	Professional Development	\$ 17,029.09	\$ 10,176.25
7	Transfer to Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
8	Other Expenditure	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 2,310.50
9	Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ -	\$ -
10	Residential Operations	\$ -	\$ -
11	Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Colleges only)	\$ -	\$ -
12	Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
13	Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
14	Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Goods and Services Expenditure	\$ 341,919.70	\$ 262,677.77
	Total Forecast Salary Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Expenditure	\$ 341,919.70	\$ 262,677.77
	Cash Budget Variance	\$ 281.10	



Cash Position as at:	
Bank Balance	\$ 101,113.06
Made up of:	\$ -
1 General Fund Balance	\$ 78,725.06
2 Deductible Gift Funds	\$ -
3 Trust Funds	\$ -
4 Asset Replacement Reserves	\$ 26,000.00
5 Suspense Accounts	\$ 45.00
6 Cash Advances	\$ 100.00
7 Tax Position	\$ 3,557.00
Total Bank Balance	\$ 101,113.06