1. General information

Part A

School name: RISDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
School No.: 0685
Principal: Mrs Carolyn Clinton
Postal Address: Kingston Road, Port Pirie 5540
Location Address: 24 – 28 Kingston Road, Port Pirie 5540
District: Yorke and Mid North Region
Road distance from GPO: 225 kms
CPC attached: No

February FTE Enrolment 2011 2012 2013

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July total FTE Enrolment 414 438 447
July School Card (Persons) 108 140
NESB Total (Persons) 24 25 9
Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons) 4 1 3
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 15 18 15

Part B

• Principal
  Carolyn Clinton

• Deputy Principal
  Damien Mellow

• School e-mail address
  DL:0685_info@schools.sa.edu.au

• Staffing numbers – 42 staff members for 2013
  Teaching Staff (including Principal & Deputy Principal)
Classroom teachers x 18 (4 Graduate teachers in first year of teaching, 2 teachers in first 3 years) LOTE teacher, NIT teachers x 6, Teacher Librarians (2 x part time),
Deputy / School Counsellor,
Intervention Manager (.4),
Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET .2),
English as a Second Language Teacher (ESL .2)
Reading Support Teacher (.2)
School Services Officers (12) in a variety of roles including: Admin, Finance, ICT, Student and Classroom Support, Support of Students with Disabilities and challenging behaviours, garden program, Resource Centre, Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO),
Grounds person,
Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPS worker 15 hours a week).

- **Enrolment trends**
  
  Expected enrolment by term 4, 2013 approx 470; enrolments – increasing – overall stable

- **Special arrangements**
  
  Involvement in Pirie and Environs Principal Cluster (7 primary schools, Special School, one secondary school), Bookmark Cluster, German Hub Group, Finance Officers Hub Group

- **Year of opening**
  
  1955.

- **Public transport access**
  
  Town public transport available.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**

- **General characteristics**
  
  Risdon Park Primary School is an R-7 education facility, situated at the southern end of Port Pirie. The school population is centred around the middle range socio/economic strata in Port Pirie identified as a category 4 of Disadvantage. Approximately 32% of the student population are school card holders. 9% students have been identified as students with a disability and have a Negotiated Education Plan. There are students who have been identified with language and communication difficulties and receive in-school and specialist speech pathology support. A range of students are from a Non-English speaking background – South African, Greek, Indian, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Pakistani, and Zimbabwean. All of these students receive ESL support. Risdon Park Primary School has a number of students who are under the Guardianship of the Minister (GOM).

  The school student population draws from both the town and the rural area south of Port Pirie.

- **(Pastoral) Care programs**
  
  The school has a part-time School Counsellor (0.8); and this year also a part time CPS Worker (Christian Pastoral Support).

  Interagency support is available through CAYH, CAMHS, Families SA and Uniting Care Wesley.
• **Support**
  DECD support is accessed from Speech Pathologists, Hearing Impaired Services, Disabilities Support visiting teachers, Guidance and Interagency Student Behaviour Management Team.

• **Student Behaviour Management**
  A comprehensive Behaviour Code, which outlines positive in-class and yard behaviour; and is underpinned by our school's values. Yard behaviour reviewed in 2011. Classroom Behaviour Code currently under review. (Term 2, 2013)

  Parents, Staff and Students, reflect a set of common values. We incorporate Values Education, through the Virtues Project, into classroom/yard behaviour and learning codes.

  Parents/Caregivers are involved in developing Student Behaviour Plans when necessary.

• **Student Government**
  SRC (Kids Co) class reps R-7 meets every second week with staff facilitators—Deputy Principal / School Counsellor, Damien Mellow and CPS worker, Emma Lynn. Classes are encouraged to hold weekly class meetings or learning circles. Three whole school assemblies are held each term and led by our two school captains and two vice captains. Units may also hold their own assemblies throughout the term. Kids Co organises fundraising, special days and makes suggestions for improving school equipment and resources, particularly in relation to class and grounds facilities.

• **Special Programs**
  A range of programs led by Student Support teachers, Counsellor, CPS Worker and School Services Officers; cater for small groups of students with special needs in literacy and numeracy, social skills, life skills and behaviour. These include the organic garden (which has a strong focus in the school), True Colours, Living Skills, Disability Swimming, Men's Shed, and various ICAN programs.

  A Reading Room Program, operated by the Intervention Manager (Naomi Connor), School Services Officers and parent volunteers, caters for small groups of Year 1 students requiring additional reading support.

  A Challenge Group (individually negotiated problem solving program) operates for small groups in the four Upper Primary classes, with the aim of meeting the needs of high achievers across the school. This program is run by one of RPPS Teacher Librarians, Helen McMahon.

  An SSO is employed 10 hrs per week for work with classes and small groups of students in an alternative garden program.

  Transition Opportunities are also available for year 6/7 students at John Pirie Secondary School throughout the school year.

  The CPS worker, Emma Lynn holds lunchtime programs for students with an arts, craft and technology focus. Risdon Got Talent is held in term 4
over the past 3 years, after holding a number of auditions and semi finals. This is a very popular event.

Premier’s Reading and Be Active Challenge are implemented across all year levels at RPPS.

Year 5/6/7 students attend numerous SAPSASA events during the school year.

A Breakfast Club is held once a week under the coordination of the CPS Worker Emma Lynn and parent volunteers. The Breakfast program is run under the Breakfast in a Bag strategy and is financially support by Nyrstar and Regional Health Food Bank

3. Key School Policies

- **Statement of Purpose**

  **Contextual Influences**

  Risdon Park Primary School provides quality Reception to Year 7 schooling for students in Port Pirie. Opened in 1955, and rebuilt into a permanent brick structure in 1975.

  The school consists of three 6-unit open space buildings, which are partly partitioned to enable individual classes to operate. Students are grouped into 18 classes in both single and composite year levels.

  The current term 1 enrolment of 420 will increase to approximately 460 students throughout the year, as the school has an intake of Reception students at the beginning of each term. 2012 saw a high level of student transiency.

  Some parents help in classrooms daily. Governing Council and its sub-committees are active in the students’ education and general welfare.

  The school supports several sporting teams in local competitions. These include Soccer and Netball.

  **Core Business**

  RPPS provides access to the curriculum through quality teaching and learning programs in an environment that is caring and supportive. We aim to achieve successful learning experiences for students through positive student/teacher/parent relationships and a focus on quality teaching/learning and high performance outcomes.

  **Our vision:**

  *Quality Education which Empowers Community Minded Learners*

  “Helping Each Other Succeed”

  **Our Core Virtues:**

  *Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring*

  Our curriculum encompasses the Australian Curriculum and South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability framework (SACSA), incorporating the Essential Learnings, Key Competencies and (ICT) Information and Communication Technology. We have nominated to report
to parents at the end of term 2 and term 4, 2013 from Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, History and Science.

- OUR PRIORITIES

Improvement Priorities


**Engagement for Learning**

**Curriculum & Pedagogy**

**Literacy Improvement Objective:** To develop and implement whole school literacy agreements in writing and reading that promote literacy improvement and high quality teaching and learning.

**Literacy Targets 2011 - 2013:**

1. By the end of Term 1, 2014, Year 2 students achieve a 10% improvement in reading or read at level 21 or higher.
2. By the end of Term 4, 2013, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will achieve a 5% improvement in achieving above national minimum standards in NAPLAN Reading.
3. By the end of Term 4, 2013, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 make a 5% improvement in the middle and upper growth categories in MAPLAN Reading.

**Engagement for Learning Objective:** To empower students and staff to self motivate and regulate their own decisions and actions for effective learning and support each other to achieve personal and group goals. This evidenced through demonstrating a positive approach to their learning.

**Engagement for learning Targets 2011 - 2013:**

1. 5% increase in enthusiastic learners as measured by the Engagement Matrix in Term 4.
2. 95% attendance is achieved by all students R-7.
3. 87% attendance is achieved by all ATSI students in R-7.
4. 5% decrease in the number of identified bullying behaviours as measured by the Term 3 bullying audit.

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Objective:** To become familiar with and implement Australian Curriculum together with DEDC curriculum priorities, with a focus on implementing up to date teaching pedagogies through the TfEL framework.

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Targets:**

1. Professional Learning—Australian Curriculum with a particular focus on English
2. Teacher participation in Yorke & Mid North Professional Learning Communities—TfEL focus
Monitoring and Review

- In February 2010 Risdon Park Primary School went through a three day SILA Review participated in the SILA project for 2010 and 2011, which provided a Leadership, Literacy and early Years Coaches to work with staff and leadership.

- Principal, Carolyn Clinton has participated in the PALL (Principals as Literacy Leaders) project in 2011 / 12

- In November 2011, Risdon Park Primary School went through a self review process which culminated with a Validation conducted by Yorke and Mid North staff.

- Continuous Improvement is a priority at Risdon Park Primary School and we use the DIAf, self review documents and tools. The DIAf principles are identified in our Site Improvement Plan with outcomes reported at the end of each year through the RPPS Annual Report. Continuous Improvement I processes are documented, displayed and agreed to by staff.

- Risdon Park Primary School has developed, agreed to and implemented Whole School Agreements in the following areas:
  - Balanced Literacy Teaching and Learning– specifically in Writing (First Steps) and Reading (Guided Reading R-7, Jolly Phonics R – 2, Jolly Grammar)
  - Data Collection and Analysis
  - Common Assessment tasks in writing and Moderation in Learning Teams and across the whole school
  - Wilson McCaskill “Play Is The Way”

Planning and review structures include:

- Leadership Team
- Staff Learning Teams / Learning Communities.
- Strategic Data Collection & Analysis,
- Supportive Performance Processes including classroom Literacy observation with extensive constructive feedback.
- Kids Co.
- Governing Council.
- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews.
- Sub-committees of Governing Council.
4. **Curriculum**

**Curriculum Areas**

English (Australian Curriculum – implementation, 2013)
The Arts
Mathematics (Australian Curriculum – implementation, 2012)
Design and Technology
Health & PE
Science (Australian Curriculum – implementation, 2012)
Studies of Society and the Environment
History (Australian Curriculum – implementation 2013)
Languages other than English (German).

TfEL (South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning Framework) is used as a guide to the planning, programming, delivery and assessing of curriculum.

Teaching and learning occurs within supportive structures:
- democratic decision-making involving students, parents and staff
- quality programs which support early intervention (3 waves of intervention are being introduced in 2013)
- staff and student collaboration, leadership, review and development.

In addition we offer yr 5, 6 and 7 students the opportunity to participate in an Instrumental Music Program (brass, woodwind, piano and guitar) and Combined Schools’ Choir.

- **Open Access**
  Available on application;

- **Special needs**
  Intervention Manager, leads the Students at Risk group (STAR) comprised of class teachers and principal and / or delegate. The manager also liaises with Disability Services, support teacher for the Hearing Impaired, and other agencies. The manager is also responsible for programs for the students who have Speech Pathology programs. Ten School Support Officers assist teachers to implement programs offering class support and withdrawal support. Students with significant learning disabilities/difficulties or behavioural difficulties are provided with additional support through alternative programs and are encouraged to participate in all school activities.

**Support programs include:**
- Early Bird Reading Room – for Yr 1 students requiring additional reading support
- Additional reading groups for Yr 1, 2 and 5 students
- Living skills
- Gardening
- Swimming – during terms 2 and 3 for some students on NEPs
- Speech/Language programs are individualised according to student needs
- Coordination program- fine and gross motor skills development for children from Reception to Year 3.
- Community – Road safety
• Enrichment program (Challenge Group) – in addition to classroom programs, a Year 6/7 group is established for students to access extension and innovation in higher order thinking skills.

• Parent volunteers assist with individual programs with several students.

• Teaching Pedagogy
18 single classes in three 6-teacher Open Space Units. The Resource Based Learning/Information Literacy methodology is implemented jointly with the Teacher/Librarian, offering two major topics per class over the year (ie 2 terms). A few teachers elect to do some team teaching, streaming across two classes, and peer group/cross-age tutoring especially for reading sessions. ‘In-class’ SSO support and alternative programs are operating for students with learning difficulties.

• Reporting Procedures
Reporting practices are consistent with the (DED) policy. We aim to report student progress in ways that are meaningful, efficient to implement and effective in their practice.

Reporting both formal and informal takes place on various forms and these, together with the timeline for 2013, are listed below.

Teachers also report informally to parents in many ways throughout the year, for example letters, discussions, appointments/interviews, students’ work, class events, newsletters.

**Term 1**
- Week 3  Acquaintance evening
- Week 8 & 9  Parent / Teacher Interviews

**Term 2**
- Week 10  Formal Written Report

**Term 4**
- Week 9  Formal Written Report

- Please note that teachers and/or parents can arrange an interview in any term

Other ways that we report/communicate student learning/achievement @ Risdon Park PS throughout the year.

- Review meetings for NEP’s, ILP’s, IEP’s
- School newsletter goes home goes home fortnightly
- Class communication books / diaries
- Individual classes student Portfolios
- Parents / caregivers spending time in classrooms, going on excursions and camps
- Formal meetings, eg Governing Council, & Committee Meetings
- Individual meetings with psychologists, speech pathologists, interagency support personnel
- Attendance at Whole School Events eg Sports Day
- Phone calls home
5. Sporting Activities

- Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of out-of-hours sport either in a school or community team. Students are invited to try out for selection in a variety of SAPSASA sport teams. The school holds an annual sports day in Term 3. Many sports skills sessions and carnivals are provided throughout the year, so that students at all year levels have the opportunity to learn the basics of a variety of sports. Risdon Park Primary School students participate in Inter-school Sports Day early in term 4 (all Pirie Primary Schools including St Marks and Mid North Christian College participate).

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Weekly lunchtime activities are organised for students, by our CPS Worker.

Whole School Celebrations such as Harmony Day take place each year.

Labs On Legs, Book Week performance and Dance programs are conducted either annually or bi-annually.

Kids Co (SRC) coordinates a fundraising event for a nominated charity each term e.g.; World Environment Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Childhood Cancer.

The school has a Yr 5, 6, 7 senior students Choir, which participates in a local Combined Schools’ Choir performances in the Keith Michelle Theatre.

Our LOTE (German teacher) promotes students entering competitions; and supports them to attend celebrations in Adelaide. Over the last few years we have been highly successful in the state Schutzenfest competition.

Annual Risdon Got Talent Quest implemented by CPS worker, Deputy Principal/ School Counsellor and Kids Co in term 4

Class Camps & Excursions – Year 6/7 have an Annual Camp other year years hold sleep-overs, camps and excursions through negotiations with Leadership.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Over the past two year RPPS has had a high turn over of staff due to taking leave, with a few staff members retiring. This had led to a number of temporary positions, many of which have been filled by graduate teachers in their first year of teaching and / or new teachers in their first three years. A number of part time staff take up NIT (non-instruction time) positions or other non-classroom positions within the school.

- Leadership structure

The Core Leadership Team is comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Counsellor, Improvement Coordinator, Reading Support Teacher and Intervention / AET / EALD Manager.
An Admin Leadership team is comprised of Principal, Deputy Principal, Counsellor, Finance Officer and Front Office SSO. Both teams meet separately on a weekly basis.

- **Staff support systems**
  Staff members are responsible for disseminating information and acting as a focus/contact person for at least one area of study; and for cross-curricular roles. Staff work in Learning Teams, which are referred to as Professional Learning Communities. Three staff meetings are allocated to Learning Teams a term and teams identify area of interest or need from the Site Improvement Plan’s 200 Day Action Plans as an area of Inquiry. The first staff meeting of every term in terms 2, 3, and 4 are dedicated to the Learning Teams presenting their new learning to the whole staff.

  Staff are also encouraged to meet in unit teams to discuss management processes, procedures and issue that arise for their own unit areas.

  Staff are strongly encouraged and supported to attend professional development opportunities that are offered on a Regional and state-wide basis, together with regular times being available for in-school roles and priorities.

  Staff are currently involved in Professional Learning Communities across the whole town and incorporate meetings weeks 4 and 8 of Term 2 and 3. This learning is then shared back to staff.

- **Performance Management**
  The Principal and Deputy Principal hold the Line Management Roles at RPPS. A clearly documented Performance Development process is documented which included formal and informal meetings, classroom literacy observations.

  Induction Processes were reviewed in 2012. A buddy system exists for new staff members to become acquainted with life and work at RPPS and informed about policies, procedures, and routines.

- **Access to special staff**
  Students have the opportunity to be involved in an Instrumental Program by travelling to the John Pirie Secondary School. Teachers access support from interagency Student Behaviour Management personnel, Psychology services, Student Support Visiting Teacher, Teacher of the Hearing-Impaired, Speech Pathologists, (SASVI) SA School for Vision Impaired and SA Downes Syndrome and Autism Associations.

8. **Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- **Isolation placement points**
  Risdon Park Primary School attracts 2.0 points.
  Country Incentive Leave applies to staff at Risdon Park PS.
• **Shorter terms**
  No additional incentive to the government incentive – 10 week fourth term, if the 37.5 hours training and development is completed.

• **Travelling time**
  Because of our distance from Adelaide, negotiated travelling time can be included in the year’s 37.5 hours’ training and development record.

• **Housing assistance**
  There is some Government Housing available in Port Pirie.

• **Cooling for school buildings**
  Refer to School Facilities section below.

• **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**
  This applies to Risdon Park Primary School.

• **Additional increment allowance**
  Applicable to Risdon Park.

• **Relocation assistance**
  Applies.

9. **School Facilities**

• **Buildings and Grounds**
  Classroom provisions include three six-teacher open-space units; two transportables used as Science/Technology and LOTE German rooms; two double transportables used as activity rooms
  BER funding enabled RPPS to have a new free standing Resource Centre and a new refurbished Computer suite. New carpet and cooling has been installed in all three units. The front administration area has also been upgraded within the BER funding.

• **Cooling**
  All learning and administration areas are provided with split system cooling.

• **Specialist facilities**
  The new Resource Centre is well equipped for school use, with a wide range of book and non-book resources, access to the Internet and CD Rom and TV and video facilities. A SMART board has also been installed.
  The LOTE room is a separate transportable classroom which has recently been reclad and relined and fitted with new windows and carpet. A SMART board has also been installed in the LOTE room.
  A newly refurbished IT Suite (formally old Resource Centre) is large and has 28 computers which are networked; together with one in each classroom and the three Unit teacher preparation areas; and 6 in the Resource Centre. All these computers, plus those in the staffroom and front offices, provide access to the Internet.
  A SMART board has also been installed in the new IT Suite.
  All classrooms have Interactive Whiteboards (SMART boards).
• **Student facilities**
The school has a canteen that operates as recess and lunchtimes five days a week. The Governing Council employs the Canteen Manager. Students have access to the Computing Room and Resource Centre at lunchtimes. They also have use of the school hall and Activity Room for Arts and physical activities.

• **Staff facilities**
The staffroom is equipped to meet the needs of staff each teaching unit has a teacher prep area/office, equipped with computer and printer facilities and a phone.

• **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
Ramps are in place to each teaching unit, for wheelchair access. The school has one toilet for the disabled.

• **Access to bus transport**
Public transport is available for students throughout Port Pirie, but is infrequent other than before and after school pick-ups. Students who live out of town also have access to a number of DEDCS school buses.

10. **School Operations**

• **Decision making structures**
Staff, Parents and Students are able to have input into school operations via the PAC, Leadership team, Staff Meetings, Governing Council and its sub-committees; staff learning teams and SRC (Kids Co).

• **Regular publications**
Newsletters are published fortnightly for the whole school community. Staff are kept informed of daily events through notices on LearnLink. A comprehensive staff Induction information is provided for each person at the beginning of each year, as is a TRT reference handbook.

• **Other communication**
Junior students have a Communication Book, while the Middle and Upper Primary students have a diary. Regular use by both the students and their parents is an expectation.

• **School financial position**
The school operates with a pre-planned, prioritised budget and is closely monitored.

• **Special funding**
The school receives some funding through Investing in our Schools, Remote and Rural Areas Program (formerly CAP), APAS, Early Assistance and Literacy and Numeracy.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**
  Port Pirie, with a population of approximately 16,000 in the Council area, in the main depends upon the Nyrstar smelter for employment. The retail sector attracts out of town patronage. The city is noted for its friendliness. Sporting opportunities are wide and varied. Cultural opportunities are provided through regular local groups and events at the Keith Michelle Theatre.

- **Parent and community involvement**
  The Governing Council and its associated sub-committees provide outstanding service and support to the school. Some parents are involved in volunteer classroom programs and the canteen on a daily basis.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  Port Pirie has two Child-Care Centres, four Pre-schools, four Public Primary Schools, one Public Secondary School, one interdenominational R-12 school and one Catholic School with separate campuses for Preschool-7 and 8-12 students. Port Pirie has a large TAFE campus, which is part of the Spencer Institute of TAFE.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  Port Pirie is well serviced by a variety of retail and business outlets, which are located in the City Centre, Pirie Plaza and along Main Road. These include hardware, supermarkets, specialty shops, three motels (servicing the Flinders Ranges), cabin park, two caravan parks, furniture/carpentry, hardware, homeware, car dealerships, service to the surrounding rural area.

- **Other local facilities**
  There are several doctors, dentists and other health care providers available in Port Pirie and Districts. We have an SA Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and Regional Police Station. We have a quality hospital servicing Port Pirie and Districts; with specialist access on a visiting basis. There are several sporting clubs available for social gatherings. The city has a quality public library service. Good facilities are available for a variety of sport and recreational activities, including a synthetic hockey surface.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Government rental is accessible, as are other rental or purchase options. These are advertised privately or through the numerous local Real Estate agents.

- **Accessibility**
Port Pirie is approximately 10 kilometres off National Highway One. Accessibility by road from Adelaide to the south; Port Augusta the Far North and Eyre Peninsula to the north, is by very good highways. The Premier Stateliner coach group offer a number of regular services each day; with coaches from Alice Springs, Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta making scheduled stops in Port Pirie.

- **Local Government body**
  The Port Pirie Regional Council is the local governing body. The mayoral and council offices are located in the City Centre.