Our Achievements 2016
‘Every child learning, succeeding and thriving’

Academic
Key Learning Area Achievement - Semester 2
• 63% of students in Prep to Year 6 have received an A or B rating in one or more Learning Areas (LAs).
• 53% of students in Prep to Year 6 have received an A or B rating for English, 61% for Mathematics and 58% for Science.
• 86% of Prep students received an A or B rating (Applying and Making Connections) for all Learning Areas. A sensational achievement!
• At our Annual Awards Ceremony 106 students received Academic Excellence (Gold) Awards (predominately As with no standard of achievement below a B) and 193 students received Academic Achievement (Silver) Awards (predominately As and Bs with nothing below a C standard). Principal’s Academic Excellence Award recipient was Kelsey Peach; Haines Family Mathematics Award recipient was Lucy Vickers; and the Mrs Jill Cupples English Award recipients were Kelsey Peach and Bella Nolan.

Effort and Behaviour Achievement
• 85% of students received an A or B rating for effort in one or more Learning Areas – Reflecting our school motto “Always our Best”.
• 95% of students have consistently demonstrated our school values and behaviour expectations.
• Christensen Family Award recipient was Harriet Bampton.

International Testing
• Students (from Year 2 – 6) elected to participate in the ICAS Competitions across the testing areas of Science, English, Spelling, Mathematics, Writing and Digital Technologies. Our students were awarded 1 High Distinction (top 1% in Australia, Bella Nolan -Writing), 17 Distinctions (top 11%) and 41 Credits (top 22%).

Our School’s Explicit Improvement Focus is Reading
• 2016 Investing for Success targets achieved: 100% of students have achieved phonological awareness (the basic building block to become a highly proficient reader); 85% of students in Prep to Year 6 performed at or above their reading age for oral reading accuracy, with 33% of students in Prep to Year 6 reading with accuracy in the well above and excellent ranges. (The normal distribution is 16% of students perform in this range). An increased percentage (21%) of students from Prep to Year 6 achieving in the well above average range in PAT-R reading comprehension assessment. 95 % of our current Year 5 students made positive gains in reading NAPLAN assessment from Year 3.

Our rich and extensive Citizenship, Cultural and Sporting programs have continued throughout 2016, our significant accomplishments and undertakings include:

Citizenship and Cultural Achievements
• 1st place Rock Pop Mime, Primary Division.
• Wakakirri Performance, Awards for Group Acting and Characterisation, Lighting, Combination of Dance and Drama, Direction and Staging, Creative use of the Signature Item (star).
• Regional finalist FANFARE Strings and Senior Band.
• Eisteddfod awards – Strings (3rd place), Concert Band (Highly Commended), Prep Choir (Silver), Year 1 Choir (Silver), Year 2 Choir (Gold and overall winner), Year 3/4 Choir (Gold and overall winner), Year 5/6 Show Choir (Gold), Year 1 Verse Speaking (Highly Commended) Year 2 Verse Speaking (1st place).
Civic and Cultural Achievements (cont.)

- Our massed choirs of over 100 children performed at our school’s Induction of Student Leaders Ceremony and sang at our school’s ANZAC Day Ceremony.
- 18 students joined over 200 students from across the district to perform at Choral Festival.
- MWSS Marching Drummers led students and staff admirably in the community ANZAC Day March.
- String players Jann Macatangay and Victoria Searle received an outstanding musician award at the annual Instrumental camp.
- Years 5 and 6 students engaged with Artists in Residence to learn guitar and percussion during music in Semester 2.
- Our 3 Opti-Minds teams achieved Honours, with our Social Science team being awarded the Spirit of Opti-Minds.
- Our first team of 4 students competed in the Mackay and District Chess Tournament an opportunity arising from our Friday afternoon project club activities.
- Our students participated in the: Indigenous Literacy Bookswap, promoting reading but also a sense of service to disadvantaged Indigenous school libraries through gold coin donations; and, the National Simultaneous Storytime, where we read the SAME Picture Book at the SAME time across Australia.
- Our students engaged with Australia’s best authors, illustrators and performance artists at Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival; and with visiting author, cartoonist Michael Salmon.
- One hundred Years 5 and 6 students attended Anzac 100, The Spirit of Anzac Interactive Display at the MECC observing artefacts and memorabilia lent by the Australian War Memorial.
- ANZAC 100 Poppy Project facilitator Mrs Margaret Spillman was awarded the prestigious Queensland Schools Library Association Brian Bahnisch Award. This is the first time this award has been presented to a school library outside of the south east corner of our State.
- Students and staff participated in numerous Student Council organised events, school discos, themed free dress days to raise student awareness and funds for social causes.
- Students, staff and members of our school community participated in our first Carols by Candle Light evening.
- At our Annual Awards Ceremony the following students were recognised for their citizenship and cultural achievements: Julie Senn Citizenship Memorial Award recipient was Jordan Sleeman, Cook Family Award recipient was Dakoda Murry; MWSS Indigenous Award recipient was Talai Sabatino; and the Instrumental Music Award recipients were: Band – Bella Nolan and Strings – Jann Macatangay.

Sport

- In 2016 Mackay West State School students participated in a wide range of sports, (swimming, Australian Rules football (AFL), basketball, hockey, netball, football (soccer), rugby league, touch football, softball, cross country, tennis, athletics and cricket) facilitated by Mr Homes, Mr Campbell, various Sport Development Officer and club affiliates.
- 25 students represented Southern Suburbs District, 20 student represented the Mackay and District, and 7 students represented Capricornia.
- Two highly successful sports days were held to promote student participation in running and field events.
- We hosted the Australia A Cricket side and the Cairns Marlins National Women’s Basketball team.
- Our 12 year rugby league team did extremely well drawing with Sarina SS in the final of the Development Cup for Large Schools in the Mackay District competition.
- The Mackay West State School T20 Blast Cricket teams performed very well with the girl’s team winning the regional final. This team travelled to Brisbane to compete in the State finals, placing 5th.
- Gala Days were hosted for netball, rugby league and cricket.
- CQ Sporty Schools’ funding enabled Mackay West State School to engage numerous Sport Development Officers to offer expert coaching and purchase sporting equipment.
- MWSS Sportsperson of the Year recipient was Phoebe Holmes.

We are very proud of our achievements this year! We appreciate and value your continued support. ‘Always Our Best!’