1. CONTEXT

School Name: Keith Area School  
School Number: 0757
Principal: Tobias O’Connor  
Partnership: Tatiara / Wrattonbully

Keith Area School is a Foundation – Year 12 School with a stable enrolment of around 350 students. Of these approx. 2/3 are primary students and 1/3 are secondary students. Our student population access the school from one of the 7 bus routes which services the surrounding areas or walk/ride to school if they live within the town.

Keith celebrates its sport and is very competitive. We have many students pursue sports beyond the school level and are generally very successful. Our schools involvement in the arts is gaining momentum. Numerous students are involved in choir and participate in our Festival of Arts. We hope to see the arts profile rise with the allocation and renovation of a dedicated Performing Arts building which will be located in the old stone building. This new area will complement our great visual arts areas which are well established.

2. REPORT FROM GOVERNING COUNCIL

On behalf of the Keith Area School Governing Council I respectfully submit the Chairpersons report for 2015.

This year has come and gone all to quickly for all and this is something that could also be said for the Governing Council, as I reflect back through the year of Governance and Guidance my wish is to share a brief overview with you all.

The commitment and professionalism of the Staff of Keith Area School has continued to shine through with numerous students excelling with group and individual achievements throughout the year not only within the School but external through Interschool and the like. These achievements are well supported and recognized and the continued support and development of Literacy and Numeracy is and continues to be a strong priority of KAS.

A component of the success of the Students and the School itself was a major focus of the Governing Council, The Principal and Leaders this year. An “External School Review” was conducted earlier this year and such things as a Positive Learning Environment, Supportive Teachers, Wealth of Data and School Pride were focused on and reviewed. With directions for the School and the Governing Council to focus on being Assessment and Learning, Differentiation and Intervention and most importantly adopting a Culture of Change and Improvement. All would agree the Review was a very worthy component of the School Structure and certainly a focus for the Governing Council into the future.

Student Behavior at our School has and will continue to be a priority of the Staff, School Leaders, Principal and the Governing Council. The opportunity to review what the School had prepared through review of the Student Behavior Management Policy has led to a New Management Behavior Policy being adopted and supported by the Governing Council. We look forward to its implementation and its benefits to Students, Parents and Teachers.

The Student Representative Council are a huge part of the Schools Student Body and is the one voice of the Students, we have been very fortunate to have 2 Representatives form part of the Governing Council for 2015. We thank Chloe Jones and Flynn Evans for their Feedback and contribution throughout the year. To hear how well the SRC are supporting the School and the Students has been fantastic and to the SRC for their contribution to the School through fund raising for Student Projects we commend you. The running of the Quiz Night, Sports Day BBQ, and Casual Days to name a few is a credit to the Students and commitment to having ownership in THEIR School.
Whilst on Fundraising the Governing Council has formed a Fund Raising committee and has ratified the policies to allow this body to operate into the future. It is very exciting to now be able to have funds raised external to the Schools Budget that will be there to support School Events and Projects or Individuals and Groups of Students that may require assistance to fulfil their achievements within their chosen field of education and life. To all members who have assisted in the foundation of this and have been a part of the committed group in raising funds through the Cookie Dough, Catering and the Christmas stocking thanks for the vision that became a valued reality.

The Keith Area School is extremely appreciative of the continued support of the Stand Like Stone Foundation group and we have recently been fortunate to have Lucy Ryan and Georgie McKay share with us the vision of the group and its future. They will continue to render support to the School and its Students through Scholarships and Awards, for which we are very grateful and commend their efforts and encourage the community’s support of them.

The Governing Council are very proud to have supported and assisted the School in achieving the opportunity to develop an OSHC program to be incorporated within the School. The 12 months of work has culminated in the School advertising for a Director and the intention is to have the OSHC up and running by the end of the first term of 2016. The assistance this provides to the community and its people and also staff of the school is enormous as this will also allow for an easier transition of our future students from Kindergarten to their time at school. This is all very exciting with much more to be done but the back is broken and it is well under way.

I have saved the best and most exciting for last, it was with great excitement and enormous sense of achievement that the last few years of effort, frustration and at times confusion were finally put behind when on the 3rd of September in a formal ceremony the School Improvements were officially opened. It was great to see the pride from the School community on the day when local Government, Minister Representatives, invited Guests as well as Students, Staff and Parents came as one to view our School and to celebrate its opening.

The Keith Area School has a very proud history of education and sporting achievement; it has had numerous success stories through the years and has produced many fine and upstanding members of not only this community but also others. I have been proud to be a minor contributor and play a small part in assisting our School. There is many that assist in numerous ways to create a better facility for our children and the future generations of which the Governing Council are very appreciative of their support and time. As such we all hope that the successes of 2015, no matter how great may continue to build a great future for Keith Area School.

Kind Regards
Laryn Gogel
Governing Council Chairperson
2015.
3. 2015 HIGHLIGHTS
Some of our highlights include:

- Undertaking an external school review (report available on our website) which gives us the following directions:
  - Increase the number of students achieving at, or sustaining, higher levels of achievement by working with teachers to develop common agreements and practices about how to use assessment to better inform and engage student learning.
  - Improve student achievement outcomes by implementing effective and strategic intervention processes and differentiated teaching practices, which are informed by knowledge of student achievement data.
  - Work with teachers to engage in continuous self-review of professional practice, student achievement and establishing even higher standards and expectations.
- Participating in the Tatiara/Wrattonbully Partnership Review.
- Reviewing our Site Improvement Plan (copy available on our website).
- Increasing our focus on reading by:
  - Reviewing and establishing reading agreements and targets.
  - Introducing a new reading assessment system (Fountas and Pinell).
  - Establishing a reader room.
  - Investing over $7000 in new readers.
- The BIL/ACE entering into a joint agreement with the Tatiara Council and resuming their work in showing/supporting the showing of films at the Keith Institute.
- Rolling out our Volunteer Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training and site induction to nearly 80 volunteers held over multiple sessions throughout the year.
- Establishing staff Professional Learning Communities which have focused on the Teaching for Effective Learning Framework.
- Continuing to develop the use of our learner management system for electronic roll marking, attendance, internal and external communication.
- Being involved in the Numeracy and Literacy Results Plus project which aims to develop our sites capacity to address the following 4 expectations:
  - Expectation A: Track and monitor every learner’s growth.
  - Expectation B: Have a numeracy and literacy improvement cycle.
  - Expectation C: Enact changes in pedagogical practice.
  - Expectation D: Identify and enact clear intervention processes.
- The Principal beginning formal study towards an advanced qualification in strategic leadership through the South Australian Institute for Educational Leadership.
- Numerous events occurring including:
  - Literacy Awards.
  - Interschool Swimming.
  - Sports Day.
  - Choir performing at Mt Gambier.
  - KAS Festival of Arts.
  - 7-11 Social.
  - Year 12 Formal.
  - Celebration of Success Assembly.
  - F-6 Christmas Concert.
  - Official Opening of our major building upgrades / new library.
  - Parent Information Sessions (literacy to Early Years + Middle School).
  - Parent workshops:
    - 10 Things You Need To Know About Teens.
    - Early Years Literacy workshop.
Middle Years Literacy workshop  
SACE Information Evening  
- Having a whole school focus on Restorative Practices  
- Reviewing our Behaviour Management policy  
- Reviewing our Senior School Deadlines policy  
- Having a much greater emphasis on data collection, data analysis and refining our data collection timelines  
- Being involved in a high level stakeholder review of the Tatiara library services and our Community Library in conjunction  
- Upgrading our IT which has included new computers in classrooms, new computer in computer rooms, new interactive televisions to replace old interactive whiteboards and 3 servers being upgraded. This puts our school in a great place with modern, reliable IT equipment.  
- Governing Council working towards establishing a new out of school hours care and vacation care service  
- Numerous Camps/Excursions

4. SITE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND TARGETS

This year has been quite a year of reflection for Keith Area School. Not only had we started our own significant review in 2014 using the enhanced DECD Improvement and Accountability Framework (e-DiAF), our school participated in an External Review which involved a fairly significant review process which was managed by a Review Officer from the Review Improvement and Accountability unit and a Principal from another school. Both processes have supported us reviewing and reforming our site improvement priorities. Our overarching priorities for 2015-2018 are data, culture, numeracy and literacy.