SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT  Updated: 10/04/2013
School Name: Mintabie Area School
School Number: 1794

1. General Information
Part A
School name : MINTABIE AREA SCHOOL
School No. : 1794  Courier : North West Country
Principal : Ms. Veronica Hartnett
Postal Address : PO Box 54, Mintabie 5724
Location Address : Airport Road, Mintabie 5724
District : Northern Country
Distance from GPO : 1127 kms Phone No. : 08 86705038
CPC attached : NO  Fax No. : 08 86705040

2012
April FTE Enrolment
Primary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.
   Reception    2
   Year 1   2
   Year 2   1
   Year 3   1
   Year 4   2
   Year 5   0
   Year 6   0
   Year 7   2
Secondary Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.
   Year 8   0
   Year 9   0
   Year 10  0
   Year 11  0
   Year 12  0
TOTAL    10
Total FTE Enrolment    10
Male FTE    4
Female FTE    6
School Card Approvals (Persons)    6
Part B

• Deputy Principal:
  N/A

• Staffing numbers:
  SSO2 - 32 hours, SSO1 - 25 hours, SSO1 - Grounds-person - 22 hours,
  2.0 FTE Teachers, Principal.

• Enrolment trends:
  Enrolment numbers vary considerably. Numbers are low at the start and end of each year due to the heat and the mining amnesty. Our average enrolment figure is declining, a reflection of the township's population

• Special arrangements:
  Nil

• Year of opening:
  1988

• Public transport access:
  None

2. Students (and their welfare)

• General characteristics:
  The school population consists of clearly discernible groups: (1) Children of ‘permanent’ families who live at Mintabie and spend only the regular vacation periods away from school, (2) Those who arrive in mid to late first term and depart during the fourth term to escape the summer heat, (3) Children of itinerant families who spend periods of one to six months at Mintabie during the cooler months and do not return again.

• Regional Services:
  These are coordinated by the class teachers.
  Support offered in the areas of disabilities, behaviour management, hearing and speech.
• Student management:
The school policy is clear about expectations, promotes students taking responsibility for their own behaviour and is clear about students’ right to learn and the teachers’ right to teach.
• Student government:
There is an R-12 SRC that meets as required with the teacher responsible.
• Special programmes:
By the very nature of the school, peer support is implicit in the daily routine of the school. We have a Pre-entry Program. Children commence this program five weeks prior to starting school. There is also a Playgroup available operating for Pre-school students, serviced by RICE once a term.

3. Key School Policies
• Vision Statement:
Our vision statement is “At Mintabie Area School we will promote and achieve a safe, caring and organised work environment that will allow staff to work at a high level of performance. Teaching and learning at the school will be the highest priority aiming at equality and excellence in education. A partnership between the traditional owners of the land, miners, ethnic groups, staff and students will allow a joint school community exercise that will promote education of the highest standard.”
• Long-Term Objectives:
To provide a rigorous, broad and balanced curriculum R-12 within the SACSA Framework and utilising the National Curriculum
• Site Improvement Plan 2013:
Focus Areas:
Focus on Learning; Curriculum Coherence; Learner Outcomes; Leading Improvement. (See attached SIP)
Student Wellbeing activities:
On-going Healthy Lunch Program is improving student nutrition knowledge and skills for healthy dietary practices with the provision of nutritious lunch options 3 times a week. The Healthy Lunch Program includes the involvement of the Home Economics class, who plan and prepare healthy lunches, which are then served up to all students. The canteen now stocks a range of healthy eating choices.
100% of students R-10 are involved with daily physical activities.
100% of students R-9 are participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

4. Curriculum
• Subject Offerings:
  Junior Primary Curriculum: R-2
  Primary Curriculum: Year 3-7
  Secondary Curriculum: Year 8-10
  Senior Secondary: SACE Stage One and Two are offered. We offer several face to face subjects. These are supplemented by Open Access. At this stage there are no Secondary students enrolled

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• Special Needs:
The transient nature of students requires many individual programs. Guidance and other support agencies are available and inform our programmes.
• Special Curriculum Features:
A whole school camp is held, along with class camps as occasion requires. Students have access and high levels of skills in the use of information and communication technologies. The programme is highly valued and keenly pursued by students.
• Teaching Methodology:
Class structure of R-3, Year 4-7 and when necessary a Secondary and Senior Secondary Class. Students have access
to ICTs and the Library throughout the day. SSOs work with small groups.

- Assessment Procedures and Reporting:
  Portfolios are sent home at the end of the year and interviews held when requested by staff or parents. Reports are sent home at the end of each term.

- Joint Programmes:
  We prepare, manage and host a joint Sports Day with Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Indulkana School.

5. Sporting Activities
Facilities include a netball/basketball court, tennis courts and small grassed oval. An Interschool Sports Day is held annually with Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Indulkana Aboriginal School. The school has an excellent range of sports equipment.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities
- General:
  Croatia Day is celebrated by the students with the community. An end of the year production is held each year and highly valued by the community. A school closure day is declared for Melbourne Cup Day, as a day of local significance.

7. Staff (and their welfare)
- Staff Profile:
  Principal, 1 Teacher, 1 SSO2, and 1 SSO1. School Service Officers are typically permanent residents while teachers are typically mobile. While teachers have a range of years of experience, gaining permanency with DECS has attracted a majority of recruits. The principal is a full time teacher, is actively and directly involved in the recruitment of staff and gives a personal face and perspective of the conditions, work and life at Mintabie.

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- Leadership Structure:
  Principal.
- Staff Support Systems:
Staff professional development can be accessed via Pt Augusta, Coober Pedy and Adelaide. A school car is available and overnight expenses and fees paid for by the school. Occasionally T&D is provided by visiting specialists.

- **Performance Management:**
  Staff meet regularly with the principal to discuss issues, concerns and how their work is supporting the implementation of the priorities of the school.

- **Staff Utilisation Policies:**
  The Principal and teacher share the subject load according to their skills and areas of expertise. SSOs work in the Library and provide support in the classrooms.

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

- **Travelling time:**
  Two days either side of all holidays.

- **Housing assistance:**
  - no rent.

- **Cooling for school buildings and Teacher Housing:**
  Refer to School Facilities section below.

9. **School Facilities**

- **Buildings and Grounds:**
  The area consists of one main building which house students, provides Home Ec facilities and a comprehensive ICT suite, an Administration block, Shower/Toilet facilities, and a Library. There is also a Playgroup building, Technology and art shed and a Science/Music/Youth Centre.

  - **Cooling:**
    All buildings have evaporative cooling systems.

- **Specialist Facilities:**
  Technology Shed

- **Student Facilities:**
  Playground, Shade area and sandpit, paved court area, lawn area, small oval and a small Tuckshop that operates at recess and lunch times.

- **Staff Facilities:**
Staff room, Resource/Preparation room, BBQ area.

- Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities:
  Wheelchair access (ramps) to toilets.
- Access to Bus Transport:
  The school owns a 23 seater Coaster Diesel bus along with a car that is available to staff for T&D purposes and to transport Marla and Station students to and from school.
- Other:
  Playgroup facilities.

10. School Operations
- Decision making structures:
  Governing Council, Finance Committee, SRC, Staff, PAC.
- Regular publications:
  Monthly Newsletter.
- Other communication:
  Class newsletters, white board.
- School financial position:
  The school is in a sound financial position
  Special funding:
  This is included in the Global Budget.

11. Local Community
- General characteristics:
  Predominantly miners and those who service their needs. The township is leased from the traditional owners and is currently being renegotiated. Recently local Indigenous families have moved into the township area
- Parent and community involvement:
  Governing Council, Working Bees, Fundraising.
- Other local care and educational facilities:
  Tele-Centre provides computer access
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
  Marla Medical Clinic, approx forty km east of the town, is staffed by two nurses. The Medical Clinic is run by Frontier
Services and has regular and emergency visits by the Flying Doctor. Mintabie air-strip can be used for emergency visits by RFDS.

As Mintabie is on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land, alcohol may only be obtained from the local hotel and is not allowed in private houses. A permit is required to live in the town.

There are three General Stores, a Post Office, a Tele-Centre, a Hotel, A Clothing & Second Hand Shop, and a Caravan Park.

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• Other local facilities:
Recreational/social activities include a golf course, darts, 8 ball, netball/basketball/cricket scratch matches, and social functions at the Community Hall and Hotel.

• Availability of staff housing:
There are four teacher houses. These are located in a cluster on the northern boundary of the school. They are furnished (if needed) and share the school generator. Power operates 24 hours a day (There is no 240 volt town power supply.)

• Accessibility:
A bus to and from Adelaide services the town of Marla, which is 40 kms away on the Stuart Highway. Flights to and from Adelaide and Coober Pedy most days.

• Local Government body:
Mintabie township has a volunteer Mintabie Miner's Progress Association.

12. Further Comments
The Mintabie township, established around 1976, is an opal mining settlement situated 40 kms west of the township of Marla, 1120 kms north of Adelaide. The school was opened in 1986 in the Community Hall to satisfy the educational needs of the community. The current buildings were officially opened in 1989. The township has a reliable telephone service, excellent television reception and a reticulated water system. Police services are provided from Marla.
The population of the town varies with the fortunes of Opal. Current estimates are around 70-100 persons. A significant number of Croatian people live in the town.