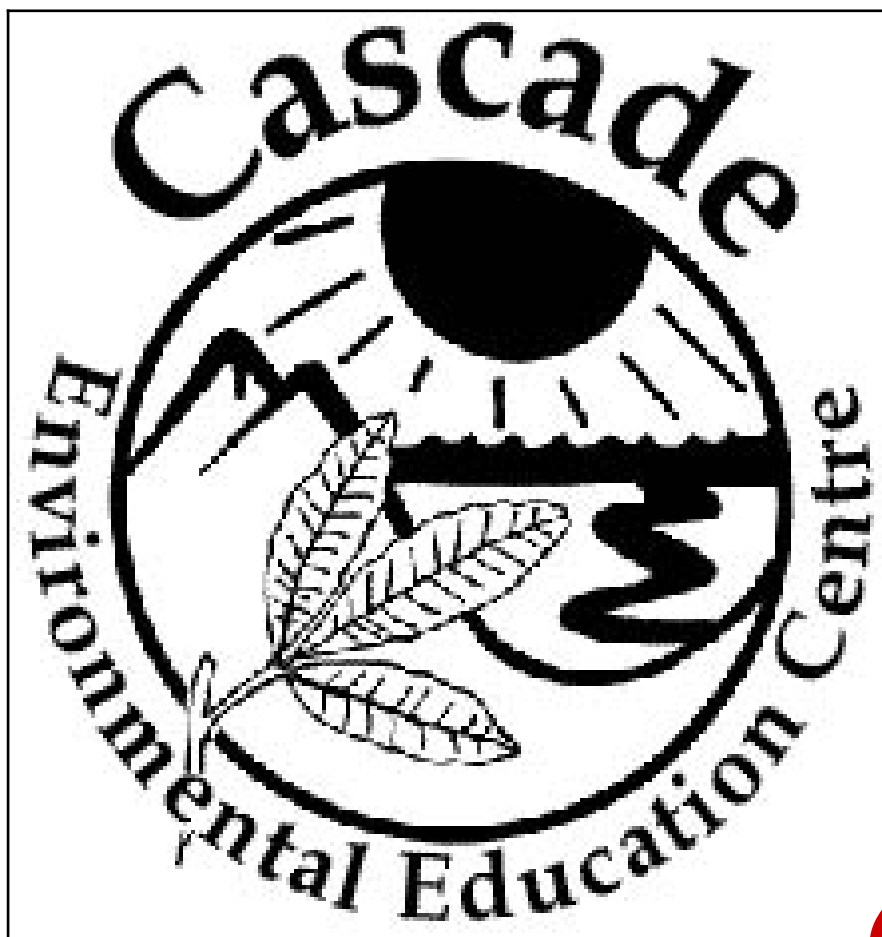


# Cascade Environmental Education Centre

## Annual Report



2018



5731

## Introduction

The Annual Report for **2018** is provided to the community of Cascade Environmental Education Centre (CEEC) as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self-assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

2018 was a great year for CEEC with new staff, new and reinvigorated programs and new practices and information gained from the suite of professional learning events we attended.

John McQueen

Principal

## School contact details

Cascade Environmental Education Centre

Coramba Rd

Cascade, 2453

[www.cascade-e.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cascade-e.schools.nsw.edu.au)

[cascade-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cascade-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

6657 4188

## School background

### School vision statement

Cascade EEC aims to provide educational experiences and opportunities that will engage and motivate all students to learn, discover, critically analyse their knowledge and to experience success. That every student that participates in a Cascade program has the opportunity to achieve their personal best through engaged, active learning in a safe, respectful and supportive environment. That every student that participates in our programs is excited to do so, safe when participating, interested in the activity and what will result from it, engaged in a practical and hands on way and inspired to make real change in their local community.

### School context

Cascade Environmental Education Centre (EEC) is located in 250 million year old rainforest on the Dorrigo Plateau. Cascade is one of 23 environmental and zoo education centres in NSW. The EEC is both a local school and a regional resource that supports schools to meet their fieldwork requirements, grow as sustainability hubs within their communities, to develop student and staff knowledge and develop knowledge about and a relationship with the natural environment. As part of a collaborative team of EEC's, schools, government and non-government organisations, Cascade provides a broad range of experiences at a number of locations within the Tamworth Group. The Centre continues to support schools in their implementation of the curriculum and the Environmental Education Policy and to provide essential natural and sustainability based experiences both in and outside of the classroom. We aim is to provide quality experiences that enhance student engagement and learning outcomes and to empower students and their communities to become confident and empowered environmental citizens.

## Self-assessment and school achievement

### Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

This section of the Annual Report outlines the findings from self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework, school achievements and the next steps to be pursued.

This year, our school undertook self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework. The framework supports public schools throughout NSW in the pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of high quality practice across the three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading.

Generally CEEC maintained its level of Excellence to a similar standard as 2017. 2018 showed some improvements in the areas of.....

Our self-assessment process will assist the school to refine our school plan, leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

For more information about the School Excellence Framework:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-excellence-and-accountability/sef-evidence-guide>

## Strategic Direction 1

### Empowering Learners

#### Purpose

To develop students environmental knowledge, skills, values and attributes and create environmentally active and literate citizens.

Provide engaging and stimulating learning environments and programs that empower learners to think and communicate creatively, collaboratively and critically, to grow as individuals, community members and learners and achieve positive environmental impact.

Develop the capacity of Centre staff and those within our networks as learners, teachers and leaders in environmental and sustainability education. Through participation in, and the provision of, explicit, planned and incidental professional learning that improves teaching knowledge, skills and practice and results in the development of environmental citizens who are life long learners.

#### Overall summary of progress

Cascade EEC staff provided activities for well over 7000 students in 2018.

School camps were enhanced by the recruitment and training of new specialist staff. The staff provided valuable program support and high quality learning experiences for students. Camp evaluations have been streamlined to ensure pertinent information is gained about student and teacher program satisfaction with the programs, staff and facilities provided by Cascade EEC.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Funds Expended (Resources)	Progress achieved this year
Students and teachers that attend camps rate them as high quality learning experiences.	Evaluations	
Cascade staff effectively collaborate with a range of partners to develop programs and resources to be utilised with K-12 School groups.	Info from report	

#### Next Steps

The programs at Cascade are continuously evolving and changing to reflect student learning needs. 2019 will see Cascade continue to grow programs, train staff all with the aim of supporting student learning.

## Strategic Direction 2

### Strengthen Partnerships

#### Purpose

To extend and strengthen partnerships with our networks and communities through effective communication and a culture of collaboration.

The impact of these relationships drives the provision of authentic, relevant and unique experiences, which enable students to be confident and creative environmental citizens.

To utilise and create positive, stimulating and innovative learning environments.

#### Overall summary of progress

Partnerships between Cascade and local program stakeholders provide an amazing amount of educational advantage to students who participate in our programs. The programs in 2018 included:

The Waterwise program, which had another successful year for participant schools.

NAIDOC weeks of activities are always a strong demonstration of the power of collaboration with organisations including Land Councils and NPWS.

Cascade partnered with the Macleay Valley COS to support it to develop an EEC like school in its area. The project has slowed a little due to future elections and local school funding discussions. This project will continue to be pursued.

Facilities at Cascade, whilst requiring a great deal of maintenance, are slowly being attended to via the Centres partnership with the AMU.

Cascade staff attended a state and regional EZEC conference as well as a host of other professional learning opportunities with the explicit aim of improving student learning.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Improvement measures (to be achieved over 3 years)	Funds Expended (Resources)	Progress achieved this year
Facilities at Cascade are improved so that they enhance student learning and result in high quality learning experiences.		
Cascade effectively collaborates with program stakeholders (schools, EZEC community, external agencies etc) to strengthen students and teachers ability to deliver a broad range of sustainability education experiences.		

#### Next Steps

The programs at Cascade are continuously evolving and changing to reflect student learning needs. 2019 will see Cascade continue to develop partnerships with the aim of supporting student learning.

## Student information

K–12 Students from a large variety of schools attend programs at Cascade EEC.

## Workforce information

### Workforce composition

Position	FTE*
Principal(s)	1
School Administration and Support Staff	1.03

\*Full Time Equivalent

To ensure that we meet our goals in providing High Quality Aboriginal Education, Cascade employs casual staff who are Aboriginal as required.

### Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

### Teacher qualifications

Qualifications	% of staff
Undergraduate degree or diploma	100
Postgraduate degree	0

### Professional learning and teacher accreditation

The one permanent teacher is a pre 2004 teacher and has been granted proficient status at the end of 2017.

This employee has now begun their maintenance cycle through NESA.

Casual teachers are being supported through maintenance and accreditation as required.

## Financial information

### Financial summary

The information provided in the financial summary includes reporting from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

	2018 <b>Actual</b> (\$)
<b>Opening Balance</b>	140,564
<b>Revenue</b>	396,601
Appropriation	267,462
Sale of Goods and Services	-100
Grants and Contributions	127,290
Gain and Loss	0
Other Revenue	0
Investment Income	1,949
<b>Expenses</b>	-416,596
Recurrent Expenses	-416,596
Employee Related	-339,615
Operating Expenses	-76,981
Capital Expenses	0
Employee Related	0
Operating Expenses	0
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	-19,995
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	120,569

Cascade utilises the current DoE system to ensure all funds are accounted for as required.

- Cascade intends to utilise the funds allocated by the DoE to fund areas as allocated. Cascade intends to utilise funds raised by conducting programs to further support programs, employ casual staff, purchase equipment as required and support professional learning above the allocated amount in the SBAR.

CEEC spent extra:

- on wages due to training new teachers in 2018, and
- on the purchase of safari tents to increase our accommodation capacity.

CEEC plans to spend some funds on further improving the accommodation resources of the Centre.

### Financial summary equity funding

The equity funding data is the main component of the 'Appropriation' section of the financial summary above.

	2018 <b>Actual</b> (\$)
<b>Base Total</b>	259,054
Base Per Capita	5,801
Base Location	647
Other Base	252,606
<b>Equity Total</b>	0
Equity Aboriginal	0
Equity Socio economic	0
Equity Language	0
Equity Disability	0
<b>Targeted Total</b>	0
<b>Other Total</b>	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	259,054

elders and educators. We work closely with Uncle Mark Flanders.

Cascade forms a part of the strong NAIDOC activities occurring in June and July.

### Multicultural and anti-racism education

Cascade promotes a climate of inclusion, tolerance and acceptance to all program participants.

Figures presented in this report may be subject to rounding so may not reconcile exactly with the bottom line totals, which are calculated without any rounding.

A full copy of the school's financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the parent and/or community groups. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

## Parent/caregiver, student, teacher satisfaction

Students and teachers satisfaction with the programs delivered by Cascade were sought during 2018.

These evaluations demonstrated that program participant levels of satisfaction in the following areas:

100% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the programs at Cascade.

100% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Catering provided.

100% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teachers at Cascade.

100% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the facilities.

## Policy requirements

### Aboriginal education

NPWS partnership

CEEC has worked in partnership with Uncle Miklo Jarret to develop and install signage in local Gumbaynggirr language.

Cascade EEC has strong partnerships with the local