

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Simpson Primary School (4895)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the school council and will be publicly shared with the school community

About Our School

School context

Simpson Primary School is set on 17 hectares of bushland and open grounds in rural South West Victoria. In 2022, Simpson Primary School celebrated 50 years of providing high quality education for its community within a safe and caring environment of community spirit.

Our school community remains steady with 58 students enrolled in 2022. The staffing profile of Simpson Primary School includes a Principal, four full time teachers, one part time teacher, two part time Education Support (ES) staff, one part time Business Manager and one Trainee. The Learning Community structure in 2022 was F/1 - 16 students, 1/2/3 - 20 students & 4/5/6 - 22 students. The C.A.R.E. acronym of Consideration, Aspiration, Respect and Engagement are the values within our school. Simpson Primary School's motto of "Enriching learning through opportunity" guides daily practice as we strive to provide high quality education in a positive, supportive environment enabling all students to achieve their potential. Simpson Primary School is an active member of the Great South West Coast schools network and together collectively strive to offer students of all schools, a range of opportunities. Our students are largely bussed into the school from surrounding dairy farms with approximately 20% residing in the Simpson township. The Student Family Occupation and Education (SFOE) index in 2022 was 0.5212 putting us in the high range. Our staff strive towards engaging our students in an education that is relevant to the 21st century. Our school is striving to develop a culture that provides quality learning opportunities with a focus on ensuring that all members of the school community develop as the best version of themselves possible.

The students are educated in a vibrant, challenging and positive atmosphere where each child is taught and encouraged to enhance wellbeing, overcome challenges and nurture positive relationships. We have strong links to the community and value the importance of family at the heart of education. The school's curriculum framework incorporates the eight learning areas required by the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 aligned with the Victorian Curriculum. There is a strong commitment to the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy along with specialist teaching for Science, Physical education, LOTE Chinese, MACC Art, MARC Library and Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI). Personalised teaching is assisted with Individual Education Plans (IEP's). We pride ourselves on our targeted teaching practices where students are supported and challenged to be active, curious learners. The school focuses on the development of strong skills in both literacy and numeracy, and in its journey to continually improve, Simpson Primary School implemented Jennifer Serravallo's Reading and Writing strategies and participated in Top Ten Numeracy Professional Learning. In 2022, Simpson Primary School believed in the impact of wellbeing in education, employing an additional teacher to support all students both in and out of the classroom.

Simpson Primary School has an adjacent kindergarten facility on-site. This offers our students a unique inclusive learning environment that reflects individual student strengths, needs and interests.

Foodbank Victoria's Breakfast Club Program was offered one morning a week to all students, with additional support from Saputo and Fonterra. The school also provided families in need with take-home School Holiday packs throughout the year and a School Breakfast club – School Community pantry was set up for families and students to access.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

In 2022, 92.5% of students were assessed at or above age expected standards for English based on teacher judgements. A positive result considering similar schools have an 85.1% average and the state average at 87.0%. In 2022, we continued to embed planning practices across the school and continue with the implementation of explicit reading and writing strategies using Jennifer Serravallo texts.

In 2022, 88.3% of students were assessed at or above age expected standards for Mathematics based on teacher judgements. This closely aligned with similar schools, 86.6% average and the state average being 85.9%. In 2022, staff revised and began embedding the instructional workshop model ensuring teaching and learning is consistent across the school. Our Numeracy learning leader focused on empowering staff to plan point of learning need, focusing on Math proficiencies.

Our Year 3 NAPLAN school comparison results exceeded the state for Reading. 85.7% of students performed in the top three bands, compared to Similar Schools average of 72.7% and the State average of 76.6%. In Numeracy, the Year 3 NAPLAN results of

57.1% are slightly higher than Similar Schools of 56.8%, however lower than the State at 64.0%. Year 5 NAPLAN school comparison results are lower than the Similar Schools and State at 66.7% for Reading and well below Similar Schools and State at 33.3% for Numeracy. Further Numeracy Professional Learning and consistency of practice will embed consistent planning and teaching practices across the school in 2023.

The Tutor Learning Initiative was implemented for all of 2022. The 3 sessions per week TLI model was put in place, student progress monitored, and a shared responsibility for student growth between tutor and teachers.

Wellbeing

Students' health, safety and wellbeing are essential to learning and development. An inclusive, safe, and stimulating environment for learning is critical to achieving and sustaining students' positive learning experiences. One of Simpson Primary's Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Wellbeing Goals for 2022, related to the Attitude to School Survey; - Sense of connectedness 97% in 2021, (with 3% neutral responses) to 98%. The school's percentage endorsement of 97.9% is considerably higher than Similar Schools at 81.1% and the State Average 78.1%. The 4-year average sitting at 97.6%. Student Attitudes to School - Management of Bullying - The school's percentage endorsement of 91.2% higher than Similar Schools at 81.2% and the State Average 75.8%. The 4-year average sitting at 95.6%.

Throughout 2022, the school continued embedding our student wellbeing program Respectful Relationships and the explicit teaching of C.A.R.E. We believe these values are important to aspire above and beyond our Primary School education. Health and Wellbeing quickly became a top priority for staff with many students and families identifying challenges returning to full time schooling.

Community partnerships are highly valued by the school. Partnerships with the Simpson Community Centre, Lion's Club, Men's Shed, Local Playgroup Local Sporting Clubs and Timboon and District Healthcare services provide a wide variety of health and welfare programs. Simpson Primary School has promoted and maintained a strong sense of family involvement through the Parents Association, School Council and excursions/incursions, when possible. Simpson Primary School prides itself on being a positive and happy place for students to learn.

Engagement

An Acting Principal was appointed for the 2022 school year at Simpson Primary School. The school's average number of absence days was 24.4. This is comparable to the similar schools and the state average, however higher than 2021. The common absence reasoning is illness and extended family holidays. Family holiday timing at Simpson Primary School is heavily influenced by the dairying industry.

We have worked with our community on raising awareness of the importance of attendance and punctuality. The implementation of the Compass management system helps to tie together many aspects at Simpson Primary School, ensuring that parents, student and staff are informed and engaged in the everyday events and processes of the school. The Acting Principal worked closely with families who have challenges in this area providing support with regular phone calls and face to face discussions.

We were impacted by wellbeing and families/students with extreme anxiety. We worked closely with these families and students and while they impacted our attendance data, we are proud of the support we offered them. Our teachers committed to ensuring that students were engaged with their learning and a high priority is to continue to build positive connections with each student.

Other highlights from the school year

In 2022, Simpson Primary School students were fortunate enough to:

- collaborate with Deakin University and the INVERGOWRIE Foundation for the GALS (Girls As Leaders in STEM)
- collaborate with families in an end of year Science Challenge.
- hold a Colour Run, inviting the Simpson Community, Lion's Club and Simpson & District Kindergarten.
- visit Timboon P-12 School to watch their school production of the Lion King.

- be involved in various Transition days and sessions with; Simpson & District Kindergarten, Timboon P-12 School and Cobden Technical School.
- attend a Positive Start Camp 'Angahook' at Airey's Inlet.
- attend various sporting events: Athletic Sports day with Cobden Primary School, District Sports day, Tri-Sports, Winter Sports, Hoop Time Basketball, AFL 9's (boys & girls), Girls Cricket Clinic,
- invite local community groups into the school: Timboon Ambulance, Simpson CERT, Simpson CFA, Simpson Lion's Club, Gorge Chocolates, MIXX FM radio.
- attend an 8-week Swimming program at Bluewater Fitness in Colac.

Financial performance

Simpson Primary School is in a positive financial position due to careful management of funds and the support of equity funding. We ensure the budget allocations support our programs, resources and professional development. Each year the allocation of funds is a carefully considered process which takes into account the context of the year - student cohorts, achievement data, responsiveness to student wellbeing and learning needs and to the DET priorities.

At Simpson Primary School, we continue to provide excellent facilities and programs for all students. The implementation of the Compass management system helps to tie together many aspects at Simpson Primary School, ensuring that parents, student and staff are informed and engaged in the everyday events and processes of the school. The continued purchase of ICT hardware ensured that students learn in an environment with the best access to technology and learning resources.

In 2022, equity funding was used to employ an Education Support Trainee, support staff training, community engagement, purchasing classroom learning resources and materials for all students. Combining TLI and Mental Health Funding and Equity funding, an effective tutoring program was in place to support students from Prep to Year 6 for the entire 2022 year.

Simpson Primary School was successful with a Minor Capitals Works Grant, receiving a total of \$333,305 for a 'Roofing Upgrade'. The school also received funding for Bushfire Preparedness and Maintenance. Assisting families with the return from COVID-19, Simpson Primary School's Year 3-6 students participated in a 'free' Positive Start holiday camp to 'Angahook' at Airey's Inlet, during Term 3.

Our school continues to be well supported by the community through grants and locally raised funds. The school community (Parents' Association and Junior School Council) raised funds to help towards general school improvements and focus areas. We completed 2022 with a small managed deficit.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
<https://www.simpsonps.vic.edu.au>