

Donald High School
7775

2008 Annual Report to the
School Community



Principal's Report

2008 was a very busy and productive year.

The school continues to be a successful school because the staff, students and parents work co-operatively together and support the aims of the school. All our school data shows that overall our students, parents and staff feel very connected to the school and show high levels of satisfaction with the school, its processes and environment. This, of course, has an impact on student learning and the academic performance measures and data from Years 7 to 12 are all well above state averages and are outstanding.

Our “On Track” data (that tracks our students after they have left school) shows that the school does more than concentrate on academic excellence. This data shows almost all students over many years have moved directly into work, apprenticeships or tertiary courses on leaving the school at Year 11 or 12.

The whole school community can be justly proud of the school and the students.

Geoff Rigby

School Council President's Report

As School Council President for my fourth term, we have seen some changes. These include the retirement of our Principal Ron Corrie. Ron's professionalism and dedication to the school over his time as a teacher and principal will be missed by all. However I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Thank you to Rebecca Montgomery Acting Principal in Term 3 and to Geoff Rigby Acting Principal Term 4. They have kept the school running in the professional manner that we are used to. A sincere thank you to the following; Judy Wall for her support throughout the year as our Vice School Council President. To our retired School Council Members I thank you for your valuable time and effort towards the school over the past years. I also thank our newly elected members and our current members for their commitment and decision making for the school.

To our ancillary staff for their contribution to the smooth running of the school. To all the staff, for the work above and beyond their duties they have put into educating our children, in our great school. Thanks to all parents that have helped over the year in Parents Club, fete, working bees, sports days, volunteers for school camps and excursions, meals on wheels, fund raising activities etc. This is a wonderful joint effort by the whole school community.

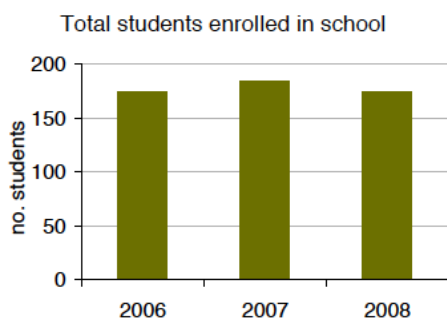
In 2008 we have seen an upgrade to our fire service with a large storage tank on the front lawn of the school grounds, you may have noticed. The school has been able to get funding for a new carpark which is situated on the front lawn and is almost completed. This will be ready for use in 2009. It will give the school a much needed parking space, an area for parents to pick up children and get some cars off the street.

Congratulations to all students for a successful year and may 2009 bring you closer to your goals.

Peter Russell

School Overview

The school works with parents and the community to promote excellence in learning and achievement, and encourages the values of respect for others, courtesy, honesty, resilience and responsible behaviour. A Pastoral Care program supports these values for Year 7 to 12 students.



Enrolments

Enrolments in 2008 were consistent with the projected enrolments with 174 students enrolled. Changes in the enrolment numbers at the school are largely a result of population changes and, while all students in the area attend the school, there has also been a continued increase in the number of students from outside our normal catchment. The prolonged drought has not adversely effected student numbers.

Innovative Programs include:

- The Year 9 "Time Out" program - developed to increase engagement, to develop independence, self-confidence and strengthen community connectedness and relationships between students and staff.
- All Year 10 students undertake two Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) units, and some also study Unit 1 VCE General Maths.
- Year 11 and 12 students have a wide choice of VCE and/or VCAL units or a School Based New Apprenticeship.

- Pioneering the use of “leading edge” video conferencing technology to enhance student learning and to provide greater opportunities for its students and the incorporation of ICT across the curriculum.
- Students forming community partnerships with businesses in the town and developing web pages or promotional digital video films for them.

Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of Sports, Public Speaking, Drama, Work Experience, Debating and Music, Choir, Science Club and a wide range of other enrichment programmes.

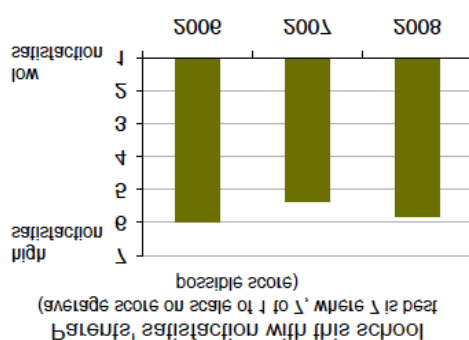
VCE results achieved by our students for the last twenty years have been outstanding and consistently in the top band of schools over the past 7 years. Students have been very successful in gaining entry into their first choice tertiary courses, employment and further training.

Teacher Profile

The school has an experienced and committed team of teachers (20.2 equivalent full time (EFT) and non-teaching staff (5.35 EFT). Teachers have high expectations of their students linked with a readiness to provide extra help to enable students to achieve their best. The average score for **teacher satisfaction** (morale) at Donald High School is high at 82.5 where 100 is the best score possible. Of the 24 teaching service staff at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 23 or 96% were still at the school in June 2008 and this compares with 84% for the State. Data on the average number of sick days per staff member was not available at the time of writing the report. The average **number of days absent** per teacher in 2007 was 5.04 where the state average was 7.06. All staff have been involved in a wide range of **professional learning programs** including Australian Government Quality teacher programs; mentoring programs; teaching and learning using video conferencing and electronic whiteboards to mention a few. All staff are qualified and registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration for VIT can be found at http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241

2008 was the first year of implementing our four year Strategic Plan. Our major aim as outlined in our Strategic Plan is to continue to improve teaching strategies and learning standards in Middle Years.

Parent Satisfaction



The Parent Opinion Survey responses showed parents overall satisfaction with the school at a high average score of 5.83 where 7 is the best possible score, representing an increase compared with 2007. The school put in place strategies to address areas of possible concern in 2008.

Parent satisfaction with the school in all areas still ranks very well compared with all other secondary schools.

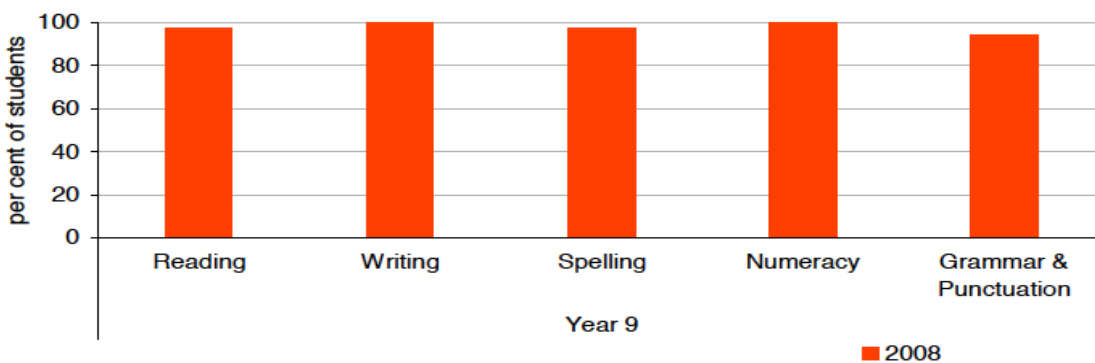
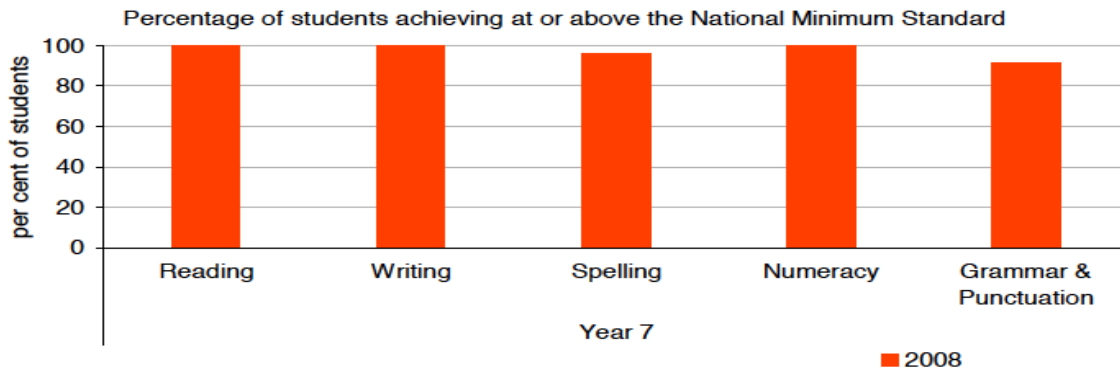
Student Progress & Achievements

Student Learning

Effective teaching and learning continues to be the overriding aim of the school. Student achievement data indicates that students continue to be effective learners at the school and our targets relating to literacy and numeracy levels have been met. Staff and students have become more familiar with different learning styles and the strategies employed to cater for different learning styles in class have worked to improve students' personal learning. The expanded use of ICT in the classroom has proved effective with Year 10 English students producing excellent TAC advertisements. The extended use of video-conferencing, with Year 12 French being delivered to Boort, is a pleasing development.

1. Student Achievement: Years 7 and 9

NAPLAN testing has replaced AIM testing. The student achievement levels of Year 7 students compared with the national benchmarks are outstanding – ranging from approximately 93% to 100% of students being at or above the National Minimum Standard.



The student achievement levels of Year 9 students compared with the national benchmarks are outstanding – ranging from approximately 95% to 100% of students being at or above the National Minimum Standard. This, again, is a very pleasing performance.

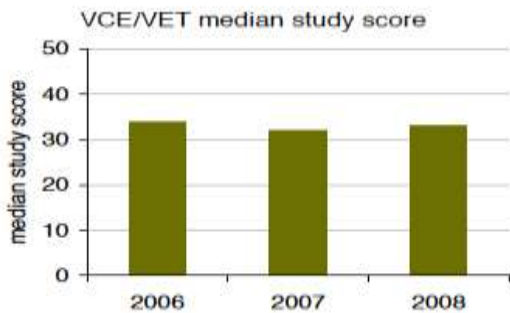
Grammar and Punctuation results in Years 7 and 9, although very pleasing, are below the other results and we are investigating ways to improve this.



Year 7 Science students proudly displaying their recently acquired Bunsen Burner licences.

2. Student Achievement: VCE

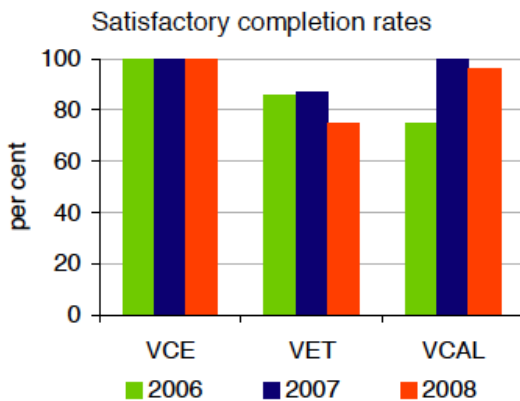
The results achieved by the 2008 VCE students were very pleasing and were consistent with the high achievement of previous years. The comparison of the school median of 33 compares very favourably with other schools and was well above the similar schools and State figures.



The “percentage of study scores of 40 or more” of 10.4% was well above the 5.9% recorded for all government schools.

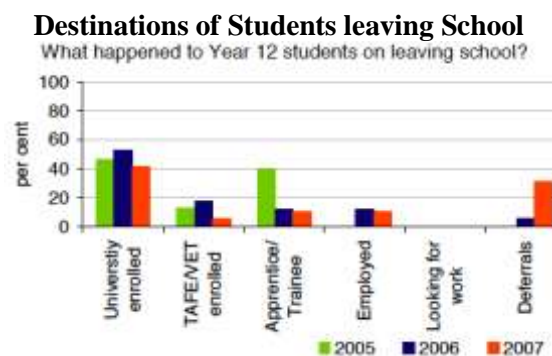
Our VCE results again ranked our school amongst the best non-selective schools in the State.

3. Satisfactory completion rates



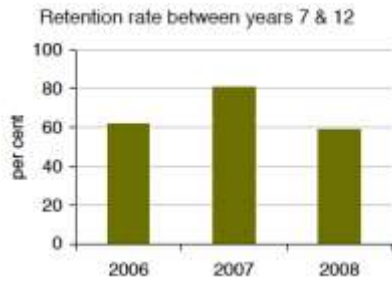
The 100% completion rate for VCE and the 96% completion rate for VCAL were very pleasing. The lower proportion of students finishing VET units is the result of students obtaining apprenticeships and work at the end of the first year of a two year study. This is a further indicator of the success of the school in preparing students for entering their chosen career path.

Student Pathways and Transitions



Our “On Track” record for 2007 students is one of the best in the state again. Data revealed that 42% of exit year 12 students enrolled in University courses, 5% in TAFE courses, 11% in apprenticeships or traineeships and 11% were employed. None were unemployed. These results are a fitting tribute to the effort both students and staff devoted to the year’s work.

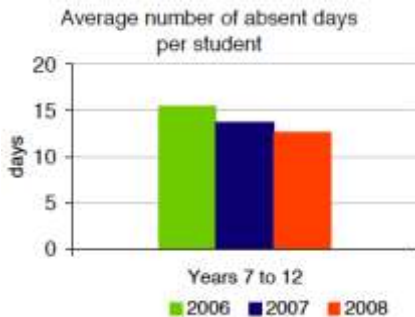
Retention Rates



Deeper analysis of the student retention data shows that almost all of those students who leave the school do so because of family movement, and this can vary from year to year. It is pleasing to note that we continue to attract a small number of students from beyond our normal “catchment”. Retention rates from Years 10 to 12 are very high, with those students who leave at the end of Year 11 going into apprenticeships or work, and those who start Year 12 all complete the year. Again, this is a pleasing aspect of the school’s data and compares extremely well with other rural areas.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

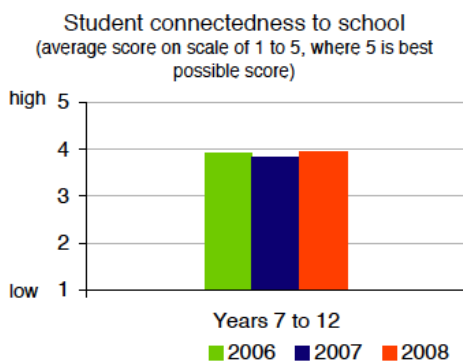
1. Average number of absent days per student



The average number of days absent by students is still well below the State benchmark means for 2007*. It is pleasing that there has been a reduction in the average number of days absent and this could be due to fewer students with long term illness and improvement in the recording processes.

** State benchmarks for 2008 are not yet available.*

2. Student connectedness to school.



The *Attitudes to School Student Survey* results reveal a high level of student satisfaction in all the areas examined. Student connectedness in Years 8-10 are particularly strong and this is not typical of statewide figures. This is very pleasing and reflects positively on the schools curricula and extra curricula program, as well as our welfare policies and strategies.



Year 7 Science students deeply engaged in making “mini rockets” in Science.

This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact the Principal.

Financial Performance

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008	
Funds Available	2008 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	144,504.96
Official Account	5,978.94
Other Bank Accounts-Investment	109,148.46
Building Trust	2,010.00
Trust Funds	5,873.84
Total Funds Available	267,516.20
Financial Commitments	2008 Actual
School Operating Reserve	64,618.14
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	25,000.00
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	35,000.00
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	6,000.00
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	15,014.06
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	76,000.00
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	35,000.00
Provision Accounts > 12 months	3,000.00
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	7,884.00
Total Financial Commitments	202,898.06
Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008	
Revenue	2008 Actual
DE&T Grants	264,479
Commonwealth Government Grants	23,030
State Government Grants	18,380
Other	56,912
Locally Raised Funds	139,749
Total Operating Revenue	502,549
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	27,580
Consumables	88,590
Books and Publications	7,332
Communication Costs	8,374
Furniture and Equipment	42,509
Utilities	23,845

Property Services	151,505
Travel and Subsistence	2,759
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,768
Administration	6,369
Health and Personal Development	1,479
Professional Development	7,258
Trading and Fundraising	40,430
Support/Service	9,088
Miscellaneous	86,398
Total Operating Expenditure	505,284
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	-2,735
Capital Expenditure	77,267
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

The small deficit in operation arose due to one-off expenses such as the carpark and purchase of the school car.

School finances are in a sound shape with provision made for future projects and other areas of expenditure.

Some Highlights of 2008

Melanie Newell is DUX of the school

Samantha Walsh and Luke Wheeler are elected as School Captains

Phillip Merrett wins Lions Youth of the Year

Jim McLoughlan was selected to attend the National Science Youth Forum in Canberra

Renee Newall and Megan Berry, were been chosen to be part of next years Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program run by Melbourne University

Year 11 Chemistry students performed very well in the Statewide State School Science Video Competition.

Stephan De Silva, Jim McLoughlan and Tarli Westerland won best video for their “film making” skills whilst Blair Burke, Hannah Russell and Emily Bird won the overall prize for the ‘Best Science Video.’

Ethan Powell was part of the Australian “Kool Skools” program which saw him and other local musicians write, play and record music for a CD.

Rachel McLoughlan’s creative entry into the state wide FLETA competition proved to be a winner.

Kalon Green, Renee Newall and Megan Berry each won an iPod in a LLEN funded competition requiring students to research and complete career profiles of people they knew.

The School Band played at the Music Festival, the Fete and the Johnson Goodwin Homes.

The major Drama Production “Smithy” was excellent and reflected the hard work from Ms Sanford as Director and Miss Walsh and Mrs Leishman as Music Directors.

All Year 10 students undertook Driver Education Training at Charlton

All Year 10 and 11 students successfully completed Work Experience

Year 12 French is taught for the first time at Donald

Meyer House wins every sporting contest for the year

The new sealed carpark is completed thanks to the hard work of Dale Basset

Year 12 results are again outstanding

SRC ran a number of successful events including a school social

The Camps program was again excellent

Ron Corrie retires as Principal to be replaced by Geoff Rigby

Parents Club raised \$6,000

Future Directions

In 2007 the school review was conducted and a new Strategic Plan was developed. The plan aims to make improvements in student learning and outcomes in relation to:

- Develop students’ personal learning skills in Year 7 – 10
- Improve Student Learning Confidence and school connectedness to schooling particularly for students in Years 7 – 10
- Improve students’ pathways planning and decision making skills

The school has developed goals, targets for the next three years and has developed strategies to achieve those ends. We also must prepare for the introduction of the Ultranet which should serve to improve channels of communication between the school and home.

The school is also in the process of reviewing students’ needs and how the North Central Cluster of schools might better service those needs. It is hoped that at the completion of this process the cluster and school will be in a position to acquire funding for resources to cater for our students’ future, and changing, needs. The school will continue to work with the cluster in developing the use of video conferencing facilities as means of expanding student opportunities and improving teaching and learning. The cluster is still a pilot group for developing the use of these technologies in the state.

