

# Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre

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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre (TFEEC) aims to provide quality environmental educational programs that promote an improved awareness and understanding of the natural environment.

TFEEC is a unique facility located in the Griffith University EcoCentre and, as such, operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Education Queensland and Griffith University.

TFEEC provides a range of day visit programs to students ranging from Prep to Year 12. Program themes include environmental awareness, sustainability, alternative energy, biodiversity, human impact studies, water quality assessments, and flora and fauna studies.

### Future outlook

Key Priorities for 2009 include:

Maintaining the profile among, and service delivery of, existing client schools in the Greater Brisbane region;

Continuing to work with 'hub' schools as part of the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) and EnergyWise program;

Expanding upon the 'train the trainer' model to provide enhanced professional development offerings for teachers and undergraduate teachers. In keeping with this goal, Toohey Forest EEC is exploring a possible role as part of the recently announced 'Science Spark' initiative, including 'Earth Smart Science (ESS) Schools'. 'Science Spark' will replace the current Science Centre of Innovation and Professional Practice (SCIPP) which Toohey Forest EEC has been a part of in 2008;

Strengthening relationships, both formal and informal, with relevant organisations including Griffith University, Healthy Waterways, SEQ Catchments, Queensland Museum and fellow O&EEC's;

Continuing to develop and enhance the quality of learning experiences and services provided by TFEEC, including the incorporation / integration of ICT's into the learning experience; and

Maintaining the high percentage of positive feedback received from client schools, including both staff and students.

### School Profile

*Total student enrolments for your school: Not Applicable*

*Year levels offered: Preparatory to Year 12*

*Coeducational or single sex: Coeducational*

### Curriculum offerings

#### *Our distinctive curriculum offerings*

- *Major program themes include sustainability, environmental awareness, human impact on ecosystems, natural science (flora / fauna / biodiversity studies)*
- *The majority of student centred program offerings involve a significant 'hands on' approach to learning*
- *ICT's continue to play an increasingly prominent role in the delivery of programs to students*
- *Programs provide students exposure to a variety of outcomes across multiple disciplines, with Science and SOSE being the primary focuses, within a 'real life' context*
- *Specialist programs targeting gifted and talented students from clusters of schools are delivered upon request*
- *Toohy Forest EEC is a regular provider of professional development workshops / presentations for teachers and scientific operations officers (SOO).*

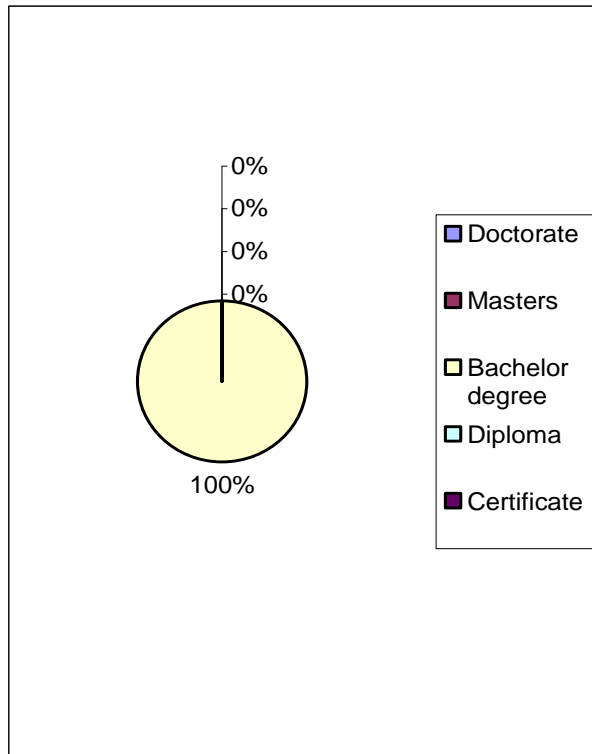
#### *How is technology used to assist learning?*

*Technology is utilised in the majority of programs to enhance the quality of the learning experience. Specialist equipment utilised includes handheld GPS, DataLoggers, digital VideoFlex, digital Microscope, data projectors and digital cameras. Curriculum computers and lap tops compliment programs by incorporating supporting software such as 'Frog Focus', 'Ollie Saves the Planet', Lucid taxonomy keys etc.*

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	0
Bachelor degree	100
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- In 2008 the total funds expended on teacher professional development was \$1716.11.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
  - Specialist flora / fauna workshops provided by organisations such as Queensland Museum and Brisbane City Council
  - ICT focused workshops focusing on applications such as PowerPoint, Excel etc
  - First Aid / Resuscitation certification through St John's
  - Principal's participation in the Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre collective (OEECPA)
  - The involvement of teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100%.

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 75 % of staff were retained by the centre for the entire 2008 school year.

## Student Visitations

### *Student visitations*

*The attendance figures for students in 2008 is as follows:*

*Public School Students: 4933*

*Private School Students: 595*

*These figures represent a combined rise of approximately 2% on 2007 visitation figures.*

### **Other Key Outcomes**

#### *Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school*

*The vast majority of feedback received from visiting teaching staff, students and parents / guardians is incredibly positive. This feedback, along with internal staff review processes, continues to provide a major influence to changes relating to program delivery, equipment and facilities.*