On Tuesday April 1\textsuperscript{st} the QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) released the official Year 12 Outcomes for all 460 secondary schools in the state. The data provides a 'snapshot' of school results for students who completed Year 12 last year. About forty secondary schools were left off the list as they had no Year 12 results in 2007.

These results are made public as part of the State Government's Changes to School Reporting initiative. Though the list is certainly not intended to be a 'ranking' of schools, it is the only measure that the public has to compare the individual performance of each school in the State.

The data provides only two academic performance outcome statistics for each school. The first is the percentage of OP eligible students who obtained an OP15 or better. The second result, is the percentage of QTAC applicants from each school who were offered a place at university.

While the results are purely a comparison of each school's Year 12 student's academic performance, (they don't for example, compare the vocational, sporting, moral, ethical, cultural and other non-academic aspects of a school's performance), this is the only data by which parents can compare one school to another academically and as such are recognized by many as an important indicator of school performance.

How did our local schools perform?

In comparison to all schools in the state, schools in our area had a mixed result last year. (See graph).

It certainly was not all gloomy news for our local schools. The Kooralbyn International School (TKIS) performed exceptionally, ranking amongst the Top 3% of all schools in the state on OP1-15 Percentage (with 89%) and equal first in the state on QTAC offers (with 100% of the school's OP eligible students being offered university places). In fact, when the two results are combined, TKIS made it into the prestigious 'Top 10 Schools in the State' which is the first time that any school in the region has performed this well since the publication of results in 2005.

Our other good performers were Tamborine Mountain College who had a highly commended 78% on their OP1-15 Percentages and Beaudesert State High School who obtained a 64% on the OP1-15 Percentages list. Unfortunately, these were the only three schools who

How our high schools performed in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>OP1-15 Percentage</th>
<th>QTAC Offers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TKIS</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamborine Mountain College</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaudesert State High School</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Shaded area indicates TOP 3% of schools in the state

* Percentages of OP Eligible Year 12 students in each school who obtained an OP of 15 or better in 2007. - Source: Queensland Studies Authority; Published April 1, 2008

Local Federal Member of Parliament, Brett Raguse MP, visited The Kooralbyn International School on Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2008 to present three awards to students of TKIS. The ceremony was held at a special Presentation Morning Tea in the school hall at 9:00 AM.

The first award presented was the 2008 Honours Medal which went to TKIS Year 11 student James Dahms. The Honours Medal is awarded to the student or students who best embody the school’s philosophy of ‘being the best that you can be’. James is the first student to ever reach the impressive tally of 100 Honours Merits at TKIS. Merits are awarded to students who show discipline, integrity and a generous spirit in classes, general behaviour and acts of community service. James’ achievements are reflected in his outstanding academic results as well as his contribution to community service and his role as an ambassador for the school.

James has been an exemplary student over the last three years and serves as a role model to us all, that we are capable of great things when we dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of excellence.

The other two awards presented by Mr Raguse were the Year Medals, awarded for Academic Excellence to Senior Students who graduated in the previous year. Year Medals are the highest honour. These are our top annual awards.

Story continued on page 3
Shakespeare Performed at TKIS

Students at TKIS had a chance to witness Shakespeare confronted by his disgruntled leading ladies in Shakespeare’s Women, the latest offering from the Queensland Arts Council, in partnership with Harvest Rain Theatre Company. Students were entertained and enlightened by this hilarious and universal production on 25 February 2008.

Devised and performed by Joanna Butler and Sarah McCoy, with original concept by Scott Alderdice, Shakespeare’s Women explored works commonly used in the school curriculum from the unique perspective of the female voice. It turned stereotypes upside down and brought a sharp, contemporary focus to these timeless Shakespearean stories and magnificent heroines.

Using modern music and lyrics, as well as verbal and physical comedy, the performance broke down traditional barriers for students, both male and female. Students were able to access the themes, language and wit of Shakespeare’s work through this energetic performance, as well as having a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

The Encyclopaedia Britannica School Edition if now available to all students online in their home. This is a fantastic resource for students to access for school projects and assessments, and parents are encouraged to take a look at it.

Web address: www.school.eb.com
Username: kooralbyn52
Password: intbrit12

Notice on National Assessment Programme

The National Assessment Programme for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be held on:

- Tuesday 13 May 2008
- Wednesday 14 May 2008
- Thursday 15 May 2008

It is very important that parents and caregivers keep these dates free from appointments. We ask that you mark these dates in your diaries.

The Literacy and Numeracy tests form a key part of the National Assessment Programme endorsed by all Australian Ministries of Education.

The results from these tests will provide an important measure of how Australian schools and students are performing in the areas of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.

This is the first time year 9 students will take part in the testing programme. This does not mean that year 9 students are unfamiliar with these tests. They are familiar as they have completed state tests in years 3, 5 and 7.

It is very important that students attend school on these days to complete the testing.

Thank you.

Sylvia Mellor
Senior Mistress & Head of Primary

Forum On Implementing Values Education in TKIS

In 2004 the Australian Government announced a major four-year program to make ‘values education’ a part of schooling in Australia. It is founded on the ‘National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools’.

The framework provides a vision and a set of core shared values and guiding principles that were agreed to by the Ministers of Education in all States and Territories.

TKIS is running a forum for members of the school community to investigate the national framework. From this forum we will put together a committee of members who are able to give time to exploring a whole school approach to values education.

The first meeting on ‘Implementing Values education into our school’ will take place on April 28 at 6:45pm before the scheduled PALS meeting for the school. This meeting takes place in the school library. If you are interested in finding out more please make every effort to attend this meeting. For further information please contact the school.

Date for School Terms and Holidays for 2008

We would like to remind parents and caregivers that our next holiday is for 3 weeks (previously only 2 weeks), and that our end of year break up is a week later than previous years.

Please note the dates when planning activities, events and holidays for your children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>First Day</th>
<th>Last Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>15 Apr</td>
<td>20 Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>15 Jul</td>
<td>19 Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>12 Dec</td>
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Book Fair

Hope everyone is ready to catch the reading wave!

Surf’s up at Book Fair Beach, there’ll be sand in your sneakers when our Scholastic Book Fair Surfs into School on the 26th until the 31st of May, 2008 with our fantastic fun family day on the 31st in the Kooralbyn International School Library.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Book Fair. We have plenty of activities that encourage the love of reading. Please us know if you can help.

If you cannot volunteer, you can still help by simply spreading the word about our Book Fair and joining your child at the Family Event.

Any help would be greatly appreciated, so please send a note back to school with your child to let us know that you want to get involved.

www.tkis.qld.edu.au
Brett Raguse Presents
Awards at TKIS
(Cont’d from Page 1)

The 2007 Medal winners were Ms Sasha Laws-King – currently studying Veterinary Science at University of Qld and Mr Michael Kelly – currently studying Applied Mathematics at Griffith University.

Sasha was last year’s School Captain and represented Australia at the International Youth Science Forum in London and also represented Australia in International Equestrian events.

Michael Kelly is an exceptional example of the potential that students can attain. At 13 years of age, he is one of the youngest people (if not THE youngest person) to be accepted into an Australian University and as a member of the TKIS Gifted and Talented program, the school shares the pride of his family. With 100% of our OP eligible graduates last year offered university places in the 1st round, and 89% of them obtaining an OP of 15 or better, and almost 50% obtaining an OP of 9 or better, TKIS had one of the best results in the state last year...something that all our 2007 graduates can be proud of.

The International School at Kooralbyn has an impressive history of successful graduates including
- Cathy Freeman OAM : Young Australian Of The Year, Australian Of The Year, Olympic and Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist
- Scott Hocknull : Palaeontologist, Geology Curator of Qld Museum and Young Australian Of The Year
- Evan Paki : PNG Ambassador to the United States
- Rajnesh Singh : Engineer and President of the ForumPacificIslands and PacificIT
- and many of Australia’s leading young golfers including Adam Scott, Jason Day, Steve Bowditch, Andrew Buclek, Gavin Flint and Jon Reily

We are sure that Sasha and Michael will join this esteemed list of alumni who continue to bring honour and community respect for the name of TKIS and we wish them and all our 2007 Graduates every success in their careers.

OP Results for 2007 Top 3% in State (Cont’d from Page 1)

performed better than the state average in 2007 of around 62%.

There has been a great deal of debate about the value of publishing these results, but the State Government believes that parents have a right to know how each school is performing compared to other schools. The reason that the OP1-15 Percentage is published, is because it provides a reasonable indication of the performance of each school given that an OP15 or better is likely to give the graduating student a good chance of obtaining a place in University. The QTAC university place percentage is another way to cross-reference that result.

Principal of The Kooralbyn International School (TKIS) Mr Geoff Mills, though quietly proud of his own school's performance was quick to add a warning to parents to not read too much into the OP Outcomes List: “Of course we're happy that all TKIS OP eligible Year 12 students were offered university places last year ... that's one of the reasons parents send their children here, and so it's gratifying to see the students all perform so well...but there are many ways to evaluate a school's performance and Grade 12 academic results is just one of those ways. As long as students are doing their best, then every parent and teacher is going to be proud of them”, he continued...

“I think some people read too much into the OP Lists. Just sending your child to a school with a good Year 12 academic result isn't going to guarantee that child a brilliant OP. We’re a small private school, with small class sizes, with high standards of discipline in dress and behaviour – we offer scholarships to gifted and talented students to come here... so of course we would expect to have good OP Outcomes. It's unfair to compare our results with other larger schools in the area. I think collectively however, the region is well supported by a range of good schools – each of us has our strengths and weaknesses and it's up to parents to try to find the school that best suits the needs and objectives of their child.”

What the OP and QTAC Results Mean

There are only two academic performance statistics published about each school, the percentage of OP Eligible students who obtained an OP15 or better and the percentage of QTAC applicants who were offered a place at university

The OP1-15 Percentage Result

Graduating students in Year 12 can choose to have an OP (Overall Performance) score awarded to them. Without an OP, it is difficult for students to get into university and some TAFE courses. Each year, about 80 - 90% of Year 12 students in the State apply for an OP.

OP scores (technically called OPs) range from 1 to 25. OP1 is the highest or best and OP25 is the lowest. Typically an OP of 15 or better will ensure that a student gets into university. Some university courses like medicine, veterinary science and law, require an OP4 or better. The better a student’s OP result, the better their chances are of being accepted into the university course of their choice.

The more students who obtain OP15 or better from a school, the better that school has appeared to have performed. So with 89% of their OP eligible Year 12 students receiving an OP15 or better, The Kooralbyn International School has performed extremely well indeed , making it into the Top 3% of all schools in the State.

The QTAC Offer Percentage Result

Australian students who apply for an OP can also optionally apply to QTAC (Qld Tertiary Admissions Centre) for a place at university. Of course, not all students who apply to QTAC are offered places at university. So this percentage is another good indicator of how a secondary school is performing academically. All schools in the region did well here... with even the lowest having 80% and one school (TKIS) again obtaining an exceptional 100%. In other words, every Year 12 TKIS student who applied to get into university last year was offered a place. Of the 460 secondary schools in Queensland, typically only about 20 or so obtain a 100% result in the QTAC offers.

www.tgis.qld.edu.au
Boarding Scholarships available for TKIS girls

Any female student of the secondary school who would like to trial a term living at the school dorms, should contact the office for an Application for Boarding Scholarship Form.

The school is seeking to increase its number of female boarders and so for a very limited time is offering Free Boarding to a small number of students. School Boarding normally costs about $3,000 a term, so the school will only consider offering such scholarships to students who will positively contribute to life and study skills of the dorms.

The benefits of Boarding include...

- no time wasted in traveling to and from school each day
- personal homework and study support provided by qualified teachers and boarding staff every night
- excellent and healthy balanced meals
- the experience of sharing school life with other young ladies your own age in a safe, happy environment
- a structured weekday timetable and weekend activities and field trips

It is also possible to nominate that you only wish to stay at the dorms during the week and return home on weekends. If you or your family have any questions about this scholarship offer, contact Mr Mills during office hours. Of course, the application form has to be signed by parents/carers.

TKIS Equestrian Team Comes Home with Ribbons

During the School Holidays members of TKIS Equestrian Team (Timari Lau, Chey Lee Laverty, Stephanie Watkins, Samantha Borkeit, Alivia Bisset and Kristy Cummins) travelled to Figtree Pocket where they participated in a Combined Training event hosted by St Aidens College. The outing was a success for TKIS with many students competing for the School for the first time, and several students achieving 'personal best' scores in their Dressage tests. All students performed admirably and most finished in the top 10 placings. Alivia Bisset achieved the highest score on the Team, finishing up with a 3rd place overall. The Kooralbyn Team achieved a higher score in their class than any of the other schools present. Two other Team members, Jolene Maguire and Chelsea Zemora travelled to the Toowoomba Royal Show. Again the girls performed admirably achieving many top 3 placings and returning home with a swag of ribbons! Well Done to all team members, TKIS is proud of you!

Upcoming Events

1. The school will soon be launching its 2008 Student Questionnaires to evaluate a range of aspects of schooling including vocational options available at TKIS, curriculum choices (subject options) available at TKIS, values and philosophy, school uniforms, school resources, teaching and assessment standards, etc.

2. School ID cards and Student photos should be available within the next couple of weeks.

3. The school will soon be having some much needed repairs commissioned for the roads on the lower campus and repairs will be done to various potholes that have appeared in roads since the floods in January.

4. Leadership will be the focus of Term Two. Life Skills will study the topic in detail for students in Grades 10, 11 and 12. A series of Leadership Workshops will be offered to a selected group in Grades 10 to 12. (Anyone interested in attending should contact Mr Mills.) The school is also evaluating the option of offering a Leadership Course during the holidays at the end of Term 2.

5. PALS meeting for May will be held on Monday April 28th with a presentation to PALS about the school's proposed Values Education strategies.

6. As always, Report Cards will be available shortly after the end of week one of the new term. Parents often ask why report cards aren't sent home at the end of Term. This is because here at TKIS we use every day of term for classes and final exams. Results are then tabulated and entered into the school system over the holidays and reports are analysed and completed in the first week back at school. Well you asked... : )