



Blackwater  
State High School  
Prospectus







## Our School

Blackwater State High School is a school engaged in creating brilliant futures.

At Blackwater High dedication to academic excellence and vocational achievement goes hand in hand with individual care for each student.

Our school motto is KNOW THYSELF. As students progress through the five years of secondary education, we will strive to have each one of them achieve the ideal of this motto. They will be progressively expected to assume more responsibility for their own achievement and to learn to be more self-reliant in reaching set goals. The progressive development of attitudes in self-discipline and of mutual respect will lead to better understanding of themselves and of others.

We hope that close co-operation among parents, teachers, community and students will provide an educational climate conducive to each student achieving his or her full potential.



An environment for individuals to develop intellectually, physically, personally and socially

## From the Principal

We aim to offer all students at Blackwater State High School the highest quality education. Embracing all that the School and the local community offer, the young adults who complete their schooling here are ready and willing to take their place in a global community.

Situated in the mining town of Blackwater in Central Queensland, the school enjoys strong and much appreciated support from the local community for the many sporting, cultural and academic activities undertaken by our students.

Blackwater State High School offers a broad and innovative curriculum that is focused on meeting the diverse needs of students in our modern and increasingly complex society. Our Middle Phase approach in Year 8 links closely with our Primary Cluster Schools to provide a smooth continuation for students from the primary to the secondary school setting. The Year 10 Transition Program ensures that students are well prepared to engage in their chosen pathways in the Senior Phase of Learning in Years 11 and 12. While we have a strong academic focus for those choosing to follow a Tertiary Education Pathway, we also offer a strong alternative Vocational Pathway for those seeking traineeships, apprenticeships and employment.

Our success is largely due to our caring, committed and enthusiastic staff who work to develop a genuine learning culture in partnership with students and parents and who challenge students to be the best they can be.

We have strong links with our local community and the mining industry. As we are a member of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, we can provide our students and staff access to a variety of activities both academic and vocational which can help them in their years beyond schooling.

### Our school Statement of Purpose reads:

"Blackwater State High School inspiring personal best by all members of the school community in a respectful, healthy, supportive and disciplined environment".

I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

### Mission Statement

Blackwater State High School aims to provide, through the delivery of a meaningful curriculum and effective teaching, a structured, supportive and caring environment within which each individual student is given the opportunity to develop intellectually, physically, personally and socially in order to meet the present and future needs of society.

### Blackwater High exists to assist families with the education of their children by:

- providing access to expertise which may not be available at home
- providing access to accreditation
- providing a wide range of opportunities





Our students are encouraged to see the world with open eyes



## Our School

We nurture the happiness and well-being of each student and the whole community.

Our school operates from year 8 & 9 in the middle school and year 10, 11 & 12 in the senior school. From the year 8 students to the most mature or our senior students, each student's education and progress is supported for core elements which unite the school.

### Teaching & Learning:

Ensuring our academic programs are coherent, integrated and moving forward; achieving outstanding results at every level.

### Pastoral Care:

The mechanisms by which we nurture the happiness and well-being of each student and the whole community.

### Extra-Curricular Activities:

Engaging students in sport, music, art, drama, out-door activities and adventures activities such as Army Cadets.

Our teachers are our greatest asset. Dedicated, talented and deeply engaged as practitioners of their proud profession. Outside the classroom they contribute to school life as coaches, Officer's of Cadets, tutors and excursion coordinators

The school buildings and facilities consist of an Administration Block, Science Block, Manual Arts Centre, Library, Senior Centre, Home Economics Centre and three large two-storey wings which contain, in addition to General Learning Areas, a Commercial Section, a Business Education Centre, Computer Rooms, an Art Section, a Canteen and Staff rooms. Most of our buildings are fully air-conditioned or cooled through evaporative cooling. In 2009, we have received funding to refurbish 3 of our existing buildings, including general teaching areas and our 4 science laboratories. These refurbishments aim at bringing our classroom beyond the 21st century and will incorporate a multitude of technologies such as electronic whiteboards and class access to the internet.

A spacious oval provides a venue for physical education and sporting activities. Two sealed basketball courts, two sealed tennis courts, a cricket wicket, practice nets and a number of volleyball and netball courts are also popular student playing areas.



We encourage a strong individual sense of achievement and fulfillment



## Our Curriculum

Academically our students are developing as independent learners equipped with the organisational skills and learning strategies upon which each can build as they progress through high school.

### Middle School Curriculum

Foundations in literacy and numeracy are consolidated and the scope widens to enable students to engage in a wide ranging, stimulating academic program that includes disciplines of English, Science, Mathematics, Studies of Society as well as, Manual Arts, Home Economics, Life Skills, Intercultural Studies, Information Communication and Technology, Business, Visual Arts, Physical Education & Music.

### Senior School Curriculum Preparing for the future

These years are about balance. Life becomes busy and demanding and the end of the school days is suddenly in sight. The future looms large and exciting.

Our year 10 students are given the opportunity to explore their subject choices for their Queensland Certificate of Education. All students study a Certificate 2 in Work Education and are guided throughout the year in developing their Senior Education Training Plan.

In Year 11 & 12, Blackwater High School offers an extensive range of subjects to senior students. The aim of our range of subjects is to provide a meaningful course of study that will suit the different needs of students undertaking senior studies at Blackwater State High School. Students in Years 11 and 12 will be offered subjects that are academic or vocational based. All which lead to their chosen pathway after completion of their formal schooling.

School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships are also offered to our senior students. This program has been growing in numbers over the past 2 years and in 2009 we will have over 50 SBT in year 10, 11 & 12.

Blackwater State High School offers the Queensland Certificate of Education as its year 12 certificate. Students are also given the opportunity to achieve an OP score for them to gain university entrance. We are enormously experienced in the OP process and we do it very well.

Separate Subject Selection booklets detail our subject offerings.

### Teaching and Learning

Our school is staffed with teachers who know and love their subjects and who have a passion for providing the disciplinary lenses with which their students will see our world more fully.

At the same time we actively encourage our staff to keep abreast of the research and participate in Professional Development to enhance and develop their skills.

Everyone- students and staff- at our school works independently and within teams of differing shapes and sizes. This capacity to take responsibility for one's work, and contribute to the learning outcomes of other – is fundamental to our approach and applies from year 8 to Year 12.

We encourage students and staff to seek and accept feedback and criticism, to question and ask for help; to be open minded, and generous with support and praise of others.



School life is rich and creative with physical and cognitive challenges



## Extra-Curricular

### Music. Sport. Army Cadets. Community Service. Public Speaking. Trips. Excursions...

A holistic approach is very important in the education of students and, with this in mind, the school offers many opportunities for students to pursue their varied interests across a range of areas. School life is rich and creative with physical and cognitive challenges. Through the extra-curricular program students grow in character, confidence and self-esteem. They build new kinds of relationships with each other and staff based on trust, loyalty and commitment.

Blackwater High offers many academic opportunities to our community beyond our curriculum offerings. Extended learning opportunities are available through the Gifted and Talented program, including development days and camps. Science Week, public speaking competitions, Australian School Mathematics and Science competitions, Tournament of the Minds and District Extended Learning Programs are also supported in the school.

Students at Blackwater High School have the opportunity to pursue their musical interests through our instrumental music program. Our students compete at local and regional level. The instrumental music program produces work of an extremely high standard.

Our school based Army Cadet Unit provides leadership, adventure and personal development opportunities. Our cadets have received Cadet Training Awards at promotional courses offered in Townsville. In 2008, staff and cadets embarked on the challenge of walking the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea.

The unit continues to develop our students into the leaders of tomorrow.





## Extra-Curricular

Our school provides many exciting opportunities for personal extension and life-shaping inspiration.

Students have accessed the many Queensland State Secondary School Sports Association trials with success.

Touch maintains a high profile both at school and community level. Our teams have competed very successfully at the All Schools Touch Competition held annually.

Students participate in the Queensland State Schools Rugby League State Competition. Round Robin competitions sponsored by the Brisbane Broncos and the ARL Foundation are also very popular with the students.

We have hosted a number of State and Regional Carnivals including soccer, swimming, athletics, rugby league and touch. This provides an opportunity for our school and community to see sport played at a high level.

### Pastoral Care

We are ambitious for our students. We care deeply that our students are equipped to build useful, rewarding and fulfilling lives.

Every child has the right to be happy, to be supported and nurtured through the growing years. We take a Whole School approach and while components of our pastoral care evolve and change as the students move up through the School – the basic principal and values we teach do not.

We weave highly professional pastoral care into every facet of school life. Every teacher, every staff member, is part of the school-wide team devoted to the individual well-being of our students. Pastoral care is not an added or optional extra; it's integrated, essential and taken seriously.

As members of form and year groups, our students build strong relationships with teacher staff and other students.

Students grow in character, confidence and self-esteem







Students are treated with understanding and care

## Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students

Our role is to help all members of the community to live more respectful, purposeful lives.

### School beliefs about behaviour and learning

Blackwater State High School's mission is to inspire personal best in all members of the school community in a respectful, healthy, supportive and disciplined environment.

We believe in the capacity of every member of the community to achieve their full potential. To this end, we expect the members of the school community to conduct themselves in a lawful, ethical, safe and responsible manner that recognises and respects the rights of others. These expectations not only promote the rights of students to learn and teachers to instruct, but also promote the pervasive benefits of a school that has pride in itself, its achievements and its image.

### Our Philosophy

- This policy is based on the belief that all behaviour is purposeful and that everyone is responsible and accountable for his/her behaviour.
- Our school recognises the worth of all individuals and supports all students in their efforts to derive the benefits of a broad education.
- Our role is to help all members of the community to live more respectful, purposeful lives, to develop in students, integrity and compassion, and lay foundations for a safe and caring school community. We strive to promote the ideals of co-operation, self-respect, respect for and tolerance of others.
- Behaviour development is the responsibility of all members of the school community including students, teachers, administration, support staff and parents.

### Our shared beliefs and values about behaviour and learning are as follows:

- All members of Blackwater State High School will have the right to:
- learn, teach or carry out their designated work
- be treated with understanding and care
- be treated with respect
- personal safety
- security of personal property
- We believe in the rights of students to learn. To achieve this, our behaviour management strategies are strongly aligned to create a safe and caring environment that supports the learning, intellectual, emotional and physical needs of students. Essential to the creation of this environment is the student's right to feel both physically and emotionally safe within the school.

- We recognise that the way we speak, and the words we use, have great power to discourage or to inspire. We aim to promote personal responsibility and respect to replace shaming and blaming. Individual rights can only be maintained through individual responsibility and acceptance of a common code of behaviour based on respect for self, for others and for property.
- Those who reject school rules and expectations devalue and restrict their own rights and privileges.
- We believe in promoting the highest standards of behaviour so that we as a school can take pride in the image we present to the community and in our achievements. Those who actively follow the school's code of conduct should be recognised.
- We believe in a teacher's right to teach and seek to minimise disruptive behaviour through the implementation of quality instructional practices and future-oriented education that seeks to engage and inspire students.

- We believe in promoting the learning of students through creativity and innovation in our teaching practices. These teaching practices seek to include students by creating links between the students' learning and their world. Through these links education becomes relevant to the student and the learning experience is enhanced.
- All students will be made aware of, and provided with an explanation of, the school's Responsible Behaviour Policy as part of regular Year Level/School assemblies and classroom activities. Students will then be responsible for their own actions and decisions.

The rights of students, parents and teachers to discuss, clarify and inform the rules/policies of the school in the appropriate forum will be respected in a respectful school.



## Bullying Prevention Strategy for Students

The school encourages open discussions about bullying in the classroom

Blackwater State High School accept their responsibility to promote positive relationships and to prevent bullying.

Bullying is the repeated oppression, psychological or physical, of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or groups of persons. At Blackwater State High School, bullying in all its forms is not accepted and all members of Blackwater State High School accept their responsibility to promote positive relationships and to prevent bullying.

### Educational Programs

It is important that students, staff and parents understand what bullying is, how it impacts on people and how bullying is responded to at Blackwater State High School. At Blackwater State High School we use the following educational strategies:

### Educating teachers and other staff

- Provide professional development opportunities for staff to learn about effective positive behaviour management techniques.
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff to learn about bullying and its effects on students and the wider community.
- Discuss as a whole staff, the effects of bullying in our school and meet a consensus on which behaviours constitute bullying.

### Educating parents and families

- Schedule and conduct information sessions about bullying which will be run by the behaviour management team.
- Produce and distribute a generic brochure informing families about: types of bullying behaviours; symptoms of bullying; examples of strategies to try at home for students exhibiting bullying behaviours and also those students who are the victims of bullying; website and resource details; and contact information should families request additional support or wish to discuss bullying incidences.

### Educating students

- Explicitly teach what constitutes bullying behaviours and their consequences within the school.
- Encourage open communications in the classroom by involving all class members in discussions about bullying.
- Integrate the use of literature and other resources to teach students about recognising and coping with different feelings, emotions, social values and situations that may involve bullying behaviours.

- Provide opportunities for students to review, discuss, dramatise and interpret via literacy activities and other media that focuses on social skill development and promotes positive values.
- Incorporate role-play situations highlighting the choices of a bully, victim and a bystander.
- Identify and promote positive behaviours within the school.

### Prevention Programs

Effective social skill and positive relationships act to prevent bullying. At Blackwater State High School we promote effective social skills and positive relationships. We utilise the proactive programs to assist us in this goal.

### Year 8 Life Skills Program

- Chaplaincy
- Rock and Water
- Motivational Media presentations
- Arts Council presentations
- Social skilling programs

### Responses to bullying

Reports of bullying will be investigated and acted upon. Responses to bullying might include targeted support for victims and perpetrators and/or sanctions or consequences consistent with the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

### At Blackwater State High School we support victims and perpetrators by:

- Social skills programs for students at risk of being involved in bullying incidents
- Increased supervision of risk areas
- Providing counselling support
- Providing access to staff including principal, teachers, teacher aides, guidance officer, chaplain, specialist support staff
- Development of Individual Behaviour Plans

### At Blackwater State High School the consequences for bullying might include the following:

- Warnings
- Buddied from class
- Time out at lunch times
- Detention
- Meetings with parents
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Exclusion

### Reporting and monitoring bullying

At Blackwater State High School reports of bullying are taken seriously. Students and parents may report bullying in the following ways.

- Directly to a staff member
- Directly through the Office

Reports of bullying will be collated and monitored to inform the school community about the extent of bullying and to identify particular areas of concern for future action.





Our school experience gives every student the confidence to believe in themselves

## School Song

When our golden youth is behind us  
and new voices ring with  
the song we sing today  
When the road of  
life lies before us  
From the path we're  
choosing while we may

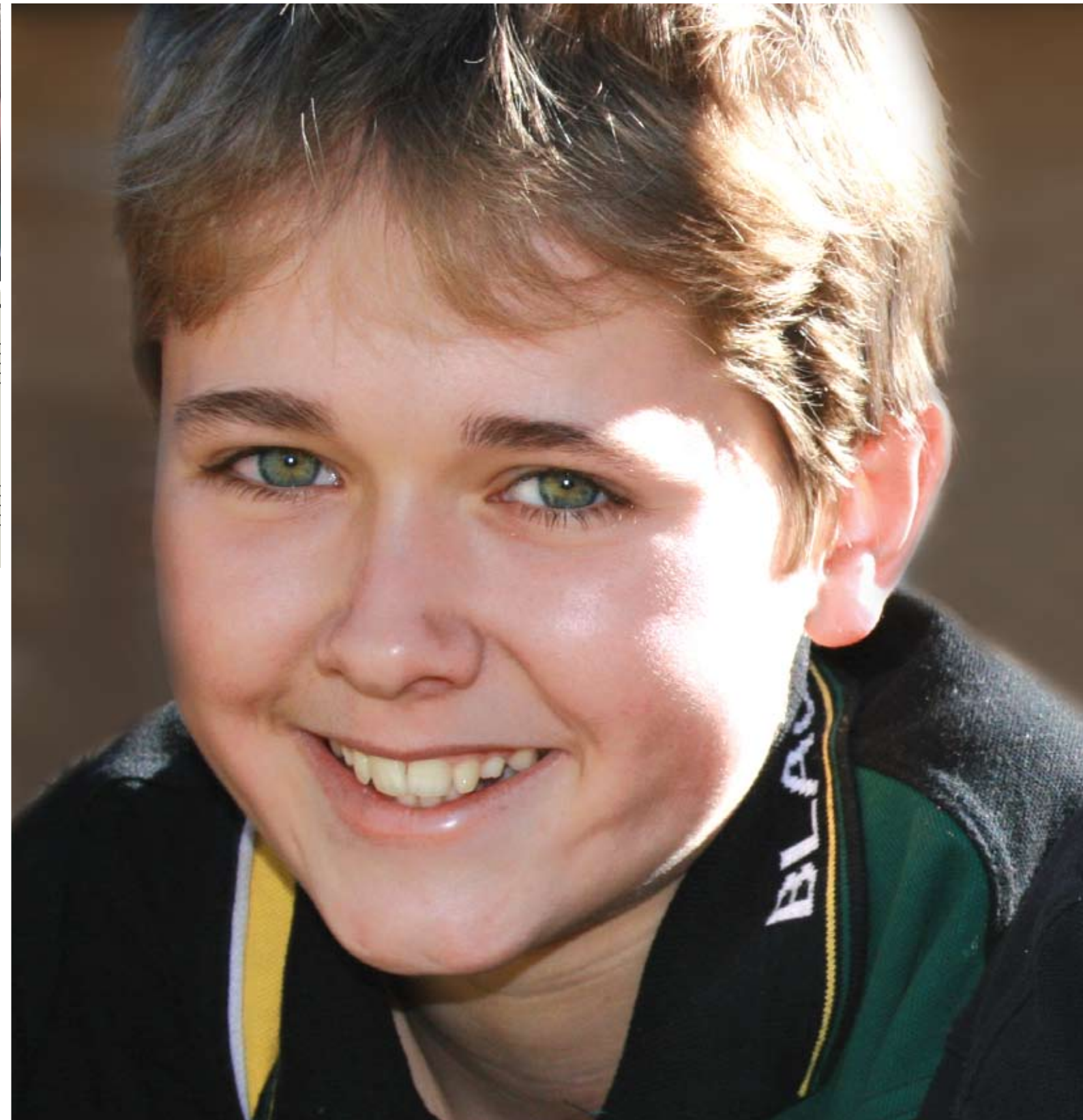
We'll remember with pride  
How we stood side by side  
With our friends who  
were loyal and true

Yes, we'll smile and sigh  
And remember why, they  
cheered for the old school too.

Green, white and black  
May our colours fly  
Now and forever  
Blackwater high.

(Second time around from  
We'll remember with pride...)

Green, white and black  
May the 'buzzard' fly  
High and forever Blackwater High.







To learn more about Blackwater State High School  
[www.blackwatershs.eq.edu.au](http://www.blackwatershs.eq.edu.au)

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