

VILLAGE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



"Our aim is to delight and inspire young children to become resourceful and independent learners."

WORD FROM THE VICE CHAIR – Andrew Guthrie

2018 was a positive year for Village School with teachers and students alike feeling more settled, additional learning programs in place, infrastructure projects completed, and improved safety around the school.

The Board has continued to focus on child safety, financial management, refining our philosophy and improving policies. Finances are holding steady and our website has updated philosophy documents.

Kay Newton, the Village School Chairperson will not be continuing on after the 2019 AGM and Aaron Miles the Treasurer needed to resign due to time pressures. The Board welcomed ordinary member Ray Yates. Ray brings a wealth of experience to the Board and will be appointed as Chairperson at the AGM.

The new Administration Building was completed in January 2019 and is now being enjoyed by staff and students, as well as hosting Board meetings in its spacious meeting room.

The teachers have again done a wonderful job with the children, implementing their ideas into the learning projects. After some time scouting for new staff, Yonny was secured in 2018 and started late in the year, bringing with her a wealth of experience and knowledge, as well as Mandarin as the language skills for the children. The 5 R's continue to be a success and Math groups are proving to be effective.

On the safety front around the school, many dead and dangerous trees were felled, steps to the kitchen replaced, and the anti-slip strips are being installed around the school. Yellow parking bumpers were installed, and our OH&S officer Sally and the students often check the school for hazards.

To our outgoing Chairperson Kay Newton, thank you for your contribution to Village School, for being a vibrant and enlightening Board member and guiding the Board through many challenges and wins over the past 4 years. A big thanks also to Aaron Miles for your time and commitment in the Treasurer's role.

Thank you goes to all teachers, learning support staff and office staff for making Village School a safe and positive environment to learn in and to Tanya for leading the staff and communicating with parents so effectively in 2018.

Finally, I want to thank our Village School families for entrusting us with your children, for your ongoing support and choosing our wonderful school.

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN 2018

Chair:	Kay Newton *
Vice Chair:	Andrew Guthrie
Treasurer:	Aaron Miles/ Vanessa Yates **
Principal:	Tanya Heine
Business Manager:	Vanessa Yates
Co-opted Education Consultant:	Ian Bentley
Parent Rep:	Adua Cipolato/ Sophie Whitwell
Staff Rep:	Laura Fraser
General Member	Ray Yates ***

*Kay Newton notified us that she would not be continuing after the next AGM, due to her inability to get to board meetings

**Aaron Miles resigned during the latter half of the year due to work commitments and the Business Manager is covering the treasurer's role while we seek someone who is from the wider community and is therefore not a stakeholder in Village School.

***Ray joined in term 4 of 2018 as an independent member.

TREASURER'S REPORT

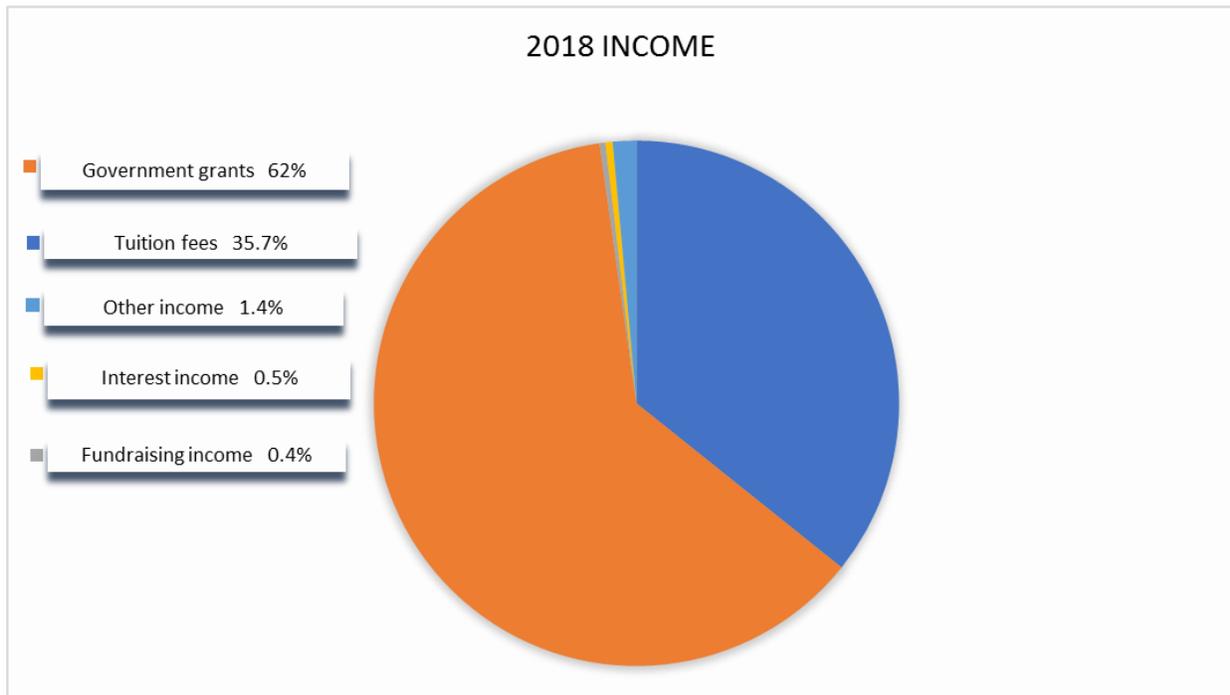
Vanessa Yates - Business Manager/Secretary/Public Officer and 'acting' Treasurer.

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL RECORDS

The last financial year has seen the financial position of the school remain strong.

INCOME

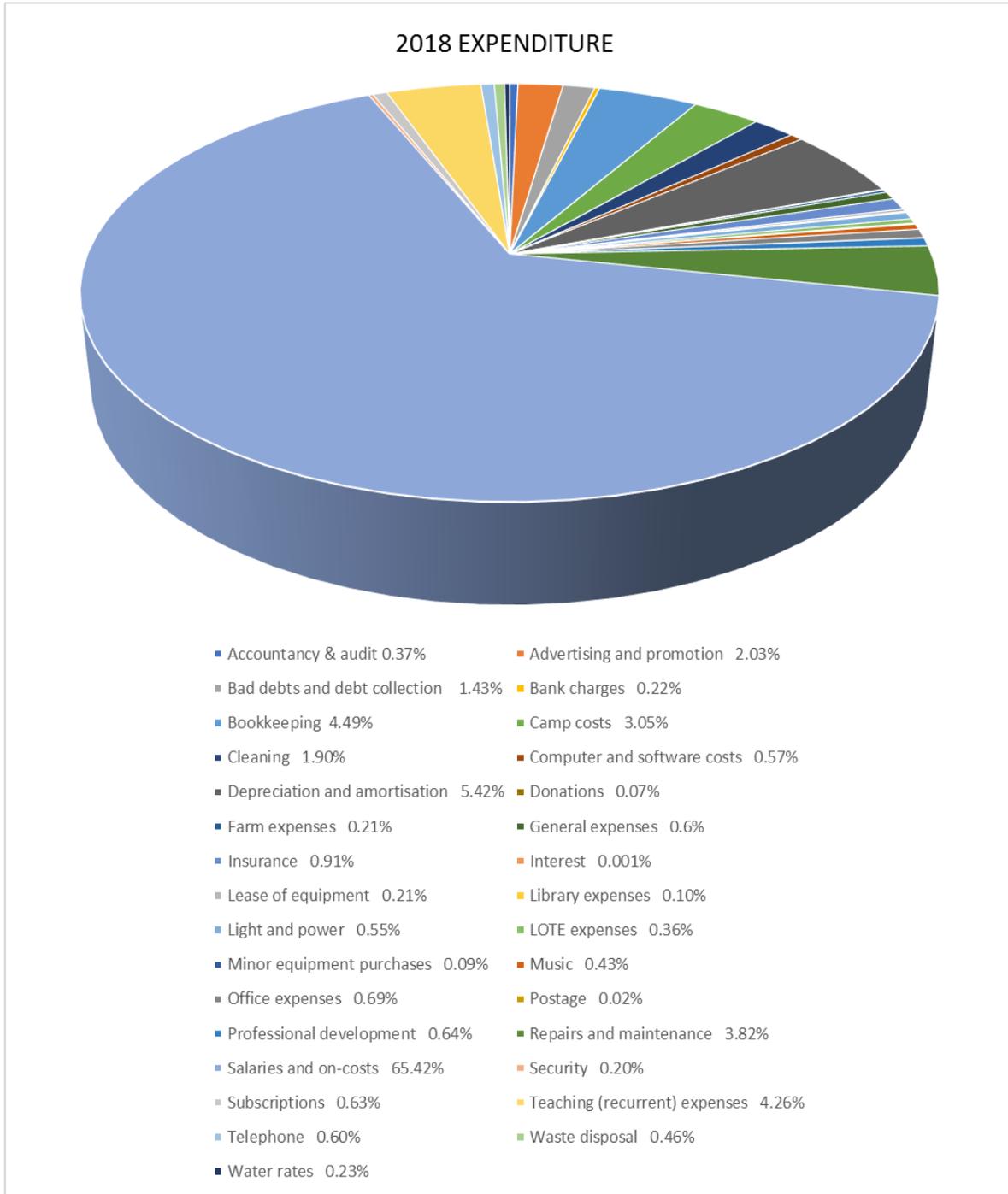
A total of \$1,633,272.00 of income was received during the 2018 financial year which was an increase of \$232,236.00 compared to the prior year. 50% of income was received from Federal and State funding, 35.7% from Tuition Fees, 12% from VISBGA funding, 1.4% of other income, 0.5% from Interest and 0.4% from Fundraising.



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EXPENSES

School expenses have again been managed efficiently. As in previous years, the school's major operating expense was salaries at 65.42%. Repairs and maintenance increased by \$21,704.00 compared to the previous year, this being due to numerous trees being felled, high quality non slip strips being purchased and the installation of the carpark wheel stops.



CAPITAL EXPENSES

The school has invested greatly in capital works over the year. Fibre was installed into the school, giving us access to faster and more reliable internet. Adhering to a tight budget in 2017 and 2018, allowed the school, with the assistance of a \$300,000.00 grant from VISBGA, to fund the new administration building and refurbishment of the art room at a cost of \$740,000.00.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The school is in a strong net asset position (total assets exceeding total liabilities) of \$2.92m, stronger than the prior year of \$2.85m. The current ratio that measures short-term liquidity (current assets/current liabilities), stands at 1.30, which is above the preferred minimum benchmark of 1.

2019 BUDGET

The budget for the 2019 financial year has been set. The goal for 2019 is to continue ensuring that our students and staff are well supported. We will also be focussing on repairs and maintenance to our current buildings and grounds.

AUDIT

The audit of the 2018 Financial Accounts was completed by the Field Group. As usual a very thorough investigation of the accounts was performed. Finally, I would like to thank the Field Group for their continued support and assistance.

PRINCIPAL – Tanya Heine

2018 was a year of growth, with an increase in staff and student numbers, and as well the building of the new administration block. This has transformed the approach to the school buildings and created more teaching space in the old portable. Although at times the parking area was crowded and difficult, being able to watch the progression of the building program gave the whole school a sense of excitement and endowment and had the effect of boosting the morale of the community.

Having examined our philosophy document in detail we were able to reaffirm some basic principles such as the concepts of liberalism, tolerance, and democracy. Village School promotes humanitarian concerns such as inclusiveness, equity and universal rights which are underpinned by the school's 5 Rs: Respect, Resourcefulness, Responsibility, Reliability and Resilience. We gave more attention to these 5Rs in 2018, incorporating them more explicitly into one of the specialist subjects run on Thursdays, and actually calling the subject 5Rs. In these lessons we acknowledged that Mindfulness is one of the key skills that needs to be addressed regularly in the school week, including making it a part of our staff meetings.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The education program continued to cover the learning areas as prescribed by ACARA and the Victorian Curriculum, but in a thematic, integrated way, using 'big picture' topics to incorporate activities which still allowed teachers to observe the benchmarks reached by individual children. Topics covered during 2018 included New Town (a STEAM activity involving the whole school), Are We There Yet? (Australian Geography) Blood and Guts (biology) Nature, Australian Animals, Change (science and society), Plastics in the Ocean, Full Steam Ahead (a theme on inventions) and "My Product Rules" (developing a food product that was cooked and packaged. The Performance "A Poultry Affair" integrated all the performing arts (singing, dancing, drama) and the visual arts (costumes, props, ticket designs and advertising.) As well there were lots of egg experiments and challenges, including hatching new chickens in the prep room. The older groups also had one term for Passion Projects so they could work on any negotiated subject across the term and present their project at the end.

We revised the way we approached maths, adding maths clinics for three mornings each week, which involved taking the children from Melissa's, Laura's, Leanne's group, and one from Rachelle's and forming small intellectual peer groups. This gave the teachers a chance to do explicit instruction at the right level for every child while the learning support teachers supervised a more open-ended maths related activity with the

other groups. It was a more formal way of timetabling our home groups but we still felt there was merit in it, so we resolved to keep this happening in 2019.

Sandy, our extra maths/science teacher, also spent some STEAM time with the two younger groups, often taking half the class at a time.

We added 5Rs to the specialist day program, which also included, performing arts, gardening/environment and science. Auslan was still the L.O.T.E and happened on Fridays along with library lessons which incorporated cyber-safety. Both these lessons provided time-release for the teachers.

There was an intensive swimming program at the start of the year, held at King Swim and pony riding, Freeform (physical resilience/martial arts) gymnastics and sport games were the other sport choices. We held soccer at an indoor stadium for the older groups and we trialled some tennis lessons with the year 5/6s at the end of the year and decided to include them as part of our program in 2019.

The animal program continued but became more streamlined when we decided to rehome our goat and sheep. This left just chooks and ponies and the inside guinea pigs and reptiles to care for, as well as the garden beds, which made the whole program more manageable.

The teachers adopted some new continuums for maths and literacy, after workshopping with some templates from the Victorian Curriculum and one developed by Sandy, the maths/science teacher. These were a way of meeting requests from some parents about making the curriculum more accessible to parents, using layman's language.

SCHOOL EVENTS

We started the year with a family BBQ and finished term one with a "Lights On in New Town" night and an Expo during school hours a day later. We participated in Clean Up Australia in March, with a few parents coming along to help us as we cleaned up the banks of the Brushy Creek. Term two ended with the usual whole school sleepover and the children ran the Village Idol once again. Parents were invited to the Invention Convention during the last week of term. Term 3 had an instrumental concert early in the term and three performances of A Poultry Affair at the end. Term four had an early BBQ to welcome new prep parents and also a Meet the Grads from last year and earlier in the hall. The final events were Graduation Night and the usual Xmas festivities with parties and Santa Claus on the last day.

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

We had a visit from a story and dance group, Wayapa, who worked with each group on Harmony Day. A weekend STEM workshop run by internationally acclaimed educator Gever Tully and his team was offered to parents and children, The Life Education van

also visited and ran cyber-safety sessions with the middle primary and a course called “Relate Connect Respect” with the oldest group.

We visited Healesville Sanctuary and Pound Bend during the Australian Animals and the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place during Reconciliation week. A visit to the Yarra Glen Chocolate Factory tied in with the Full Steam Ahead theme

CAMPS

As usual we had two camps: the performance camp in term 3 at Camp Oasis in Mount Evelyn, and a whole school camp at the Lord Somers camp down the peninsula which was very successful. We plan to visit this every second year and use Wilson’s Prom for the older students each other year. The younger homegroups will go to Lord Somers each year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

All staff had either their yearly update for First Aid or the full course if they were new to the staff.

We had several workshops at school run by ISV and these included Personalised Learning, Individual Learning Plans, Better Conversations, Coaching and Differentiation, and Collaborative Learning.

Most staff also attended the teachers’ STEM workshops also run at the school by Gever Tully and his team.

In term 4 six members of staff were involved in the Southern Cross Project, which was an extensive four-day workshop working on an area relevant to our school. We chose to finalise our continuum development through this and found the experience valuable.

TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

Teachers still used the Schleiger Diagnostic Maths Tasks as their main form of assessing maths, some used the ACER Progressive Achievement Tests as well, which covered all literacy areas and maths as well. However, the plan is to phase out this style of testing in favour of the continuum records and use more formative assessment practices. Parent/teacher/child interviews were run in terms one and three and written reports were given to the parents in terms two and four. We are monitoring the success rate of a program called Toe by Toe used with mostly upper primary children to improve their reading success. We tested the children at the beginning and the end of the year to chart their growth in reading age over the year. We have also tested a random control group who did not receive this Toe by Toe course and gave them the same tests

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to see if the growth or reading age differs. The control group averaged about one year growth in reading age. Two of the Toe by Toe group showed two year's growth in their reading age, but others showed 6 months or less and one showed no growth at all. This was valuable feedback and shows we need to carefully select students who will be able to benefit from Toe by Toe and look for other solutions for some.

NAPLAN

Parents withdrew approximately 40% of children from NAPLAN for philosophical reasons, We had 17 year 3 students in 2018 and 7 were withdrawn by parents, so 10 year 3s sat for the tests and one was absent for Numeracy. As the table indicates two of these had literacy difficulties, which was already known.

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Gram/Punc.	Numeracy
Above Average	40%	10%		10%	33.3%
High Average	50%		60%	30%	33.3%
Average					
Low Average	10%	70%	20%	40%	33.3%
Below Average		20%	20%	20%	

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Gram/Punc.	
Above Average	57%	14%	14.1%	43%	28.5%
High Average	43%	14%	14.1%	42%	43%
Average			28.3%	15%%	
Low Average		58%	28.3%		28.5%
Below Average		14%	14.1%		

Of the 12 year 5 students 5 were withdrawn by parents so 7 sat for the tests.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Improving the profile of maths has been an ongoing aim for the last couple of years. Teachers using PAT tests and also Naplan results indicated that most students were achieving well in this area. More importantly there was a positive attitude to the integrated maths/science/art approach and annual events involving displays to parents have also raised the profile.

Maintaining full time learning support teachers in each classroom ensured a better quality of classroom management and good student/teacher interactions.

Being able to employ an extra learning support for one to one sessions contributed to overall success with students.

The building of the new administration block will also provide added teaching areas, in the new building and in the refurbished office space.

TEACHING REVIEWS

We continue to use our weekly staff meetings as a vehicle for teaching appraisals and peer support.

PARENT AND CHILD SURVEYS

No formal surveys have been administered this year, a parent survey is planned for 2019. The school receives ongoing feedback from the parent representative on the Board. Regular homegroup meetings are also an informal parent feedback opportunity. The daily homegroup meetings and the weekly whole school meetings give the children a voice so that they can raise issues of concern and take part in some of the problem solving

STUDENT ENROLMENT TERM FOUR 2018

YEAR LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PART-TIME PREP	3	4	7
PREP	6	6	12
YEAR ONE	5	2	7
YEAR TWO	4	4	8
YEAR THREE	8	7	15
YEAR FOUR	9	9	18
YEAR FIVE	6	6	12
YEAR SIX	4	2	6
TOTAL STUDENTS	45	40	85

Last year we had three students with indigenous background. Three students spoke a language other than English at home. We drew our students from the greater outer eastern area, extending from Healesville, Ferntree Gully, Hurstbridge and as far in as Mont Albert. About half are from the immediate local area. Most students travel in cars, a minority walk to school.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE %
PART TIME PREP	92%
PREP	94%
YEAR ONE	93%
YEAR TWO	92%
YEAR THREE	86%
YEAR FOUR	92%
YEAR FIVE	86%
YEAR SIX	97%
TOTAL AVERAGE	92%

The school follows up all absences if we have had no notification after 9:30 am in the morning. Parents are rung, and if no answer a message is left and an email sent. If the child is absent for subsequent days without notification the school will persist with ringing the parents and if there is still no answer the school will ring the emergency numbers for the child to ascertain that the child is accounted for. If we cannot contact the emergency numbers and or there is no information given, we will notify the police. If there are too many absences lowering the child's attendance rate to under 90% they will be noted on the child's report, as having an impact on the child's learning. If attendance falls dramatically without explanation or the school has concerns for the welfare of a child in that instance the school would also contact the Department of Education or possibly Child Protection.

MARKETING

1. The school still maintained the marketing plan organised through Grant Day James. This included:
 - Advertising in Melbourne Child but this stopped mid-year as Melbourne Child was discontinued.
 - Advertising in Maroondah, Manningham and Yarra Valle Lilydale Leader community papers.
 - Maintaining signs at the North Croydon shops, Maroondah Highway and Dorset road junction, Chirnside Park Shopping Centre and Eastland in Ringwood.
2. The school website continues to be one of the main sources of enquiries and the monthly school tours ensure people are brought into the school. We also offer private tours.
3. The school also has a Facebook page and is starting to use that for advertising as well as staying connected to past students and their families.
4. Kinderfest was also run during May, but it was noted that most of the families attending were already enrolled and attending the school, or on our waiting lists to start next year. The school resolved to try something different next year.
5. Parents ran a Bunnings BBQ and a Xmas Wrapping stall at Chirnside Park which provides some local publicity for the school.

PnF/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The newly named Social Committee again ran a whole school Roller Skating Night. They also continued to organise regular coffee mornings at a local café and as well supported all the school events with such as the BBQs, Graduation Nights etc.

FUND RAISING

There was mostly just one parent organising fund raising, with some help from one or two from the Social Committee. Money was raised from a silent auction at the Performance, a Bunnings BBQ and the Xmas wrapping stall at Chirnside Park.

STAFFING

The teachers were:

Carmel Arnold	Bachelor of Education	Preps	
Rachelle Senior*	Bachelor of Education	Years 1/2	
Melissa Langford	Bachelor of Education	Years 3/4	
Laura Fraser	Graduate Diploma	Years 3/4	Enviro/Garden
Leanne Fitch	Graduate Diploma	Years 5/6	Auslan assistant
Vikki Pickering	Bachelor of Education	All years	Mindfulness/5Rs
Sandra Barnes	Bachelor of Education	All years	Science/Maths
Sally Boyd	Bachelor of Education	All years	Library
Tanya Heine	Master of Education	Principal	
	Diploma of School Music	All years	Performing Arts

* We had appointed a new teacher, Yonny Chang, at the end of 2017 who lived in Korea. The school sponsored her Visa. In the mean time we appointed Rachelle Senior to work in the room until she arrived. The Visa process took much longer than was expected and Yonny was finally appointed in the last two weeks of term four 2018. Rachelle worked for the entire year.

Learning support staff were:

Lyndall Levy (first two months)	Certificate 3 Education Support
Kim Thomson	Certificate 4 Education Support
Meredith Macrae	Certificate 3 Education Support -pending
Angela Heine	Certificate 3 Education Support -pending
Olga Ischenko	Naturopath
Leah Grier	Certificate 3 Education Support
Kath McCann	Certificate 3 Education Support

Contracted Staff

Jenny Kadiki	Certificate IV AUSLAN
Glitz Academy	Gym instruction
King Swim	Intensive swimming program
Freeform	Resilience/sport program
Georgia Appleton	Pony riding

Administration

Vanessa Yates
Sally Boyd
Michelle Newstead

Business Manager
Reception/Records
Reception/ Newsletter

Grounds/Cleaning/Maintenance

Kerry Walton

Contractor

OH&S

OH&S is a permanent agenda item at the Village Board meetings. Designated Board Members and a staff member met with the grounds/maintenance person for ongoing monitoring of the facilities and of possible risks.

THANK YOU

Village School is thankful for the time and effort that the staff have brought to the school. It has a much more demanding teaching environment than most schools and the extra time and effort is much appreciated. Thank you also to the parents of Village School who support the different education programs, by helping out in the classrooms, with the ponies, animals, performances, excursions and special lunches. Thank you to the children who show maturity beyond their years as they take on the responsibilities that arise out of our outdoor and our performing programs.