

TOGETHER IN ISOLATION

Kimberley School of the Air

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

WWW.KSOTA.COM.AU



Our School

Kimberley School of the Air (KSOTA) is located in the West Kimberley town of Derby. Derby is approximately 3000km north of Perth. KSOTA services children from geographically isolated locations across the Kimberley region. KSOTA provides quality education to children from cattle stations, remote Indigenous communities, tourist facilities, roadhouses, National Parks and travelling families. We are part of the SOTA network of five schools that cover Western Australia.

KSOTA began in 1960 at the Royal Flying Doctor Service base at Derby Airport before transferring to facilities at Derby District High School. In 2002 the school moved into a purpose designed facility with cutting-edge educational technology.

The model of Distance Education employed by the five Schools of the Air in WA is iconic in the history of the Australian Outback. In the past, lessons were delivered by radio. Today, teachers use an internet conferencing platform, WebEx, to deliver multiple air-lessons every day. Teachers are supported at each site by a Home Tutor. Teachers and Home Tutors are in regular contact about each student's learning journey, with the aim to provide a seamless school environment where students can flourish.

An integral component of KSOTA is our whole school camps, home visits and regular assemblies – all of which our students and families eagerly await. Opportunities such as these help us to share and celebrate our successes, build community, and foster pride in our school. Our school is committed to providing an environment that develops positive attitudes towards learning; where students have the support and opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their potential.



Together in Isolation



From the Principal

2020 was a year like never before! COVID19 changed how schooling was delivered across the world, and people began to see the challenges of distance education. Although COVID19 didn't change how we deliver education to our students, it certainly impacted our opportunities to spend time with the students, their families, Home Tutors, and the wider KSOTA community. In response to the restrictions presented by COVID19, we began weekly on-air assemblies so that our students could interact with their peers more frequently. Mr Noble introduced his 'challenges' for the students to complete and report back on each week at these assemblies. The students relished the opportunity to showcase their skills and share their efforts with their peers -please see 'Highlights of 2020' for more information and photographs of these challenges.

2020 was a year of great change for KSOTA's curriculum. Discussions within the leadership team lead to the school phasing out the SIDE sets that have long been a part of SOTAs. KSOTA's teachers took the lead with introducing more air-time for the students. This enormous change enabled the teachers to do what they do best – teach! Pressure was relieved from the Home Tutors, and our students got to spend more time on-air with their friends. The teachers found they were better able to implement findings from their assessments into their on-air teaching, and the results were spectacular.

The continued support from the Kimberley Schools Project (KSP) has been invaluable in implementing positive change for teaching and learning at KSOTA. The KSP is a researched based and data driven support network available to all schools in the Kimberley region. They work closely with schools, teachers and leadership teams to implement effective pedagogy into classrooms. The KSP has maintained its enthusiasm for how we operate as a school, and has helped us to overcome hiccups in explicit instruction teaching via the internet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our KSOTA staff, school council, P&C, and our school families for their tireless efforts to provide the highest standard of education to our students, and for their continued support and commitment to our school.

Esther Kerr

Principal

From the P&C

Kimberley School of the Air (KSOTA) has a Parent and Citizens association (P&C). We are a dynamic group of parents, home tutors and KSOTA staff who are committed to working together for the benefit of all KSOTA students. We believe that sharing our experiences, failures, and successes in the schoolroom and in the outback in general helps bolster our community and support our kids in what is sometimes difficult but ultimately, extremely rewarding education.

We hold P&C meetings monthly via the same way our students receive their online lessons, WebEx. We hold face-to-face meetings at our school camps and hold our annual AGM at the end of year camp.

Each year our P&C help raise funds for our KSOTA students to be able to partake in extracurricular school activities, such as essential school camps; where the students get to be with their classmates and have



face-to-face class time with their teachers. We also aid in several other activities and camps, such as year 5 and 6 camp to Canberra; where they experience our national capital city and learn more about Australian history and politics. As well as leadership camps held in Perth, with a number of other schools.

2020 due to COVID-19 was a little different to other years, the day-to-day schooling remained the same due to our already remote teaching system, however, we only had one school camp in Broome instead of two, which lead to one face to face P&C meeting. The biannual Canberra camp was cancelled along with the school Muster camp in Perth during term 4. However, the Broome school camp in November was filled with different and fun activities that the P&C helped organise and fund.

We saw some much-needed changes within the school and the delivery of the curriculum. The P&C had concerns on some of the educational material and its relevance to the current curriculum. We took these concerns to the school council which helped initiate some of the positive changes. The school staff and school council communicated closely with the P&C during these changes. We provided important feedback and other information as to how the new programs and ideas worked for the school community at the in-home school rooms.

One of our main fundraises each year is through the Derby Picnic Races, a true Kimberley style fun family day out. We were fortunate that this event was able to still take place. It was a highly successful day, rising a total of \$26,000. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who was involved in the event.

KSOTA celebrated its 60th anniversary of schooling remote Kimberley children. The P&C celebrated by creating and publishing the school's 4th edition cookbook, along with a birthday celebration at the Broome November school camp, where past, present and future KSOTA families came together to celebrate.

Overall, it was another successful school year and would like to thank everyone who helped and participated in the different P&C events for 2020.

Jessie Bray
P&C President

From the School Council

Our School Council's role is to endorse the annual budget and plans, adopt new learning programs, take part in selection of school staff, monitor curriculum delivery and performance across different areas of the school, promote the school across the broader community, provide advice, liaise with the P&C and do our best to ensure KSOTA is operating at its best.

We met four times this year on air over WebEx and face to face at our camps in Broome. It is chaired by a parent member with elected parents and 2 school staff members.

In 2020 KSOTA completed the school review process after multiple postponements with the final visit from the Department's review panel happening in term 4. Council thanks current and past school staff, parents and tutors for their contributions to the process. Council will help facilitate and monitor progress toward the following recommendations:

- Further analysis of student data to gain better understanding of performance and areas for improvement;



- Continue to engage with Indigenous communities to enrol students, ensure our learning programs align with individual needs and fit within the Aboriginal Cultural Frameworks;
- Continue to review and develop learning programs specific to the Kimberley context as we did to a great extent in 2020. Use student voice during this process also;
- Increase partnerships across the broader Kimberley.

KSOTA continued our participation in the Kimberley Schools Project (KSP) with great success. The staff have completed a great deal of training and our students have thrived in the decoding and daily review learning activities.

KindiLink started as part of KSP in 2020. We welcomed new families to the KSOTA community through this program giving our younger isolated children further support and connections. We look forward to having these and more families as part of the KSOTA education journey into the future.

COVID19 was part of our lives but in true Kimberley style we persisted on as best we could, missing just 1 camp and 1 home visit. We sought out and recommended alternative activities for the students, due to missing out on camp, which is usually a highlight for most students. This resulted in the Principals at home challenges extending the students engagement and skills.

School Council worked closely with our P&C on reviewing the learning program. P&C sort a great deal of feedback and suggestions from the school community which were presented to Council. Council listened to the feedback, reviewed possibilities and worked with staff to help to bring them to fruition. Thank you everyone who contributed to the process. Thank you to the teachers on welcoming the new ideas and bringing about positive change to the way KSOTA educates our children. I hope that you all enjoy the changes and continue to speak up and work together innovatively to give our children the best education possible.

The Support Techer and Learning role was filled by Esther Kerr. We thank her for her commitment, energy and hard work on bringing about positive change to the KSOTA student's learning experience.

Thank you to our class teachers for creating a positive education experience and working with families throughout the year with regular challenges of schooling and the new modified curriculum delivery.

In 2020 we farewelled one teacher, our principal and many families came and went or departed after multiple years. The KSOTA family is so important to remote life in the Kimberley. I thank the departing and remaining Council members for their time and extra commitment to KSOTA. All the best to the Council and KSOTA community into the future.

Barb McKimmie

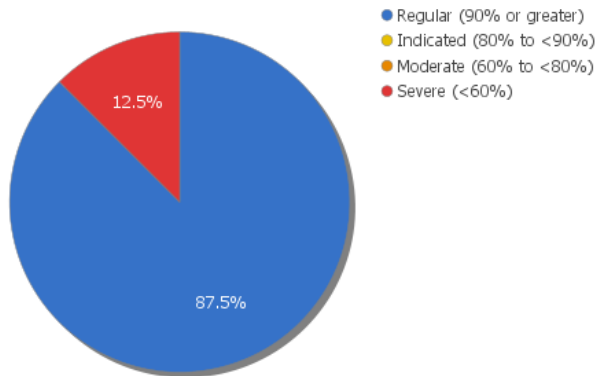
School Council Chair

Attendance

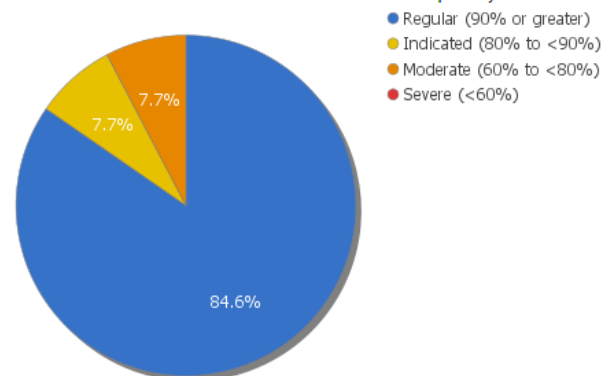
At KSOTA attendance is determined via contact with students such as email, phone, air-lessons and submission of work. As students are taught at their home site, attendance rates are high. All school camps were well attended by students and Home Tutors.



Attendance Profile 2020 Semester 1 Compulsory



Attendance Profile 2020 Semester 2 Compulsory



NAPLAN

Even though we are a small Level 3 School, we take our systemic commitment to NAPLAN seriously. We hold our Home Tutors Seminar during NAPLAN week. This means that our students get to sit their NAPLAN in controlled circumstances, allowing the students to have a regulated test atmosphere experience and the tests themselves demonstrate true results. NAPLAN was not administered during 2020 due to COVID19. KSOTA does not have the critical mass of students sitting NAPLAN to publicise results.

Public School Review 2020

KSOTA underwent the Public School Review in October 2020. The process comprised of an in depth self-assessment of our school practices and providing supporting evidence of these. A review team came to KSOTA to validate the given information. The review team spoke with members of staff, Home Tutors, members of the School Council, and the P&C. Initially the Public School Review was conducted on a three-year cycle, subsequent reviews are now determined on a one, three or five-year timeframe.

KSOTA received many commendations during the Public School Review process; including the unique way the school builds mutually respectful relationships with families, the creative ways the school provides a learning environment comparable to mainstream schools, the strong support of the P&C and School Council, along with the explicit and engaging learning experiences our teachers provide for students.

As a result of our performance, dedication to teaching and self-improvement, KSOTA will have its next Public School Review in 2023. A full copy of the Public School Review is available on our website.

Focus Areas for 2021

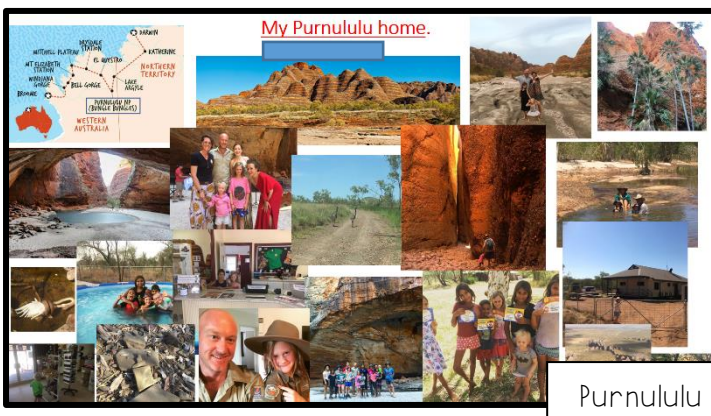
- Teacher designed, weekly programmes emailed to Home Tutors for Literacy and Numeracy. These will encompass what will happen in air-lessons, what is to be completed off-air, and what work samples need to be returned to the teacher.
- Teacher directed, termly programmes for Health and Digital Technology emailed to Home Tutors. These curriculum areas will be taught on-air once a week. The programmes will outline on-air activities, what is to be completed off-air, and what work samples should be returned to the subject teacher.
- MacqLit intervention programme to support older students with Literacy difficulties. MacqLit will be delivered daily to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students involved.



- Implement Spelling Mastery across the school. This direct instruction programme will be delivered daily to students from Years 1-6 who are not part of the MacqLit programme.
- Actively convey how KSOTA teaching and learning programmes address the Aboriginal Cultural Standard Framework.

Highlights of 2020

In Semester One we were unable to attend Home Tutors Seminar and start our Home Visits due to COVID19. Even though we are separated by hundreds of kilometres, KSOTA knows how to be 'Together in Isolation'. We took the opportunity to showcase each of the sites where our students live. Each family created a short presentation about where they live to share at our weekly assemblies. These were fascinating! Our students and Home Tutors went to great lengths to make detailed and interactive presentations for their peers.



Purnululu



Morrington Wilderness Camp



Napier Downs

The students next challenge was to create and photograph rock cairns. In assembly we discussed that rock cairns can be found all around the world and are often used as navigational aids. KSOTA students and families

embraced the challenge and soon we were seeing rock cairns from across the Kimberley.



Mitchell Plateau



Jubilee



Kandiwal

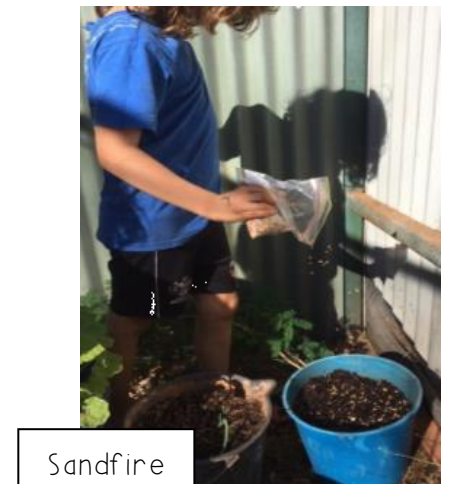
Yulumbu



The students didn't stop there! Finally, they showed us how good their gardening skills were by growing seedlings and keeping KSOTA updated with their progress.



Country Downs



Sandfire

Even though COVID19 put a dampener on activities in Semester One, KSOTA ensured that the second half of the year would be a return to normality for our students and families. We recommenced our home visits to each of the sites where our students live. These are such a valuable experience for students and teachers.

All our students, families and Home Tutors came together for our Term 4 Camp in November. We all had such an incredible time celebrating NAIDOC week in Broome. Our week was jam-packed with guest presenters leading activities, swimming lessons, NAIDOC art activities with the teachers, cinema visits and games nights.

At the end of the 2020 school year we said "Goodbye" to Mr Felstead, who retired. We also said "See you soon!" to Mr Noble who returned to Derby District High School. Both Mr Felstead and Mr Noble have been with KSOTA for many years and will be missed by the students, staff and community.

Birthday party on a Home Visit

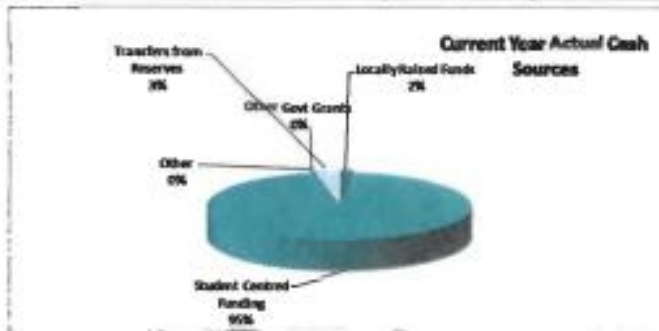
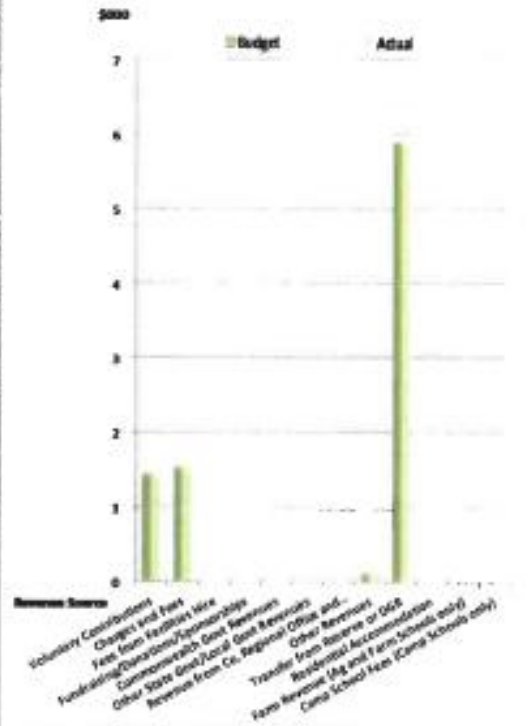




Financial Summary

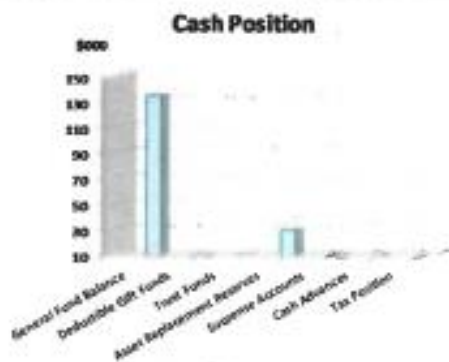
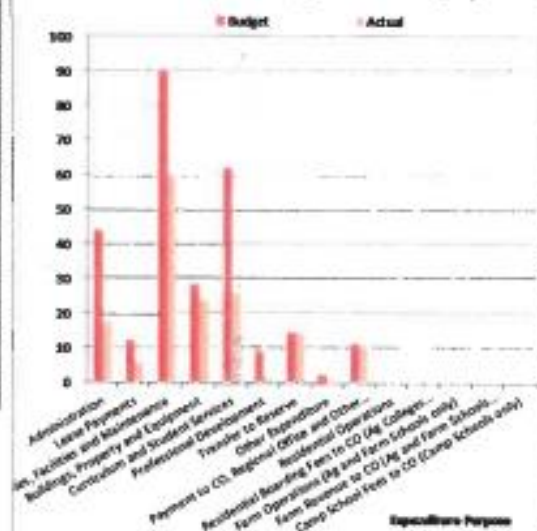
Revenue - Cash & Salary Allocation	Budget	Actual
1. Voluntary Contributions	\$ 1,455.00	\$ 1,455.00
2. Charges and Fees	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 1,530.00
3. Fees from Facilities Hire	\$ -	\$ -
4. Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	\$ -	\$ -
5. Commonwealth Govt Revenues	\$ -	\$ -
6. Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	\$ -	\$ -
7. Revenue from Co., Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ -	\$ -
8. Other Revenues	\$ 314.31	\$ 314.31
9. Transfer from Reserve or DGR	\$ 5,894.50	\$ 5,894.50
10. Residential Accommodation	\$ -	\$ -
11. Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
12. Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Locally Raised Funds	\$ 8,983.81	\$ 8,983.81
Operating Balance	\$ 105,990.00	\$ 205,980.92
Student Centred Funding	\$ 176,503.45	\$ 176,503.43
Total Cash Funds Available	\$ 282,477.26	\$ 282,479.18
Total Salary Allocation	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds Available	\$ 282,477.26	\$ 282,479.18

Locally Generated Revenue - Budget vs Actual



Expenditure - Cash and Salary	Budget	Actual
1. Administration	\$ 43,866.26	\$ 17,522.49
2. Lease Payments	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 5,790.99
3. Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	\$ 90,234.94	\$ 60,694.04
4. Buildings, Property and Equipment	\$ 20,434.50	\$ 24,131.62
5. Curriculum and Student Services	\$ 13,702.40	\$ 25,922.99
6. Professional Development	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,380.99
7. Transfer to Reserve	\$ 14,485.00	\$ 14,485.00
8. Other Expenditure	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 1,278.18
9. Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other Schools	\$ 10,979.00	\$ 10,979.00
10. Residential Operations	\$ -	\$ -
11. Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Coll types only)	\$ -	\$ -
12. Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
13. Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
14. Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Goods and Services Expenditure	\$ 227,696.90	\$ 163,427.38
Total Forecast Salary Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditure	\$ 227,696.90	\$ 163,427.38
Cash Budget Variance	\$ 22,849.36	

Goods and Services Expenditure - Budget vs Actual



Cash Position as at:	
Bank Balance	\$ 163,427.38
Made up of:	\$ -
1. General Fund Balance	\$ 134,051.80
2. Deductible GRT Funds	\$ -
3. Trust Funds	\$ -
4. Asset Replacement Reserves	\$ 29,711.50
5. Suspense Accounts	\$ -
6. Cash Advances	\$ -
7. Tax Position	\$ 596,000
Total Bank Balance	\$ 163,427.38