Strategic Statement
2014-2018

A Framework for the Future

Berengarra School
43 HARRISON STREET, BOX HILL NORTH 3129
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From the Board

Message from Chairperson

The Board of Berengarra School is pleased to present the Strategic Statement for 2014-18.

From our close working relationship with the School Principal and dedicated staff, we have compiled this statement which seeks to define and preserve the unique characteristics of the school. Berengarra will continue to provide a “Chance for Change” for young people with challenging social and/or emotional behaviours and to seek pathways so that they may contribute positively to their community.

This document outlines the school’s mission, vision and aims as well as the strategic direction. The school’s future is clearly outlined and this document should be read in conjunction with the school’s operational plan.

We encourage you to read the Strategic Statement and we assure you that the School Principal and Board are committed to working in partnership with our school community to enhance this unique educational environment.

Ms. T. Thomson

'A Chance for Change'

Message from Principal

In the past five years Berengarra has established a position of strength that enables us to look forward to a long period of certainty.

The Strategic Plan is a roadmap for the future, establishing benchmarks in all areas of the school’s operations, thus enabling the delivery of improved education outcomes for our students. It will ensure that the school can maintain its status as a leader in the provision of an educational program for students with social/emotional difficulties.

I would like to thank the school community for its input and look forward to implementing this plan over the next few years.

Mr. Peter Heffernan
Mission

Berengarra School believes in respect and empathy for all members of our community. All young people have a right to an education in a caring, supportive environment. When young people experience severe social and/or emotional difficulties, appropriate support and resources are necessary if they are to receive a successful education.

Berengarra School seeks to address these issues in a stimulating, non-judgemental learning environment with specialist staff and innovative programs that are centred on individual outcomes. It provides each student with “A Chance for Change”.

Vision

Berengarra School will be renowned for its role as a leading independent specialist school providing innovative, flexible and quality learning programs for students experiencing social and emotional challenges, enabling them to engage successfully in future education or employment.

Aims

1) Provide a supportive educational environment for adolescents with social and emotional disorders and advocate for their families/care-givers.

2) Offer a stimulating, challenging and comprehensive curriculum that is relevant to student needs.

3) Facilitate the development of positive self-esteem, responsibility and independence.

4) Promote teamwork, innovation and mutual support amongst staff and encourage participation in ongoing professional learning.

5) Establish and maintain a network of support systems relevant to the school’s clientele.

6) Engage parents/guardians in a positive home/school partnership.

7) Work within the guidelines set out by the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority and employ suitably qualified and experienced staff.

8) Manage the school as an efficient, effective and financially viable business and promote the school as an effective alternative for students with particular social/emotional needs.
1) **Teaching & Learning**

### Strategic Intent

Berengarra re-engages students in education by providing a program that is flexible and relevant enabling them to successfully participate in the workplace and their communities.

### Strategic Actions

1.1 Identify measurement tools to analyse learning outcomes in literacy, numeracy and personal development.

1.2 Provide appropriate teaching facilities.

1.3 Introduce new technologies that enhance the learning environment.

1.4 Provide individual learning plans (ILPs) for each student.

1.5 Review curriculum regularly. Develop the Pathways program and enable students to successfully transition to work or tertiary educational settings.

1.6 Improve staff/student ratios in order to improve learning outcomes.

1.7 Formalise tracking of student progress during their time at school as well as post Berengarra.

**PHOTOS THIS PAGE:**

*Students @work in Food Technology, Art, Maths and Science.*
2) **Student Engagement**

**Strategic Intent**

Berengarra School provides programs that are flexible and relevant and which enable students to successfully participate in the workplace and their community. We provide a safe environment that meets student needs.

**Strategic Actions**

2.1 Improve policies, procedures and facilities for enhanced management of students.

2.2 Provide additional student support services.

2.3 Collect and analyse student behaviour and learning outcomes and implement new corrective initiatives to stimulate learning and engagement.

*LEFT AND BELOW:*

*Exciting opportunities, in and out of the classroom.*
3) **Staff Engagement**

**Strategic Intent**

Berengarra strives to provide a safe and supportive working environment which encourages innovative, best practice teaching methods for students in our care.

**Strategic Actions**

3.1 Attract and retain staff expertise across all programs.

3.2 Improve staff well-being and their facilities.

3.3 Provide targeted professional development for staff, to enhance knowledge and deliver best practice in school programs.

*BELOW:*

Graeme Barwise enjoys a break with students in Café Ed, part of the Pathways Campus.

*BELOW:*

Lyn Perry and Justin Finnerty at Box Hill Campus.

*BELOW:*

Physical Education staff Julio Bustos, Bec Emmett and Okan Husnu getting ready for student activities.
4) **Community**

**Strategic Intent**

Berengarra will continue to strengthen relationships with strategic community partners and explore opportunities for enhancing programs which improve educational and employment outcomes for students.

**Strategic Actions**

4.1 Establish and strengthen relationships with strategic community partners.

4.2 Develop a parent participation program within the school community.

4.3 Explore strategic partnerships with tertiary providers to ensure Berengarra School continues to provide innovative, flexible and quality learning programs.

Some familiar organisations feature amongst the school’s supporters:

- Rotary.
- R E Ross Trust.
- Youth Foundation.
- Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.
- Danks Trust.
- Port Phillip Housing Authority.
5) Environment

Strategic Intent

Berengarra School seeks to acquire suitable properties for the delivery of educational programs and will continue to develop plans to maintain and improve school facilities.

Strategic Actions

5.1 Secure permanent premises for the Box Hill campus and sufficient facilities for other school programs.

5.2 Further develop plans for refurbishment and maintenance of school facilities and grounds.

5.3 Reduce the school’s environmental impact.

ABOVE: Practical studies at Box Hill Campus.

RIGHT: Students enjoy a Port Phillip Bay ferry excursion.
6) The Future

Strategic Intent

Consider long term growth opportunities for the school to provide innovative educational options for students seeking a ‘chance for change’.

Strategic Actions

6.1 Explore and consider future growth which may include establishing satellite campuses.

6.2 Investigate and apply to Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VQRA) to become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

BELOW:
Students contemplating new horizons in the popular Outdoor Adventure Program.