



2014

Annual Report

St Joseph's Primary School, FINLEY

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During 2014 St. Joseph's once again provided a wide variety of programs and activities for the students. Students some of the major themes this year were the senior students study of immigration, the year 3/4's research and presentations about what is unique to our Australian environment and the K/1/2's investigations in the science behind how toys work. This year also saw the introduction of our new sporting teams. These being Mercy and Francis. We chose Mercy to honour the role of the Sisters of Mercy in founding our school in 1915. We chose Francis to honour the contribution of Bishop Francis Carroll to the Wagga Wagga Diocese and the establishment of our system of schools. During 2014 we also commenced the journey towards our Centenary celebrations to be held during 2015.

St. Joseph's is a small school in the South West Deanery of the Wagga Wagga Diocese. There are 48 students in three classes ranging from Kinder to Year 6.

Finley is the centre of the Berriquin Irrigation Area. In 1935, construction on the Mulwala Canal began in order to provide employment and bring water to the area's rich farmland. It's now one of the largest irrigation canals in Australia and is an integral part of the famed Riverina food bowl, the Finley district hosts a diverse range of cropping and agricultural enterprises and forms one of the main economies for the area. The township itself has a population base of 2509. It is with pleasure that I present our 2014 Annual Report for St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Finley.

Catholic Identity

The school has continued to work closely with Father Martin Cruickshank

and the St Mary's Parish in providing opportunities for the students to continue their faith development. Our year 5/6 students received the sacrament of Confirmation during term three. The students and teachers put a lot of time and effort into preparation for these sacraments and were joined by family and friends to celebrate these special occasions. We also provide many opportunities for students to participate in masses through the school year. There were many highlights during 2014. One particularly memorable event was the 'Blessing of the Animals' mass. Many family pets and farm animals came to school to receive a blessing from Father Martin.

Each and every day we aim to ensure that each student has the opportunity to grow academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally. At St. Joseph's we celebrate diversity and provide for each child an education that recognises their individual abilities, gifts and interests and fosters within them the Gospel values of love, compassion and forgiveness. Each week we recognise and acknowledge the qualities that the students identify as being Jesus like through our Principal's award. Our Year 5/6 class has continued to learn about and how we can make Jesus real in our everyday lives through the 'Making Jesus Real' program. They have learnt to take ownership of their actions, words and choices and to be aware of the impact they can have on others.

This program together with our Principal's award has helped to create an atmosphere where the students know and can articulate what it means to be a loving, compassionate and forgiving member of the St. Joseph's community.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to provide a quality education in an environment that supports the welfare of all. Our community promotes strong Christian Values, faith development and family involvement in each aspect of our school.

Our Mission

We believe that St Joseph's School, Finley is a Faith community within St Mary's Parish where:

- Christ is central and all members are encouraged in their Faith journey to empower them to be able to make a difference in the present and future world/society.
- There is a commitment to strive for excellence in Education therefore ensuring that all children will work towards their potential.
- There is respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each person in order to cater for the individual needs of all children, and foster their whole development-spiritual, moral, social, emotional and intellectual.
- The atmosphere of the school community reflects clearly that Gospel values are endorsed and witnessed by teachers, students, parents, and all of the members of the Parish community.

Exit Outcomes

When the boys and girls at St. Joseph's have completed their schooling with us, we the parents and staff, would like for them to:

- have experienced God and Church and have developed a knowledge of our faith and the values that our religion stands for
- be independent, flexible and cooperative workers who are capable problem solvers, risk

- takers and decision makers
- be active participants in life who have experienced the responsibility of leadership
- be happy and proud of themselves and be confident to share their talents and skills with others
- be respectful of others and their differences
- be willing to have a go and do their best
- be competent readers, writers and mathematicians
- be competent users of technology and have an appreciation of the arts
- have developed an understanding of the world around us
- have knowledge and understanding of good personal health
- be lovers of life and learning
- appreciate the value of family and have experienced good role models here at school
- be prepared for life beyond St. Joseph's

A Message from key School Bodies

Our parent committees continue to meet regularly and coordinate activities which support the needs of our school community. Each year we provide the school with financial support to enable the purchasing of the resources and maintenance of facilities which are crucial to our children.

Thank you to all the families who have given of their skills and time to run events such as Finley Annual Tractor Pull, combined school and parish fete, trivia night, catering of clearing sales, Finley Bowling Club raffle night and so much more.

2014 saw the return of the very popular Dinner Dance. Many years ago these were held annually by our school community. The return this year was great anticipated and we welcomed 165 people for a fun night together. This was also a very successful fundraiser for our school parent committee.

Thank you to my fellow committee members. Both the School Council and the Parents and Friends play a crucial role at St. Joseph's and I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the people who attend the meeting and contribute to the discussions around important school business.

Thank you to Fr. Martin and the staff for their ongoing commitment to the parents and students of St. Joseph's. We know that you have their needs at the forefront of all decision making and that you work collaboratively to ensure the students are supported and challenged to achieve their best. Finally, to the students of St. Joseph's, congratulations on another fantastic year of learning. It was wonderful to see your drive and enthusiasm for all that you do.

Andrew Chesworth
Council Chairperson

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

St. Joseph's Primary school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the NAPLAN Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

During 2014 we continued to achieve good results across all areas for both Year 3 and 5. The Year 3 students

recorded above state average in the areas of Numeracy and Reading. The Year 5 students achieved above state average in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. They also demonstrated sound growth from Year 3 to 5 in many areas with Reading and Writing being particular highlights.

Professional Learning

During 2014 our staff were provided with workshops and lectures around their knowledge and understanding of the new NSW Mathematics and Science Syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum. They began to explore opportunities for new approaches to the learning of Mathematics and Science. As a whole school we developed our approach to the implementation of the new syllabus through whole school and school cluster planning sessions, development of school scope and sequence and the sharing of ideas and plans around the development of units of work.

We completed training in the program 'First Steps in Number'. During the year teachers have engaged in professional discussion and planning meetings to improve their understanding of children's development in number, how to best meet the individual needs of students, how to provide rich learning experiences and how to evaluate learning to ensure progression. The teachers have combined this learning into their daily programs as an additional resource to support the development of the NSW Mathematics Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in the following categories:

A) having teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines, or
 B) having a bachelor degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lacking formal teacher education qualifications.

A	B	TOTAL
1	4	5

Workforce Composition

St. Joseph's staff consist of 5 full and part time female teachers. During 2014 we maintained 3 classes with the K/1/2 class in a team teaching situation for the majority of the school day.

The staff also consisted of 2 part time teacher assistants and a school administration officer.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	91%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	95%

Student Non-Attendance

At St. Joseph's a student's non-attendance is monitored through regular communication with parents and guardians. A written or verbal

explanation is required for all absences. If a student absence remains unexplained after seven days. Contact with families is made and a formal request for an explanation is presented.

Enrolment Policy

Our enrolment policy and procedure is linked directly to the [Diocesan Enrolment Policy](#).

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
24	24	0	0	48

**Language background Other Than English*

School Policies

Student Welfare

The community of St. Joseph's are committed to endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, truth and honesty. A safe and secure environment is developed when all members of the school community respect the individual's rights and freedoms, responsibilities and duties, as well as responding to the needs of students, staff and community. (refer: *Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga [Pastoral Care Policy](#)*)

Discipline

The community of St. Joseph's are committed to endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, trust and honesty. It is based on the belief that we respect for and are responsible for all members of our school community. (refer: *Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga [Discipline Policy](#)*)

Complaints and Grievances

The community of St. Joseph's are committed to providing a safe and

supportive environment. This is characterised by fairness, mutual trust, respect and reconciliation. (refer: Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga [Complaints and Suggestions Policy](#))

Anti-Bullying

St. Joseph's is committed to being an inclusive environment where diversity is affirmed and individual differences are respected.

(refer: Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga [Anti-Bullying Policy](#))

Changes to School Policies

At St. Joseph's we continually assess and evaluate these policies on a yearly basis. These have included school attendance policy, school evacuation and lockdown policy and procedures.

Characteristics of the Student Body

During 2014 our student body consisted of 48 students. We established three classes comprising a K/1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 group.

Improvement Targets

During 2014 the staff of St. Joseph's have worked collaboratively with our surrounding schools to develop our spirituality and explore our own relationship with Jesus in our personal lives and as teachers in Catholic schools. Our staff explored our faith story as we researched and learnt about the involvement of the Sisters of Mercy in the development of St. Joseph's as a Catholic school. The Year 4/5/6 students continued their involvement in the Making Jesus Real program.

In 2014 we also focused on the development of our procedures around wellbeing. We have dedicated staff planning time to the

development of plans around improved student welfare. This has seen the staff develop their skills in provide resources or tapping into outside agencies to meet the social and emotional needs of the students. We have also continued our review and analyse of NAPLAN data to guide the implementation of teacher and learning programs to cater for individual needs.

As a whole staff we have continued the process of reviewing policy documents for the benefit of our school community.

As a school community we have continued to meet the requirements of legislation through participation in an online CPR course and an online child protection course.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

The National Safe Schools Framework posters are on prominent display in our school environment.

Respectful Behaviour and Responsibility is promoted on a daily basis. Posters are displayed throughout the school, developed by students and staff, and are referred to in general conversations and lived by all community members.

Strong community involvement is encouraged through a variety of activities; ANZAC Day, local events, visits to Retirement Village, parish events, inviting community to school for productions, artworks etc.

We have continued to present a weekly Principal's award to a student at our weekly assembly. This award celebrates the qualities that we, the students, staff and parents of St. Joseph's value and appreciate in others. When asked by the students to identify these qualities they stated items such as friendliness, respectfulness, inclusiveness,

thoughtfulness, hardworking, compassionate, initiative, pride in self and school and helpfulness. These qualities also directly link to the 'Making Jesus Real' program.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

Parents

My child is usually happy at St. Joseph's Finley.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
84%	10%	6%	0%

Students

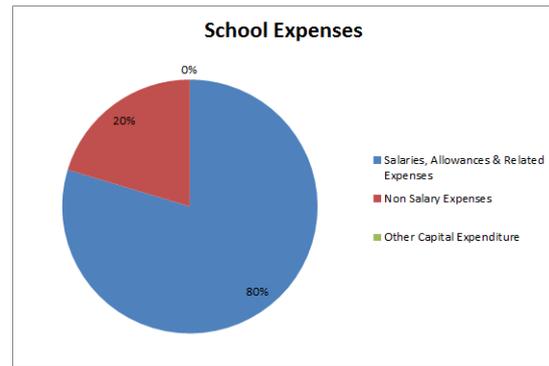
I am usually happy at St. Joseph's Finley.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
86%	12%	2%	0%

Staff

I am usually happy at St. Joseph's Finley.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
100%	0%	0%	0%



About This Report

This annual report was generated in collaboration with the Principal, the School Staff, School Parent Community and the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga.

Financial Statement Summary

