



2014

# Annual Report

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*St Joseph's Primary School,  
Lockhart*

## CONTACT DETAILS:

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### **The School**

St Joseph's School, Lockhart is a rural school located in the Riverina district of New South Wales. We provide a comprehensive educational program for all students based on the outcomes identified by the NSW Board of Studies and the Australian Curriculum.

The school principal and staff are assisted by a School Council and report to the Parish Council of St Mary's Church Lockhart on a bi-monthly basis.

This annual report was prepared in conjunction with stakeholders at St Joseph's School.

### **Catholic Identity**

Our vision is to inspire and motivate each child towards achieving their full potential through Jesus Christ's love.

Religious Education is integral to all that occurs at St Joseph's Lockhart. The Diocesan Religious Education program 'Sharing Our Story' forms the basis of the R.E. program.

The school works in close rapport with St Mary's Parish of Lockhart, its Priest, Father Tony Schipp, the Parish Council and Parish Community. The school and parish mutually support each other for the benefit of all. Each class is responsible for the preparation of a Mass on a regular basis.

Students in Years 3 received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and students in Years 5 and 6 received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Bishop this year.

The Student Council of St Joseph's Lockhart provides support for the Catholic Missions and other worthwhile foundations by raising funds through a variety of activities each year. The amount raised from Mission Day for the Catholic Missions in 2014 was a record amount and was a credit to the students and their families.

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is embedded within all school policies and ensures that all members of St Joseph's School community are treated with respect, dignity and Catholic values.

The school also continued the implementation of the Making Jesus Real program which

challenged the students to become responsible for their own growth as a person and develop a good attitude towards the things that they encounter in life. In addition to the program, two whole-school MJR days were conducted during the year.

Caritas and Catholic Missions were also supported with a Caritas Café being held by the 4/5/6 students during Lent and once again the students excelled themselves in raising over \$1200 for our annual Mission day.

### **A Message from key School Bodies**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014**

2014 has again gone extremely quickly. It was amazing to see the strengths in our school, with Debbie as principal and her staff leading from the top. You all made our children feel safe and happy and us as parents are very grateful for what you have done. To my fellow council members thank you for your inputs, ideas and support throughout 2014. I know that we are achieving results behind the scenes.

This year we have achieved a lot here with firstly the purchase of turf around the new classroom. It looks amazing. Ag plots were installed for the young and enthusiastic farmers and with the addition of new watering system it now looks amazing. Thanks to all who made this possible.

We have begun a 3 phase plan of upgrading the classroom furniture which is 21<sup>st</sup> century ergonomic tables and chairs. The first stage was funded partly by our Lockhart and Districts Community Bank. These tables and chairs have been ordered and will be in place for the start of 2015 for the years 4, 5 and 6 classroom. We would like to achieve the completion of phase 2 in 2015. I would like to acknowledge the Lockhart and District Community Bank for their generous contribution towards our upgrade of classroom furniture.

Our school community has faced some great adversities this year with illness and losses. We have lost many great contributors to our school. I hope all families involved have been comforted by the strength and support of our school community.

Firstly with the loss of a very dedicated Mother Marlene Ryan, I hope the Ryan family has found comfort in knowing the school community is supporting them and will continue to do so. It was a wonderful mark of respect for the students to be able to remember Marlene's fight for life and were able to 'Wear a Beanie' for a day in support of Brain Cancer Awareness. I hope this can become an annual event.

Our school was saddened by loss of the Hunt Family in September. Geoff and Kim were extremely hard working and contributed many hours volunteering for our school. Their 3 beautiful children Fletcher, Mia and Phoebe are greatly missed by all their classmates and teachers. This tragedy has once again highlighted the strength of a small rural community and how we can rally around those in need.

Our school has been inundated with generous donations and gifts and it is these extremely kind gestures that are simply humbling. We have received support from schools and individuals right around Australia. Graincorp kindly donated and planted 5 special trees in memory of the Hunt family. Beechworth business houses offered our school children and staff a full day of touring major tourist attractions and Allen's buses donated their time. The children had a great experience. Thank you to all involved.

As this year is my last as Chairman, I believe the school is in a sound financial position and look forward to the progress ahead for the existing and incoming School Board members. Thank you to all of the dedicated parents who continually support and help the committee in all fundraising events. Fundraising is the key to moving forward and seeing our school advance. Grants are also well sought after and require time and dedication and are wonderful when they become reality.

Thank you again and I wish you all a very personal "Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy Happy New Year"

*Trent Gooden – St Joseph's School Council  
Chairman 2014*

### **Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing**

All Year 3 NAPLAN results were above both State and CEC averages with significant improvement in most areas since the previous year. All Year 5 results showed improvement from 2012.

### **Professional Learning**

In 2014, staff have undergone professional development in various curriculum based areas including Reading Recovery Continuing Contact, FaithStory and Witness Spirituality Day with Urana, literacy curriculum group, Growth Coaching, Australian Curriculum orientation in Maths and Science, CECIP training, compliance workshops in First Aid, CPR, Child Protection and curriculum reviews in English and PDHPE

### **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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
6		6

### **Workforce Composition**

Staff include three full-time teachers, three permanent part-time teachers, three special needs teacher assistants and a clerical assistant.

## Student Attendance

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	95%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	93%

## Student Non-Attendance

At St Joseph's School, the following procedure is adopted in cases of student non-attendance;

- The parent/carer of the child is to be contacted by the school.
- The parent/carer is informed that they have a legal obligation to notify the school about their child's absence.
- If the school feels that the absence has not been appropriate ie. truancy, the school at this time makes an appointment for the parent/carer to meet with the school principal to put procedures in place for the student to be able to meet legislative requirements in their attendance at school.

## Enrolment Policy

Enrolments are considered for all children after turning five years of age. A transition program is organised annually to assist in the enrolment process. No Catholic child will be refused a Catholic Education on financial grounds. Enrolments of non-Catholic children are accepted as long as there is sufficient accommodation for these children, the Parish Priest and Principal are in agreement with the enrolment, the pupil participates in all religious observances as allowed by doctrine and the proportion of non-Catholic pupils does not become so large as to affect the Catholic ethos of the school. Full details are available from the CSO's policy which is available on the web site –

[www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au)

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
36	34	0	0	70

## \*Language background Other Than English

In 2014, the school was organised from Kindergarten to Year 6 each day in four classes. These were K, 1/2, 3 and 4/5/6.

## School Policies

### Student Welfare

St Joseph's School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning. This is characterised by 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 an individual's rights and freedoms, responsibilities and duties, as well as responding to the needs of students, staff and community. The Pastoral Care policy of St Joseph's School asserts that students have a right to a safe environment at school and that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Clearly defined steps will be taken to protect students in a safe, healthy and friendly environment.

### Discipline

It is the policy of St Joseph's School to offer all students an education of the highest quality and to assist each student to develop fully as an individual and as a member of the Catholic School community and the wider community. To this end, teachers encourage a learning/teaching environment where there is appropriate management to ensure purposeful learning. Our 'Wellbeing Policy' observes the right of every child to feel safe, to learn and to be treated respectfully. In acknowledging these rights, the children have the responsibility to keep themselves and others safe, to learn to do the best of their ability and let others do the same and the responsibility to treat others with respect. This school policy on student management is understood and adhered to by teachers and students.

### Complaints and Grievances

Complaints and suggestions can be opportunities for growth and improvement. Complaints, as well as compliments and other constructive feedback, create opportunities for a school to improve its services and prevent future problems. A community that is open to complaints and suggestions is

characterised by signs of impartiality and confidentiality, respect for the dignity of those involved, and is proactive in ensuring there is no fear of victimisation. The processes in the Complaints Handling Procedure at St Joseph's School are to ensure procedural fairness, with a fair hearing and a deliberated decision.

#### Anti-Bullying

Students and staff have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Bullying is taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form. Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying. Any inappropriate behaviour which prevents or limits teaching and learning in schools and interferes with the wellbeing of students is not accepted.

#### School Policies

These policies are available on the school website [www.sjloww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjloww.catholic.edu.au) or in full text at the school office upon request.

#### Changes to School Policies

The introduction of the Australian Curriculum began with English in 2013. Minor changes to other policies were made on a needs basis.

#### **Improvement Targets**

In 2014, the main priorities in our school's Annual Improvement Plan were as follows;

- FaithStory and Witness initiatives
- Introduction to the Australian Curriculum – Maths and Science
- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum – English
- Talking and Listening focus across the school
- Focus on K-2 literacy through State Action plan funding
- Continuation of the Beststart program
- Reading Recovery Continuing Contact

In 2013, the main priorities in our school's Annual Improvement Plan were as follows;

- FaithStory and Witness training
- Introduction to the Australian Curriculum - English
- Focus on Talking and Listening through National Partnerships
- 'First Steps' Speaking and Listening training and follow up

- Implementation of the Beststart program
- Presentation of our MORE project
- Reading Recovery Continuing Contact

All of these priorities were addressed.

#### **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

We are committed to preparing young people for tomorrow's world by providing an education which is harmonious with the values of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our school's Vision and Mission statement is based on respect for others and the children taking personal responsibility for their actions.

In putting these values into action, we participated in community based events such as Senior Citizens Week, ANZAC Day, the Centenary of Red Cross, the Lockhart Show and Remembrance Day as well as activities based on being more aware of those in need such as an environmental workshops, hospital visits and Mission Day. Wear a Beanie Day to support brain Cancer Awareness.

The Life Education program is highly valued and supported at St Joseph's, promoting nutrition, active lifestyle, communication, problem solving, personal health choices and growth development. In keeping our students safe, we also participated once again in our annual intensive swimming program in which all students benefitted from these life-saving skills being taught. We also joined with Central School to be involved in Bike Week activities.

Student leadership is encouraged at our school through the Student Council. This forum provides an opportunity for students to propose, discuss and present ideas, suggestions and requests to the appropriate adult group of staff, school council or parish council. Our school also holds elections each year for school captains and sports captains. Chess and Active Afterschool sports were also introduced in 2015 to expand the activities and responsibilities taken on by the students.

The school's 'buddy system' supports new enrollees, especially Kindergarten students. There is also an Orientation Day to support the children who are enrolling at our school. Our transition program was continued this

year, where the new Kindergarten children for 2015 spent one morning per week in the Kinder classroom for the last half of Term 4. This has been very successful for all those involved.

In the 'Self and Relationships' units of the PDHPE program, the students have been involved in ongoing experiences about interpersonal relationships, growth and development. In addition to this, each class at the beginning of the school year, establishes 'Norms of Behaviour' to promote respect and responsibility in the classroom. We also had a touring group at the school who performed the third part in 'The Bully' trilogy to promote awareness in wellbeing.

The Year 5/6 students travelled to Wagga Wagga for a leadership conference this year and used the skills and ideas from this to benefit the school. They began 'Joeys Advertiser' which was a weekly 2-page addition to the school newsletter, designed and written by them. Another leadership day followed later in the year for the Year 5 class.

### Community Satisfaction

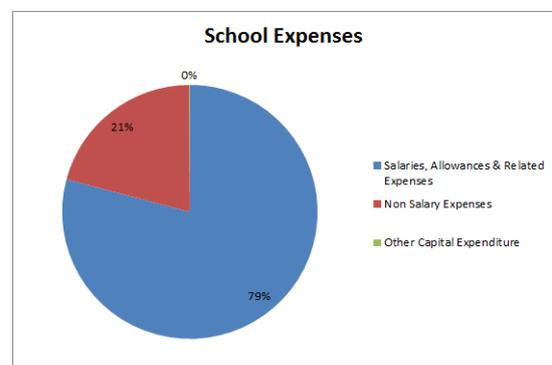
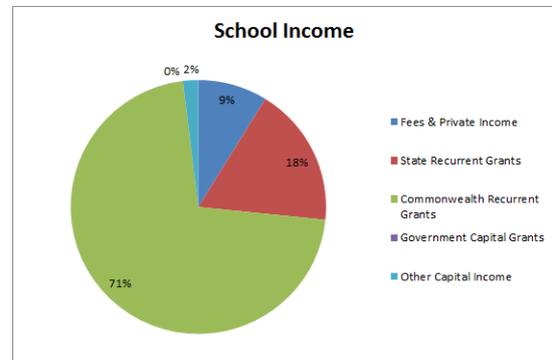
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

St Joseph's School Council comprises parent representatives, Parish Priest and the Principal. They meet monthly to provide advice to the Principal on matters of policy relating to the well-being and direction of the School and support the organisation of the school through promotion, fundraising and budgeting.

Parent forums are also available through termly information meetings where a specific focus is discussed to provide parent information. We have received very positive feedback from parents about these sessions.

We have a wonderful degree of parental involvement at St Joseph's in many capacities which is very supportive and encouraging.

### Financial Statement Summary



### About This Report

This report was generated using information available from the school. This includes annual improvement plans, school policies, weekly newsletters, surveys and reports to and from the school and wider community as well as from data supplied by the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga.

The report was written by the Principal, Debbie Sheather, in December, 2014.

It has been presented to the Parish Council of St Mary's Lockhart, the school community of St Joseph's Primary School Lockhart with the full knowledge of the school staff and the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.