



2014

Annual Report

St Joseph's Primary School, Narrandera

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The School

St Joseph's School is a Catholic, coeducational, Diocesan Primary school situated in Narrandera NSW in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

St Joseph's School is an integral part of St. Mel's Parish. During 2014 the school had an enrolment of 193 children.

Catholic Identity

During 2014 each class and the whole school regularly celebrated Masses, liturgies, feast days and the Year 6 Graduation. Parents and parishioners were invited to attend each of these special events. Staff participated in formal prayer as well as Spirituality Days. The focus of the Spirituality Days was to develop our Faith Story and Witness, i.e., where we came from as a school and how we are a witness to Jesus' teachings here on earth. I was fortunate enough to have had old records in the school of the Centenary of the Sisters of St Joseph and therefore our history was already written for us. We are also fortunate enough to have past students of St Joseph's on Staff and their recollection of the "old days" was entertaining. As a result of this there is a copy of the Centenary in the school office for any new staff to read. I would like to thank the staff for their cooperation during these days.

During the year we celebrated Masses for St Joseph's Day, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints Day and school Masses.

Father Tony left the parish at the beginning of Term 2 and we were without a Parish Priest until Term 3. I would like to thank Father Rick of the St Michael's Wagga for his assistance during this time. Term 3 saw the arrival of Father Neru to our Parish and I would like to thank him for his assistance over this time. Class masses were again held during the weekend Parish Mass and each class has attended the Friday morning Parish Mass. Sacraments this year:

Communion - Preparation for the Sacrament Communion class was undertaken by Ms Katrina Grace. Katrina did a wonderful job to get these children ready to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Confirmation - Mrs Bernadette Irvin organized this for the Year 6 children and again the children were well prepared. Bishop Hanna visited the school and parish and was very pleased with the children.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation took place in Term four for the Year 2 children and for one child attending from the local state school. Julie Flynn – Religious Education Coordinator

A Message from Father Neru

Dear all,

Our Parish of St Mel's is a one priest Parish now. As a one man Parish my role is to make St Mel's Parish one of the most important parishes in the Wagga Wagga Diocese as it once was. Part of my role is to make sure that St Joseph's School is truly a parish school. As Parish Priest my duty is to strengthen the relationship between the parish and the school by working with the Principal and the members of staff. I will also get to know the parents of the students, visit the classrooms, join with the students in some activities but most of all help the children prepare for the Sacraments. As Jesus told us "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". Let's build St Joseph's School together with our parish as part of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Father Neru

A Message from key School Bodies

School Council Report

The year 2014 was again a successful year for St Joseph's School Council. The Council met regularly throughout the year with all meetings well attended. The Council had a particular focus on building maintenance works, finding opportunities for improving telecommunications and conducting working bees on the school grounds. A number of priority works were undertaken in 2014 with funding sourced both internally and through the Catholic Schools Office. Within this, the School Council routinely reviewed the school's budget and financial statements. The Council provided a place for discussion of ideas brought forward by the staff and by the parent body, with great results. The School Council wishes to thank the St Joseph's P&F for their fundraising activities throughout the year. This injection of funds is extremely welcome by the school and provides for much needed resources for our children. At the end of 2014, the School Council farewelled Fr Schipp, Matt McLellan, Bridey Hugo and Jill Robinson, welcoming Fr Neru, Sarah Tait, Kristy Hoffman and Stuart Hutchins. The School Council congratulates student and staff on another great year and looks forward to continuing this in 2015.

Connie Longobardi – School Council

P and F Report

Early 2014 saw us updating our P and F to become more technologically modern. We now have a Facebook group and are offering our meetings to out of town farming families

via Skype. We are also taking part in a trial for a tablet application named “Skoolbag” which will make communication between school and homes even easier.

The 2014 Year six gift to the school was a clock and bell tower, situated on the playground for Teachers and Students to use, a very practical and appreciated gift.

At the Annual General Meeting held in June 2014, the following people were elected office bearers:

President: Heather Ostler

Vice President: Ann Vearing

Secretary: Helen Ryan

Treasurer: Vanessa Hoffman

The issue of complaints, raised after our disco, was addressed and our disco policy, aimed at avoiding any conflict in future, is still in the draft stage and will hopefully be completed very soon.

\$10,000 was pledged to the school for 2014 and further \$500 was donated towards the new stage curtains in the hall. Unfortunately, Spring Fair was a wash out this year and funds raised from this day sadly reflected the lack of attendance.

Currently, we are planning to help teachers run a Bush Dance to fund a revamp of the sports shed.

Heather Ostler – P and F

Sport

St Joseph’s Narrandera holds annually a Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnival. From our school carnivals students then go on to represent our school at the deanery level, diocesan level and Mackillop level. In 2014 we had 1 student represent our school and Diocese at MacKillop in swimming, 6 students in cross country and 2 in athletics. One of these students made it to the Nationals in athletics and travelled to Tasmania to compete in this event. One of our SWD students made it into the MacKillop Team for cross country, running the 2km event and came 3rd overall, which was a wonderful achievement and the benefits of his success could be seen in all areas of his schooling. Students from St Joseph’s also trialled and made it in other sports such as AFL, cricket and basketball.

Marie O’Brien – Sports Coordinator

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

NAPLAN results for 2014 indicate that the school’s results are substantially above or above the average of statistically similar schools in most areas of literacy and numeracy for Years 3 and 5.

Professional Learning

The staff from St Joseph’s has been involved in a number of professional development activities both in school and in their own time. These include, the Early Literacy Project, Training in working with children with Autism, Literacy and Numeracy Networks, Curriculum Review Process, Best Start Training, SENA Maths, First Aid, CPR, Sharing Our Story, KLA Network Days, NAPLAN Datas Analysis, Reading Recovery, OH&S Training and Child Protection.

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
7	0	7

Workforce Composition

The workforce at St Joseph’s School consists of 7 full time teachers, 1 full time Principal, 7 part time teachers, 1 full time secretary, 2 full time teacher assistants, 1 part time cleaner, 1 part time library assistant and 1 part time grounds person.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	95%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	92%

Student Non-Attendance

There is an expectation that children will attend school daily. When this is not occurring the Diocesan Policy is followed to ensure that children attend school.

Enrolment Policy

Our aim is to provide a Catholic Education for all children in our community irrespective of their differing needs, providing that school resources can support them.

We aim to ensure that no child is denied a Catholic Education because of financial hardship.

We expect that all parents give a firm undertaking that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic School, including participation in all aspects of Religious Education.

NSW legislation allows for the enrolment of children who turn 5 before August 1. At St. Joseph's School, parents seeking to enrol their child / children who turn 5 after May 30 are advised of possible implications.

The closing date for enrolment is advertised in the School Newsletter, the Parish Bulletin and the Narrandera Argus.

Characteristics of the Student Body

During 2014, the school was comprised of one Kindergarten class, one Year 1 / 2 multiage class, one Year 3 class, one Year 4 class, one Year 5 class and one Year 6 class.

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
91	102	11	11	193

School Policies

Student Welfare

At St. Joseph's School believe that every child has a right to be safe and feel safe. Our student welfare policies and practices guide us in achieving these goals.

Discipline

At St Joseph's school we believe that children respond best to an approach that encourages and rewards positive, independent behaviour. Our Discipline Policy reflects this. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness, it recognises that parents/ caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to

resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way. Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the CSO may be appropriate.

Anti-Bullying

At St Joseph's School, bullying is not acceptable in any form. The school has adopted the Diocesan Policy on Anti-Bullying.

Changes to School Policies

School policies are available from the front office. Diocesan policies are available from the Catholic Schools Office in Tarcutta Street in Wagga Wagga.

Improvement Targets

The school has targeted for the next year, an improvement in Comprehension, Mathematical Literacy, Addition, Subtraction and Patterns, and continued development of improvements in Vocabulary and Spelling.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

At St. Joseph's School, the Principal, Parish Priest and staff model respect and responsibility to each other and to the students. At St. Joseph's School, emphasis is placed on student leadership, self-respect and responsibility. Each class composes co-operatively its own responsibilities and consequences at the beginning of each year. These norms are referred to frequently and focused on according to the needs of the students. Visuals prompts are used for some students. Respect and responsibility permeate St. Joseph's Religious Education Program and Pastoral Care Policy. Senior students have many opportunities to accept a leadership role in the school. Other students, from Kindergarten to Year 6, are encouraged to show respect and carry out responsibilities in the day-to-day running of their classrooms and in the playground. At St. Joseph's School, discipline is viewed as preventative, corrective and supportive. No form of bullying is tolerated. Pastoral care at St. Joseph's is an expression of what we believe about relationships with God and with others.

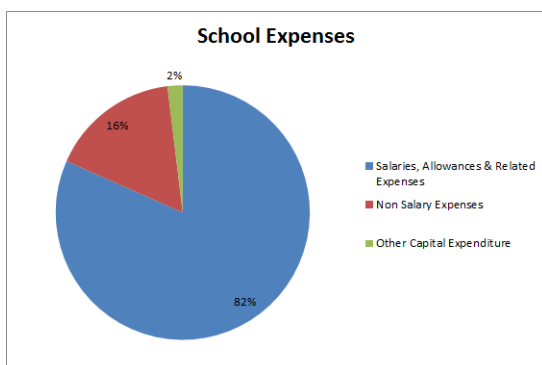
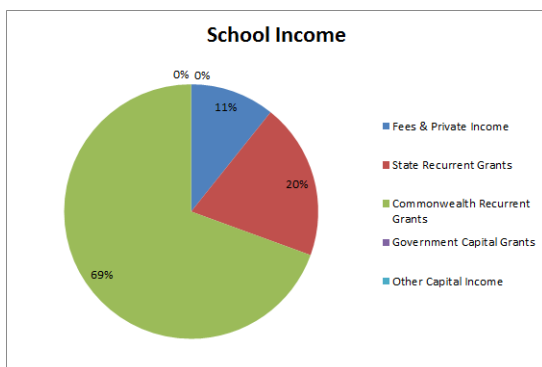
Respect and responsibility are encouraged and demonstrated through child protection policies, programs promoting self-esteem, programs that teach life skills, the provision

of school counseling services through Centrecare; Community Service programs such as Landcare and Seasons for Growth – a grief and loss program.

Community Satisfaction

As part of the Dare to Lead Audit that was conducted, all of the students, parents and staff who were surveyed overwhelmingly reported that the school was a safe place, where they are valued and their spiritual needs are being met. The survey reported that “the school is a very attractive and pleasant learning environment and the classrooms are well resourced. The physical environment in and around the school is aesthetically pleasing where teachers and students enjoy working and learning”.

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was compiled by the Principal and staff of St Joseph's School Narrandera.