



2014

Annual Report

St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali

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The School

St. Mary's Primary School Yoogali is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and is part of a system of schools managed by the Catholic Education Office, Wagga Wagga. The Annual School Educational and Financial Report for this year provides the school community with reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education (NSW) in conjunction with requirements of the Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year, and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Annual Improvement Plan. Accordingly, this Report demonstrates accountability to the school community. This report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications to the school community. Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school on 02 6962 2224

Catholic Identity

Our Catholic Faith is the core of our school and is reflected in our School Vision and Mission Statement.

St Mary's Vision Statement

In keeping with the evangelising Mission of the Catholic Church, We strive for St Mary's to be:

- A vibrant, Christ-centred, Parish school, based on Gospel Values;
- A dynamic learning community educating for lifelong learning: body, spirit, heart and mind;

- A positive, welcoming environment, where the skills and talents of each individual are valued and developed, so that each person reaches their full potential.

The teaching of Religious Education at St Mary's occurs daily, with children learning about their Catholic faith through the core strands of Prayer, Life in Christ, The Celebration of Christian Mystery and Profession of Faith.

Children in all classes have taken part in many meaningful and joyful masses, liturgies and classroom prayer and prayer services over the course of the year. The children enjoy taking on roles of responsibility during both weekday and Sunday masses, such as altar serving, playing musical instruments, singing in the choir or reading. All classes have participated in school and Sunday masses throughout the year.

Sacraments:

Each year, St Mary's prepares students for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The liturgy for the sacrament of Penance is always a powerful example of the enlightening program and the spiritual growth the children embrace during this time. Year Three receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist in third term, in a colourful and vibrant parish mass. The teachers work very closely with the children and Father Peter, our parish priest, to create a very moving liturgy to be enjoyed by our parish family. The liturgy for the Sacrament of Confirmation is always an amazing and moving mass in which our senior students witness to their faith in a powerful and mature manner. St Mary's have introduced into the Sacramental programs, two evening sessions and two Sunday Children's

Liturgy sessions. During these sessions the students have an opportunity to share their learning and faith journey with their parents and sponsors.

Reaching Out To Others:

Giving Mass

At the end of 2014, at our annual Giving Mass, the school invited members from St Vincent De Paul to accept a donation of toys and gifts for the underprivileged in our Griffith community. We have also continued to support Ronald MacDonald House. We decided to support charity as we have families that make use of this facility. This act of giving assists the students in developing an awareness of the needs of such organisations as well as the work they quietly perform in our community. Each year we are given a list of things that Ronald MacDonald House requires and St Mary's families very generously donate a large amount of goods that are then transported to Sydney.

Caritas and Catholic Mission

Each year St Mary's School supports both Caritas and Catholic Mission in raising funds to be distributed to needy people and communities. During Lent students support Caritas through Project Compassion. Each class integrates the Project Compassion unit into our Lenten units of work as well as collecting spare change in each classroom moneybox. Students support Catholic Mission during the month of October by organising a Mission Day fete. The students devise and run stalls to collect funds.

Making Jesus Real Program

Each class at St Mary's begins the year with an MJR program encompassing topics such as friendship, servant leadership and families. Throughout the year classroom teachers adapt their Religious Education programs to

integrate MJR concepts and ideals as needs and issues arise in the classroom. The whole school has learnt and now uses the language of MJR such as WEST and EAST, Random Acts of Kindness and God moments in everyday conversations and classroom practices. Each Friday at the whole school assembly students are recognised for displaying MJR characteristics.

Lisa Forwood

Religious Education Coordinator

A Message from Key School Bodies

St Mary's School Council Chairman's Report 2014

The School Council at St Marys has had a very busy and successful year in 2014. I would like to thank all members of the school council for their participation, tenacity and hard work for the benefit of the children and families at our school. Our achievements in 2014 include the playground redevelopment over the last Christmas holidays with extensive drainage works, landscaping and installation of shade sails all culminating in an area much loved and utilised by the students, teachers and parents alike. Outdoor seating was also purchased with 10 new benches for lunchtime seating and outdoor cushions used for those relaxing teaching sessions held outdoors. The Public Address system which gets used weekly for school assemblies and other activities, provides clear and concise sound so everyone can hear and be a part of what is going on, also there was the purchase of a further 6 iPads for the students. Such achievements are made possible through wise budgeting and well planned fundraising. The School Council relies on a dedicated team of parents who commit their time and talent to ensuring our school Principal and staff are supported and

assisted in providing a quality education to our students. We are fortunate that many parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, volunteer in many and varied ways to provide activities, equipment and resources for our students.

A committee is only as good as its members and so I would like to publicly acknowledge the amazing support that has been provided by all School Council board members. I welcome our new committee members Nikki Agresta, Tanya Cornale and Chris Pastro, I thank you for choosing to be a part of our team and look forward to working with you in 2015. As new members have joined, we have also lost some long standing members. A very big thank you goes to Louanne Bortolin, Glenn Gatto and Carolyn Provera for all you have achieved and contributed during your time on school council, Glenn, for your witty input and BBQ skills, Louanne, for your minute taking, reminders and basically keeping us all in check, like, what we are doing next, what we forgot, and what is to come, and Carolyn, for her fresh ideas and passion for getting the students involved in all our fundraising activities. Thank You. I must make mention also to the canteen committee and all the volunteers for your tireless work in providing great food for our kids, and a particular mention goes to Sandra Comarin and Janelle Poloni, after 10 years of service between them in the running of the canteen they have both decided to step down from this role, we thank you for your service over the years.

This year alone the school council has raised in excess of \$36000 for our school, easily surpassing the required \$18000 needed for general running costs. This is a tremendous effort for our relatively small school so a big thank you for all of your support.

At St Mary's we have an exceptional dedicated team of teachers and support staff, including teachers' aides and office staff. I'm confident that all parents join me in commending and thanking them for the outstanding work they do in education and for the very many ways in which they go "above and beyond" in the service of the school, this includes excursions, sacramental programs in which the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation were moving highlights of our year and of course our school concert of "So You Think You Can Dance".

This year the school loses some of its most beloved members, Mrs Libby Gillespie, Mrs Jodie Maginnity and Mrs Trisha Marin. I would like to mention that Trisha has been a teacher here at St Mary's for a remarkable 10 years, and her influence has been felt right through the student body. Trish on behalf of the entire school community I thank you for all you have brought to St Mary's and for the legacy you leave. Be assured of our good wishes as you embark on the next stage of your life and family journey. Earlier this year we also bade farewell to Father Neru as he took on his new role as Parish Priest in Narrandera and we warmly welcomed Father Peter and his basketball skills to Yoogali Church, welcome Father Peter.

Special thanks to our Principal Mary Jane Simms for her support, guidance and commitment over the past year and also to Annette Reginato for keeping us all informed on what's happening with the students achievements, plans, wishes and needs for the school.

So as the end of the year approaches and our work for the moment is almost done, we should remember the many blessings we have received this year, the friendships we have made, the challenges we have met, the struggles and loss we have endured and the

achievements we have celebrated. We should all be thankful for all the graces bestowed on our entire school community.

John Matkovic

Chairperson St Mary's School Council

Principal's Report 2014

There is a great deal to celebrate as we reflect on 2014. I would like to make particular mention of Sandra Comarin and Janelle Poloni. After ten years of dedicated service between them of running the St Mary's canteen, both Sandra and Janelle have stepped down from this role. Their gift of time to our school is to be celebrated.

St Mary's is a faith-filled environment. Every day our students have continued to develop their faith through rich and meaningful Religious Education lessons and liturgies. The sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation were once again moving highlights of our year.

Our students have also continued their learning in the other Key Learning areas, supported by teachers whose commitment and dedication to their students is outstanding. Our Year Three and Five students' NAPLAN results this year were very strong. This is possible because of the quality teaching and learning that takes place each day in our classrooms.

On the sporting field, St Mary's students have enjoyed a range of experiences including swimming, cross country, athletics, AFL, basketball, cricket and soccer, to name a few. Nicola Zanotto progressed to MacKillop level (Sydney) for Cross Country, Felicity Grady to MacKillop level for High Jump and Sienna Donadel to MacKillop level for swimming. Each of these students is to be

congratulated on this level of achievement.

In addition to this our students have taken part in a range of additional experiences to build on their learning, such as Altina Wildlife Park, creating a vegetable garden, Book Fair, Italian Day, the Year Six excursion to Canberra and the biennial whole school concert. The sport and recreation excursion to Borambola, which commences tomorrow is an opportunity for our students to step outside their comfort zone and expand their capabilities.

As a School Council, much has been achieved this year. Through a combination of planned savings and fundraising the following projects have been completed this year.

- The Playground redevelopment over the Christmas holidays including drainage, shadesails and landscaping- \$72,251 (ex GST)
- Outdoor seating for the new area, including 10 new benches for lunchtime seating and outdoor cushions.
- The purchase of 6 ipads
- A new Public Address System for our assembly area \$6800 (ex GST)

Such achievements are made possible through wise budgeting and well planned fundraising. I congratulate the fundraising committee for their leading role in what has been achieved this year through all the fundraising events including the Lamington drive.

I also congratulate the St Mary's School Council for ensuring that the St Mary's Car Show and Family Fun Day was yet another great success.

This year sees our community lose some of its most beloved members, Father Neru, Tricia Marin, Jodie Maginnity and Libby Gillespie. Each has made a valuable contribution to the life of our school and will be greatly missed.

It has been a privilege to work in partnership with each of you throughout 2014 and I look forward to another positive and fruitful year in 2015.

MaryJane Simms
Principal

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

NAPLAN aspect Year 3	Percentage of Students below the National Minimum Standard
Reading	0%
Writing	0%
Spelling	0%
Grammar and Punctuation	0%
Numeracy	0%
NAPLAN aspect Year 5	Percentage of Students below the National Minimum Standard
Reading	6%
Writing	0%
Spelling	0%
Grammar and Punctuation	6%
Numeracy	0%

Professional Learning

Grammar Focus improves students' writing

During 2014 at St Mary's, one of our key learning focuses was to improve our students' skills in grammar and vocabulary.

In order to achieve this, staff and students worked with Speech Pathologist, Alison Burcham. Alison provided a series of professional development sessions for our staff and then worked with students and teachers in the classroom setting demonstrating strategies for improving student skills in reading, writing and speaking with a particular focus on grammar. Following the visits to their class, staff met with Ms Burcham to discuss the modelled lessons. Ms Burcham also supported staff in the planning of teaching and learning programs.

As a result of this project a significant improvement in student results in writing was attained, in particular in the students' ability to analyse the structure of their sentences and their ability to use compound and complex sentences in their writing.

National Curriculum

Mathematics and Science

During 2014, St Mary's staff undertook training in the National Curriculum for Mathematics and Science.

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
13	0	13

Workforce Composition

The St Mary's Yoogali is made up of 18 full time and part time staff.

The Leadership team includes the Principal, Assistant Principal and Religious Education Coordinator.

Our students are supported by a part time Librarian (0.2FTE) and an Italian Language Teacher (0.2 FTE) Four part time teacher assistants support students with additional learning needs.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	94%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	93%

Student Non-Attendance Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolment Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese.

At St Mary's Kindergarten enrolments open at the commencement of term

three. These are publicised in the Area News. Closing dates for enrolments in Kinder for the following year are also advertised through the school and in the Area News.

Should there be more applications for enrolment than there are places for students, the St Mary's enrolment criteria will be used to offer places to students. These criteria are in line with diocesan policy and can be obtained from St Mary's School.

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
74	74	1	20	148

**Language background Other Than English*

Structure of Classes

St Mary's is a single stream primary school, with one class of each grade from Kindergarten to Year Six.

School Policies

_Discipline

At St Mary's we believe that children respond best to a discipline approach that encourages and rewards positive behaviour. Our discipline policy is based on this belief.

Restorative Practices are the foundation of our discipline policy.

Student Welfare

We believe that every child has a right to be safe and feel safe. The practices in our Pastoral Care Policy are focused on ensuring that this occurs for the students of our school.

These policies can be found in the St Mary's

General Policies and Procedures Handbook and can be accessed any time by contacting the school.

Complaints and Grievances

The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is founded on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents/caregivers, staff and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.

Parents or 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 Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate. Further information about diocesan policies can be obtained from the Catholic Schools Office.

Changes to School Policies

Throughout 2014, St Mary's Policies and Procedures were renewed where applicable to ensure that they were in line with diocesan policy, where appropriate.

Improvement Targets

Focus on Grammar in Speaking and Writing

During 2014 at St Mary's, our key learning focus was to improve our students' skills in grammar in both oral and written language.

In order to achieve this, Speech Pathologist, Alison Burcham was employed to work with staff and students.

State Action Plan

During 2014 St Mary's School received financial support from the State government to support literacy and numeracy in Early Stage One and Stage One. This funding allowed us to employ an additional teacher for the Literacy and Numeracy block each day in our infants' classes, increasing the student teacher ratio significantly. The results following this project have reflected exciting student learning growth.

Contemporary Learning

In 2014 St Mary's students were supported in their learning in a flexible array of class arrangements. Sometimes students worked with their class group. Class groups engaged in learning together at times supported by more than one teacher. Students also worked in small groups or individually supported by a teacher or a teacher assistant. This variety of arrangements best met the learning needs of our students.

Reading Recovery

During 2014, the Reading Recovery program, continued to be a central aspect of student literacy support, with 8 Year One children receiving individualised instruction to lift their reading and writing skills.

During 2014, Mrs Simms trained as a Reading Recovery teacher, through the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Reading Eggs

In response to a goal of improving student reading skills, in 2014 St Mary's continued the on-line Reading Eggs program in all Infants classes. The response to Reading Eggs has been very positive. Students continue to access Reading Eggs at home as well as at school.

Italian Language Program

The Italian Language program with specialist Italian teacher Eleonora Taranto, continued in 2014. All classes, from Kindergarten to Year Six took part in weekly instruction in the language and culture of Italy.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Making Jesus Real-A Whole School Focus

In 2014 at St Mary's, "Making Jesus Real" was further deepened as a whole school

approach. This involved a weekly "Making Jesus Real" focus such as "Including Others" or "Encouraging Others" at each Friday whole school assembly.

The names of students who were observed carrying out the weekly focus were written down and placed into a class "MJR box."

These children were announced, invited to the stage and acknowledged at the Friday assembly each week.

Lenten Focus

At St Mary's in 2014 the Lenten focus through Project Compassion was to assist others to "Have Life And Have it To The Full"(John 10:10). We focused on supporting the children of Brazil, South Sudan, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka as well as supporting Indigenous Australians.

Mission Week

Our Mission Week fundraising effort for 2014 aimed to support the disadvantaged children Jamaica. Each class contributed by planning, running and taking part in Mission Day stalls.

Supporting Abadi

St Mary's Student Representative Council has been supporting Abadi Gebrilisalase, a 12 year old boy from Kenya, since he was four years old. Each term St Mary's students raise funds through fundraising events such as casual days. The funds from these events help to provide Abadi with food and shelter.

Kindergarten – Year 6 students participated in the Cross Country Carnival in term one, along with St Patricks School, Griffith and St Therese School, Yenda. Twenty four students will continue on run in the Diocese carnival in term two.

The Athletics Carnival will be held in Term 2. Students in Year 5 and Year 6 have attended trails for soccer and Rugby League. Mason Donadel, Chris Foggiato, Georgia Salvestro and Isobel Burge will

now attend a trial in Canberra for selection onto the MacKillop teams.

Each class timetables Physical Education on Tuesday and Fridays with Personal Development and Health lessons taught once a week.

Live Life Well at School

Angela Wedesweiler and Lisa Forwood attended the Live Life Well at School (LLWS) conference at the end of 2014. An action plan has been developed and is continually being updated to ensure St Mary's meets the guidelines set by the Department of Health in regards to Physical Education, Fundamental Movement, Healthy Eating and Healthy food options in Canteens. As an incentive encouraged by LLWS a school vegetable garden has been developed with a compost system. Students are encouraged to collect fruit waste from snack attack, recess and lunch to be placed into the compost bins.

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 Mary's School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
100%	0%	0%	0%

Students

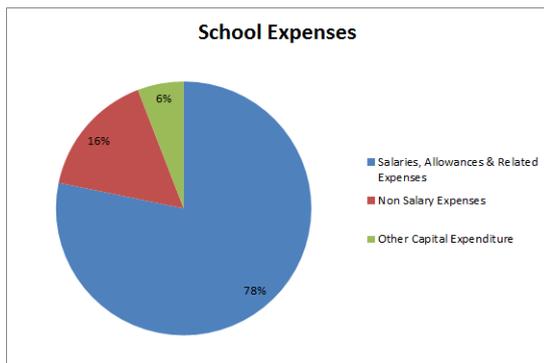
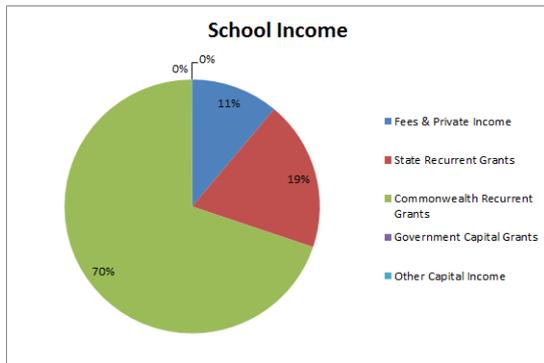
I am usually happy at St Mary's School.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
22%	75%	3%	0%

Staff

I am usually happy at St Mary's School.

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

Financial Statement Summary**About This Report**

Many thanks to the following members of the St Mary's community for their contributions to this report:

Staff, students and parents who completed the satisfaction survey, 2014 Religious Education Coordinator Lisa Forwood, Annette Reginato, Assistant Principal and School Council Chairperson, John Matkovic.