

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY



St. Joseph's Primary School

Kerang

2016



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Contact Details

ADDRESS	89-103 Nolan Street Kerang, Victoria
PRINCIPAL	Mr. Nicholas Hall
PARISH PRIEST	Fr. Pantaleon Amaya Jr. (Fr. Junjun)
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR	Mr. Dale Trevorrow
TELEPHONE	(03) 54521426
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Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Nicholas Hall, attest that St. Joseph's is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 (Vic), except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2016 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)

19 May 2017

Our School Vision

At St. Joseph's, we believe we are:

A community who celebrates our Catholic Traditions, names Jesus Christ and promotes Gospel values as a framework for participation in society.

A school where respect for self, others and the environment is nurtured in partnership with all community members.

A community that strives to educate and challenge the whole child to reach their full potential and become life long learners.

A community that challenges all children by planning and facilitating enriching curriculum experiences.

Graduate Outcomes

At St. Joseph's Primary School, we commit to educating children in Christianity through the Catholic Tradition to:

Be able to grow in a relationship with God.

Have confidence to take their own path and reach their potential.

Be loved and know how to love.

Make their own decisions based on care, respect of themselves and others and the environment.

Be resilient, accepting, confident and independent.

Be a voice for those who have none.

Be active in the Reconciliation of our country.

School Overview

The Good Samaritan Sisters began teaching in Kerang in 1912. The Most Rev. Stephen Reville D.D.O.S.A. Bishop of Bendigo, laid the foundation stone of St. Joseph's School Kerang on March 3rd 1912. Local reports say that approximately 60 scholars started at the school on Wednesday 2nd October 1912. The Sisters remained in charge of the school until the first lay Principal was appointed in 1980. Extensions to the school buildings in 1958 enabled the Sisters to move out of the original school building. The school building was then converted into a Parish Hall.

Around 1968, further extensions were added including: four classrooms, a staff room, library, work room and toilets. The school has a strong history of proactive involvement of parents and parishioners from attending to ongoing maintenance through to school governance. The St. Joseph's School Board was one of the first School Boards to be formed and today the School Board is heavily involved in all areas of School Improvement.

Since 1997, the School Board has actively sought local and Capital Grant support to enable the community to provide for the current and future needs of its children. In 2002, we completed the first stage of a 4-phase Capital Works Program, the construction of a Library. In 2004, we completed the Second Stage of the overall project ~ Student Amenities, Storage Areas and an upgrade to the School Canteen. In 2005, Stage 3 was completed with an upgraded Administration area incorporating offices, a meeting room and a sick bay. In 2007, Stage 4 was completed with a new staff room and resource room. In 2008, we received a Water Grant and we were able to purchase 7 large water tanks which will collect storm water from our extensive roof. In 2009-2011 we were successful in our application for the P.R.I.D.E., B.E.R., Needy Schools and the Solar Government Grants which were available. These grants have enabled us to address improvements to the school from our Master Plan.

We are proud of the origins of the school and strive to maintain the traditions of old and remain a progressive and proactive educational community. We enjoy a high level of parental involvement in the school and continually seek new ways to engage our community for the good of the children in our care. We value the vital partnerships that need to exist between home, school, parish and the wider community.

2016 Staff

Parish Priest Fr. Eugene dela Corte

Principal Mr. Nicholas Hall

Deputy Principal (Pastoral Wellbeing) Miss Joanne Richardson

Religious Education Coordinator Mrs. Anne Jenkins

Leadership Team

Mr. Nicholas Hall

Miss. Joanne Richardson

Mrs. Anne Jenkins

Class Structure

Prep	Mrs. Anne Jenkins
Grade 1 Jarman	Miss Courtney Jarman
Grade 2/3 Richardson	Miss Joanne Richardson
Grade 2/3 Arceri	Miss Jessica Arceri
Grade 4/5 Angus	Miss Belinda Angus
Grade 5/6 Sporle	Miss Lauren Sporle

Specialist Programs and Teachers

Visual and Performing Arts - Mrs. Alicia Makeham

Reading Recovery and EMU - Mrs. Fiona Kendell

LOTE (Bulgarian Yr 2-6) - Mrs. Tanya O'Brien

Support Staff

Administration Officer - Mrs. Debbie Garlick

Chaplain - Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson

Education Support Officers

Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson

Miss. Kinsley Friedberger

Miss. Jacqui Hallam

Principal's Report

I am pleased and proud to write this report as part of the Annual Report to the School Community for 2016. St. Joseph's experienced another successful school year in 2016. We are blessed to maintain a strong reputation in the local community and wider Sandhurst Diocese and this is a credit to the passion and energy of all members of the school community.

On Friday 29th January 2016 we welcomed students back for the start of the year. Watching the Grade Prep students arrive on the first day with their families is always a highlight to the start of the year. In 2016 we excitedly welcomed twenty-four students to St. Joseph's in Grade Prep for their first day of school. The school also welcomed Jessica Arceri, Belinda Angus and Jacqui Hallam to the staff. During the year Asta Harvey also joined the staff to teach library. We also welcomed Fr. Junjun to our community.

A major part of our work as a staff was engaging in the process of full school review. A key component of this was the audit of school processes, policies and facilities against expected standards set out by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). School review is always an opportunity to honestly and authentically identify areas of strength and further development. The validation report received for St. Joseph's was highly complimentary of our school, and students, staff and families can be proud of this. In 2017 school leadership will use recommendations from school review to develop a strategic plan for the next three to five years.

The school improvement focus on reading continued throughout 2016 which lead to pleasing growth in student learning data. Staff professional learning, school structures and close monitoring of student progress have been key features that are now being embedded in learning and teaching at St. Joseph's. We returned this year from holidays and were again staggered by the high number of children who had read over the summer break. Credit must go to the families for their support and students for their commitment to keep reading.

Child Safe Legislation came into effect in 2016 as a direct response by the Victorian Government to the Betrayal of Trust Report. Underpinning the standards is the fundamental belief that all children have the right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. Organisations engaged in child related work are required to comply with these standards. As such, St. Joseph's developed and ratified policy, reviewed practices and implemented a code of conduct.

Two key aspects of the master plan were actioned in 2016. The first project was the installation of an irrigation system throughout the school ovals. This had been a long held dream for the school community and was achieved through considerable effort by parent volunteers. An updated maintenance plan was finalised late in the year that will allow targeted maintenance to the school buildings and grounds with the goal to enhancing our already excellent facilities.

Parent support of our school is crucial. Our families give generously of themselves and their time. The school board were instrumental in the implementation of Child Safe,

irrigation works and full school review. The tri-board meeting at Pyramid Hill in term two again provided the opportunity for school board members from St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and St. Patrick's to gather and work on a common focus. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Dale Trevor for his leadership as school board chair and Pam Williamson for taking on the role of Secretary so diligently. To all members of the school board I say thank-you for your time, efforts and support of St. Joseph's Primary School.

Last year the P & F continued to be a proactive group and were responsible for organising a range of initiatives that enhance the school community. The fete was a huge success again and something the children look forward to each year. The bush dance provided an excellent opportunity for families to have a great night out together and the closed door sale was again an excellent sign of support for local businesses. The tuckshop and school uniform shop are great assets for the school and a credit to the commitment of parent volunteers. A huge word of thanks to the P & F executive, lead by Mel Wishart, and the whole of the P & F for your work last year to not only raise money to support school initiatives, but to support opportunities for socialising amongst families. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

At the end of the year we farewelled the graduating Grade 6 class and wish them well as they transition into secondary school. The school also farewelled Lauren Sporle and Asta Harvey (during the year) and we thank them for their contribution to St. Joseph's.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you again for your support of St. Joseph's school as members of the School Board.

Mr. Nicholas Hall
Principal



School Education Board Report

The last twelve months have seen a few changes around our school. These changes will continue to ensure, the strength of our board, our school and most importantly the education and well-being of our students. Changes that reinforce the respect St Josephs of Kerang holds within the community both locally and further afield.

Our 2016 Annual General Meeting saw the stepping down of our long standing minute's taker Debbie Garlick, Parent Representative Cheryl Sarre, Parish Representative Marianne Kelly and our former Board Chair Jenny Waterson. On behalf of the board I would like to thank all 4 of these ladies for their time and service to the board over many years. We welcomed Christine O'Donoghue as our Parish Representative and Kate Matthews, Pam Williamson and Ashley Meehan as our new Parent Reps.

As a board we embraced to use of the modern technology as part of our board meetings. With Nick Hall setting up our board Google Site we are now able to access our minutes and reports electronically using the school's classroom laptops during our meetings. A great step forward!

Once again we said goodbye to our Parish Priest Fr. Eugene who has moved on. Fr. Jun Jun has moved to Kerang to take up the role of our new Priest and we welcome him to the school and to his first ever Board Meeting.

Mr. Tom Sexton (Catholic Education Sandhurst) attended our meeting in October to put forward a presentation on the importance of the 1:1 laptop program, giving the board a better understanding on why we need the program and an explanation on the funding options for the program.

As part of our continuing improvement of the school there has been 4 major undertakings this year, the first was the development of our maintenance plan, a systematic review and rating of the school's facilities to create a document that will enable future boards to plan and co-ordinate scheduled maintenance. The second was the upgrading of the school's WiFi system that will help keep pace with the needs of the student's learning. Thirdly, the relocation of the water storage tanks away from the side of the school hall to the south side of the school oval, and after some twenty odd years and several plans, we finally have our automated watering system in place and operational. This will mean less work for those who were volunteering their time moving the old sprinklers around the ovals, and the added benefit of a reduction in the price of the school water bills. Finally the initiating of the building of our shed for the coming 12 months will further enhance the facilities for our children.

Our board continued its collaboration with St Mary's in Cohuna and St Patrick's in Pyramid Hill at the Annual Tri Board Meeting and Dinner held at the Pyramid Hill Hotel in May. Again the ability of the three schools to work together was emphasised with the

ratification in principle of the Child Safe Policy, demonstrating a commitment to the safety of all children.

It was the 26th of February 2013 when I attended my first board meeting. Much of 2013 was spent reviewing and amending our school constitution, our Enrolment Policy and our Inclusive Policy. With very little else being discussed month after month I had reservations as to why I had accepted the invitation to join the board. Subsequently the importance of what we do here at board level became very apparent. We must all understand that the school is committed to and strives to educate and challenge our children to reach their full potential. We as board members must ensure the decisions we make support the long-term outcomes for our children and our school. I would encourage all board members to obtain and read our Pastoral Wellbeing, Enrolment and Inclusive Policies, affirm what our aims are as a board, and to keep a copy of our Vision Statement in the front of your board folders to remind us of our responsibilities. I wish to thank the school board for the privilege of being board chair and wish you all well in the future.

Dale Trevorrow



Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Engage in and complete the School Review for Catholic identity as per processes set out in the Charter of Sandhurst School Improvement (CoSSI).

Implement the Diocesan Religious Education Guidelines: The Source of Life

Achievements

St Joseph's is a school community that gathers in varying ways to highlight its Christian beliefs and to reach out to others in keeping with these beliefs.

The school gathered as a Christian family to celebrate the beginning of school and end of school masses followed by a picnic tea. It also celebrated the special Church feast days of Ash Wednesday and gathered with the Parish community to celebrate St Patrick's and St Joseph's feast days.

Each grade attended mass on a Friday where they celebrated the Eucharist with the parish community. Each grade was rostered during the year to attend these masses. Each grade also planned and hosted a Eucharistic celebration in their classroom where parents and parishioners were invited. This followed with a morning tea supplied by the children.

The children who made their sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation met in family groups to prepare for these sacraments. Anne Jenkins, Religious Education Co-ordinator, led the parents in an explanation of the sacraments prior to the commencement of the program.

The Catholic Identity of the school was visually evident through displays in the foyer and corridors. The classroom prayer spaces were identifiable in each room.

The tradition of the Good Samaritan, established by the Good Samaritan sisters in 1912, continues in the life of the school through the various outreach programs such as Meals on Wheels, Caritas, St. Vinnies and the Biggest Morning Tea. The school community also continued the tradition of making and delivering Christmas cakes to the elderly of the Kerang district.

The spirit of the Good Samaritan is also fostered through such programs as Caritas where as a community we reach out to communities needing support to build their capacity to provide for themselves. Eight Year 5s attended the Just Leaders orientation day in Echuca in preparation for this role in 2017.

Our link with the Good Samaritan Sisters is celebrated each year when we gather with St Mary's, Cohuna and St Patrick's, Pyramid Hill in a fun sports day, the Good Samaritan Cup. The celebration begins with a liturgy where the story of the Good Samaritan is highlighted. In 2016 St Patrick's hosted the day .

Our Catholic Identity was shared and highlighted with the wider community during Catholic Education Week with a morning tea, media coverage and street displays.

VALUE ADDED

Just Leaders Program: Caritas Australia

Reality Meal

Community Celebration: St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Feast days

Monthly Class Masses

Good Samaritan Cup

Christmas Puddings to the Community Initiative

Learning & Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Improve student outcomes in the area of Reading.

Teachers will develop, implement and evaluate Inquiry Units of work through collaborative practices with colleagues from St. Mary's and St. Patrick's.

Achievements

The school improvement focus on reading continued in 2017. High expectations, school structures and ongoing, targeted professional learning for staff have been key elements to the improvement that has occurred. The importance of explicit, uninterrupted instruction is being embedded into school practice and the increased rate of children reading at home has been very noticeable. The leadership team has been instrumental in leading the focus for improvement. The student learning data, both internal and external, clearly shows that student reading standards have increased over the two years.

Growing the three-school collaboration continued in 2016 with collaborative planning of inquiry units commencing. This was enable through professional learning for teaching staff and scheduled time for teachers to work together to develop and evaluate curriculum. The teachers involved in this exciting work are to be congratulated on their willingness to engage.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The fluctuations in NAPLAN data from 2013 through to 2015 are reflective of the changes in cohorts that have completed NAPLAN testing over the past three years.



Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To continue to provide a safe and orderly environment for all students so they can engage fully in school life.

Achievements

Our three clear school rules have continued to be promoted and reinforced across our school. The rules being: Respect for Self, Others and the Environment. Matrixes are used across the school to explicitly teach students positive behaviour choices.

Incidents are recorded through a software program that allows tracking of student incidents in the school. The development of safety plans and implementation of these was a focus for all staff to enable consistency of response to challenging situations.

The buddy system has continued to be a positive part of children in their first year of school. The senior school buddies work with the junior children on a regular basis to establish strong relationships and offer support. This is a valued initiative in the school that provides great benefit for all children involved.

Alternative play options during recess and lunchtime continue to be a priority. The shed on Thursday, library, construction materials and gardening provide children choice during play periods. For many students these options provide positive play opportunities with their peers.

Student Attendance

At St. Joseph's we recognise the importance of student attendance for student success at school. The newsletter is used to regularly communicate the importance of student attendance at school and students being on time. Teachers mark the attendance roll twice a day as per registration requirements and absences are recorded. When unexplained absences occur, communication is forwarded to families to clarify the reason why. Ongoing absences are investigated by the principal or classroom teacher, which includes late arrivals and early departures.

VALUE ADDED

Camp and Excursion program

- Year 6 Melbourne Camp
- Year 4/5 Sovereign Hill Camp
- Year 3/4 Overnight Camp – Swan Hill

Bicycle Education

Student Learning Expo

Year 5/6 Leadership Day: Northern Cluster of Schools

Rotary Club Junior Community leadership Program

LEGO education Program

The Pitch

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Insight SRC data reflected increase confidence and engagement of students at school.



Child Safe Standards

Goals and Intended Outcomes

Respond positively to the implementation of the Child Safe Standards through the development of policies and resources, education and update of resource practices.

Achievements

St. Joseph's is committed to the fundamental belief that all children have the right to feel safe and be safe at all times. The school community has responded in a positive, proactive way to the introduction of the standards. The compliance survey provided by VRQA was used to audit and plan so that St. Joseph's is compliant with all seven standards. Consultation through the school board and parents and friends has been an important part of the process. This response has been through a range of actions, including those outlined below.

In the areas of **Policy, Practice and Commitment**, St. Joseph's has:

- Developed and implemented expected policies.
- Developed and established of Code of Conduct for staff that all staff have committed to.
- Establishment of human resource practices in accordance with CECV guidelines for the employment of staff.
- Developed and implemented policies and procedures for engagement of volunteers in the school.

In the areas of **Education and Awareness Raising**:

- Education of the School Board (with St. Mary's and St. Patrick's) about the standards and implementation of these. The school board continues to be instrumental in the development of school policy and practice, especially with regard to volunteers.
- Staff professional learning and consultation to ensure staff are familiar with policy, their responsibilities and practice. Including all staff completing the Protecting the Safety of Children and Young People, Mandatory Reporting (DEECD) learning module.
- Communication to the school community through the school newsletter and website.

Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Complete Full School Review.

Finalise an updated maintenance plan for St. Joseph's and complete automated irrigation system project for school ovals.

Achievements

In 2016 St. Joseph's engaged in full school review to critically evaluate of school policy, practices and procedures. A key part of this was a school audit against the Victorian Registrations and Qualification Authority quality standards. The process of review has allowed St. Joseph's to identify and prioritise strategic actions for the next few years to be documented in an updated strategic plan in 2017.

The leadership team continued to be part of the Spiral of Inquiry project with Dr. Helen Timperley. This developed the capacity of key school staff to lead school improvement in a focussed and systematic way.

As earlier mentioned in the Principal's report, the installation of an automated watering system and update of the school maintenance plan were key actions achieved in 2016.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2016

- Spiral of Inquiry Project: Dr. Helen Timperley
- Reading Comprehension: Dr. Alison Davis
- Country Education Project: Sir John Jones Forum
- Effective Writers Workshop: Deb Sukarna
- First Aid Training: Stitches First Aid
- Northern Cluster Graduates Program
- Masters of Theological Studies: Australian Catholic University
- Growing Great Student Centred Leaders: University of Auckland Centre of Educational Excellence
- Protecting the Safety of Children and Young People, Mandatory Reporting: DEECD

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL

15

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL

\$ 2,875.82

TEACHER SATISFACTION

Insight SRC data indicates staff are experiencing a high level of morale at St. Joseph's and that their professional growth is a strength. Staff are engaged and indicate an increased level of confidence.

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Continue to provide a range of opportunities to build a positive community culture across the school community.

Achievements

Last year started off with some huge shoes to fill. A total change in Executive Committee meant new President, Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you to the committee and especially our previous President Michelle Trevorrow and Secretary Alicia Makeham for supporting the newly established executive in these positions.

Everyone's support of each other and dedication to the school is to be commended. So many people contribute in their own way and I'd like to formally thank a few of many: Maree Hunter and Melissa Copland, our quiet achievers whom do a wonderful and essential job organising school uniforms. There is a huge role, which they carry out very efficiently and it is greatly appreciated by the whole school community. Fiona Bortolotto for her dedication to the role of Tuckshop Manager over the past seven years, the time she committed to this role was huge and again was greatly appreciated by the whole school community. Debbie Garlick even though Debbie is not a Parent on our committee she is definitely a friend of the committee and does far more than her paid role of administrator for our school.

Part of our Constitution states we are "to foster co-operation and bring about harmonious relations among all members of the school community" and "provide avenues for social interaction between parents and friends of school children". To achieve this each year we try to have an event that is a non-fundraising event. An event to encourage all to attend and enjoy with minimal workload and expense everyone in our school community. 2016 saw a "Bush Dance Night". Thank you goes out to Alicia Makeham for making this idea a reality. The children learnt some new dance skills from the Billy Tea Bush Band members and the families got involved and everyone had a wonderful night.

We also held a Mother's Day High Tea in early June with all proceeds being donated to the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser with approximately sixty ladies consisting of Mothers, Grandmothers and friends of the school in attendance.

Our major fundraisers were again successful, The Closed Door Sale was down numbers this year but after a huge year in 2015 its how it rolls. We still raised some valuable funds for the school but I believe it's time for a fresh look at this community event.

The FETE was awesome this year with over \$8,000 raised for our school to go towards the Wi-Fi Upgrade. The Mega Sinking Ship Slide and Bungy Run are expensive drawer cards but our kids are worth it. A fun night for all plus we get the bonus of raising funds.

Our team of merry workers also did catering, worked at the Easter Tennis Tournament and held another wood raffle. All these efforts raised funds for the development of our school facilities.

Melissa Wishart

Parents and Friends Association President - 2016

PARENT SATISFACTION

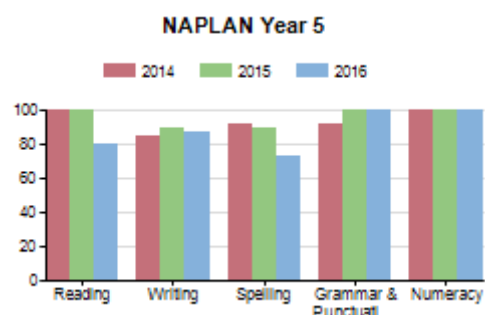
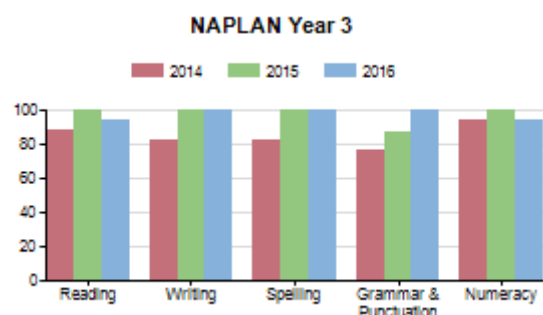
Insight SRC data shows parent opinion is positive, with improvement in areas such as community engagement, student behaviour and learning opportunities.



VRQA Compliance Data

E3026	St Joseph's School, Kerang
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PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS					
NAPLAN TESTS	2014	2015	2014–2015	2016	2015–2016
	%	%	Changes	%	Changes
			%		%
YR 03 Reading	88.2	100.0	11.8	93.8	-6.2
YR 03 Writing	82.4	100.0	17.6	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Spelling	82.4	100.0	17.6	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	76.5	87.5	11.0	100.0	12.5
YR 03 Numeracy	94.1	100.0	5.9	93.8	-6.2
YR 05 Reading	100.0	100.0	0.0	80.0	-20.0
YR 05 Writing	84.6	90.0	5.4	86.7	-3.3
YR 05 Spelling	92.3	90.0	-2.3	73.3	-16.7
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	92.3	100.0	7.7	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0



AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	%
Y01	93.73
Y03	93.60
Y06	93.72
Y02	94.50
Y05	94.69
Y04	95.71
Overall average attendance	94.33

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE	
Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	97.28%

STAFF RETENTION RATE	
Staff Retention Rate	88.89%

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	
Doctorate	0.00%
Masters	12.50%
Graduate	12.50%
Certificate Graduate	12.50%
Degree Bachelor	100.00%
Diploma Advanced	50.00%
No Qualifications Listed	0.00%

STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class	1
Teaching Staff (Head Count)	7
FTE Teaching Staff	6.240
Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)	2
FTE Non-Teaching Staff	1.920
Indigenous Teaching Staff	0