

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



**St. Joseph's Primary School
Kerang**

2017

REGISTERED SCHOOL NUMBER: 0955



Contents

Contact Details	2
Minimum Standards Attestation	2
Our School Vision	3
School Overview	4
Principal's Report	6
School Education Board Report	7
Education in Faith	9
Learning & Teaching	11
Student Wellbeing	12
Child Safe Standards	13
Leadership & Management	14
School Community	16
VRQA Compliance Data	17

Contact Details

ADDRESS	89-103 Nolan Street Kerang, 3579
PRINCIPAL	Nicholas Hall
PARISH PRIEST	Fr. Pantaleon Amaya Jnr. (Fr. Junjun)
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR	Brent McKnight
TELEPHONE	(03) 54521426
EMAIL	principal@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au
WEBSITE	www.sjkerang.catholic.edu.au
ABN	32650192040
E NUMBER	E3026
FEDERAL DET NUMBER	1082

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 2017 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)

19 May 2018

Identity Statement

St. Joseph's School provides Catholic Education through which God is glorified in all things.

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.

A community committed to social justice who participates in learning about Aboriginal Australia and actively working for Reconciliation.



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.



2017 Staff

Parish Priest Fr. Pantoleon Amaya

Principal Mr. Nicholas Hall

Religious Education Coordinator Mrs. Anne Jenkins

Class Structure

Prep Jenkins Mrs. Anne Jenkins

Grade 1/2 Jarman Miss Courtney Jarman

Grade 1/2 Richardson Miss Joanne Richardson

Grade 3/4 Arceri Miss Jessica Arceri

Grade 3/4 Rehberg Miss Sophie Rehberg

Grade 5/6 Angus Miss Belinda Angus

Leader of Learner Adjustment - Mrs. Jacqui Deola

Specialist Programs and Teachers

Visual and Performing Arts - Mrs. Alicia Makeham

Reading Recovery and EMU - Mrs. Fiona Kendell

Physical Education - Mrs. Hayley Higgs

Library - Mrs. Kirstie English

Support Staff

Administration Officer - Mrs. Debbie Garlick

Chaplain - Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson

Education Support

Mrs. Cathy Hutchinson

Miss. Kinsley Friedberger

Miss. Jacqui Hallam



Principal's Report

It is with great honour that I present my report to the St. Joseph's school community.

I begin with a quote from Caritas' annual Project Compassion initiative. *"We live in an amazing world, with enough resourcing for everyone. Yet there are still many who go without."* It is a sobering thought that locally, nationally and globally there are still many without the basic necessities of life. Resources such as clean water for drinking, education for all and access to medical services are things that we can easily take for granted. Recently our Just Leaders ran an event with students to remind us all of the difficulties some communities experience in accessing clean water. As we reflect on the 2017 school year at St. Joseph's let us always be grateful for what we have while always being vigilant of our neighbours who go without.

The 2017 school year commenced at the start of February, and, as is always the case, the first few days of school for the Preps was a joy to witness. Along with the Prep students and some new families, we welcomed Sophie Rehberg, Luke Murray and Jacqui Deola to the staff after farewelling Lauren Sporle at the end of 2016.

As a staff we maintained a strong focus on improving outcomes for all children. Developing staff knowledge and skills has been a continued focus that is resulting in improvement across a range of areas. Our school improvement focus moved to the area of maths, while being mindful the improvements made in the area of reading need to continue. The staff worked tirelessly for students, families and each other through 2017 and I am proud of their achievements.

The school board worked collaboratively and their role in the school is deeply valued. Child Safe processes for volunteers, student learning and wellbeing, minor capital works and the fire rebuild were key agenda items throughout 2017. It is important to note this leadership group provided terrific support to Trish Merlo as acting principal through term 3.

In term 3 I was fortunate enough to have taken an extended period of long service leave. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Trish's contribution to St. Joseph's, during what was a challenging period for the school as a result of a fire during school hours.

The fire occurred on 12th of September at approximately 10am in the morning. Staff actioned the emergency action plan and all staff and students were evacuated quickly and safely. This was a credit to the staff and emergency management training undertaken. Understandably the event created a high level of concern and anxiety in our community and it took some time for this to settle. The matter was investigated by Victoria Police and we are satisfied with their investigation and actions. A settlement is being finalised with insurance and we hope to commence rebuild in the second half of 2018.

The Parents and Friends Association's presence in the school community is an overwhelmingly positive one, with parents stepping up to take on roles and responsibilities to support their child's school. Following ongoing conversation and consultation about the running of the closed door sale, it was agreed the event would continue in 2017 in an amended format. The change to a Friday evening appeared to freshen up the event and feedback was positive. The annual school fete was again a winner for all involved. It cannot be underestimated how much work and effort goes into organising the above two events - thank-you!

Looking ahead for St. Joseph's we have some key work to do. Reviewing the school Vision and Mission statements will support the development of a Strategic Plan. There are capital works for completion that will enhance the excellent facilities we have for our children that will see the majority of projects completed that were identified in the school Masterplan developed in 2014. The successful achievement of these tasks are sure to hold our school in good stead for the near future.

Finally, I thank-you all for your support of the students, families of staff at St. Joseph's and am looking forward to what the year brings.

Nicholas Hall
Principal
27.3.2018

School Education Board Report

At our 2017 Annual General Meeting there were four board members that stepped down from long service on the board being Jo Richardson, Mel Wishart, Geoff Rollinson and our former board chair Dale Trevorrow. On behalf of the board I would like to thank these people for their time and service to the board over many years. We welcomed new board members Nathan Hipworth, Trish Carse, Simon Schlitz and Bree Collier as our P&F rep.

At Christmas time 2017 we said good bye to Parish Priest Fr. Jun Jun who has moved to Wodonga. We await a replacement in eager anticipation and look forward to meeting our new Parish Priest once assigned to our diocese.

Prior to the school year commencing in 2017 we conducted general maintenance and painting in accordance with our maintenance plan. This is a document that needs continual attention from the board to keep on top of minor works avoiding costly renovations into the future.

Nick presented to the board the improvements we have seen with our learning focus on reading. Improvement in our reading outcomes continues as a minor learning focus. Improvement in our Mathematics outcomes now becomes our main learning focus.

Early in the year our board continued its collaboration with St Mary in Cohuna and St Patricks in Pyramid Hill at the Annual Tri Board Meeting and Dinner held at the Royal Hotel Kerang. Again, the ability of the three schools to work together and pool resources was emphasised this year with the focus on School Governance. It was evident that our school board operates very efficiently and in line with Catholic Education Sandhurst guidelines. One inclusion to our meetings this year has been the introduction to welcome to country at the start of our meetings.

Pam Williamson & Cathy Hutchinson travelled to Sante Fe – (New Mexico) to undergo a study tour learning about how other schools and cultures promoted and implemented Parent Engagement. We enjoyed the debrief from Pam & Cathy and have begun adopting strategies to engage families in conversations about the school.

Our principal Nick Hall and his family took some time off and made the most of long service leave touring parts of Australia for term 3 in 2017. During this time Trish Merlo was our acting principal in Nicks absence and did a wonderful job. We as a board appreciated Trish's input into our school and our board during her short stay with us.

It was during the third term on the 12th September 2017 that the school was affected by a devastating fire that destroyed our beloved canteen, kid's locker area and sports store. Luckily the Hall and toilets were largely unaffected by the fire. Due to the professional response by staff members the emergency plans were actioned and followed without any incidents. All occupants were evacuated to the church across the road while the local fire brigade attended the fire. We thank the staff for their conduct on this day ensuring the people most dear to us were safe and protected from harm. The fire brigade did an amazing job extinguishing and containing the fire in a short period of time. Their quick response time ensured the adjoining toilets and Hall were saved from damage. A fire report was collated by the insurance company and a scope of works produced for the replacement works. We have received two quotes from contractors and are now in the process of dealing with our insurance company.

During term 3 the storage shed project was defined, quoted and approved by the committee. The quote from local contractor WA Hall and sons was accepted. Due to the fire damage and uncertainty around the

rebuilding project's budget the board decided to put on hold minor projects such as the the shed project until this budget is confirmed.

During the year the board supported the implementation of Child Safety requirements for volunteers. We now have a system in place for all new volunteers within our school. This system satisfies the Child Safe Policy, demonstrating a commitment to the safety of all children.

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 read our current policies to affirm what our aims are as a board, and to recognize our Vision Statement that reminds us of our responsibilities

I wish to thank the school board for their support in 2017-18 and it has been a privilege being board chair.

Brent McKnight

Board Chair



Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Plan, implement and assess engaging curriculum that uses the Source of Life as the core document.

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.

St Joseph's endeavours to remember the gift left to us by Christ in celebrating the Eucharist as a faith filled community. Eucharist was celebrated by each grade having a mass in their classroom where family, friends and the parish community were invited. This expression of community was followed by morning tea.

The school and parish community again gathered and celebrated a Sunday Eucharist to celebrate St Patrick's and St Joseph's feast days as well as a Christmas gathering followed by a shared barbecue lunch in the school grounds where fellowship was enjoyed.

This link with the parish continues with each class taking turns to attend Friday mass in the church. The school also attended Ash Wednesday, beginning school and end of school mass as a celebrating community where the children took an active roll.

The sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated. The children met in family groupings where the parents shared their faith experience with their child. The parents were led through an adult session for the sacraments.

Regular displays in the foyer and corridor reflect the Catholic Identity of the school.

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.

Seven Year 5s attended the Just Leaders orientation day in Echuca in preparation for their role as Caritas ambassadors in 2018.

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.

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

To improve student outcomes in the curriculum area of Maths.

Maintain improvement standards in reading.

Develop engaging inquiry units of work in collaboration with collaborative colleagues.

Achievements

- Embed school wide strategies and structures that have been effective in improving reading at St. Joseph's.
- Establish whole school Maths focus using an Spiral of Inquiry for school improvement.
- Development of engaging inquiry curriculum in collaboration with St. Patrick's and St. Mary's.
- Introduction of weekly specialist Physical Education lessons.
- eLearning supported by 1:1 MacBooks Year Three - Six and 1:2 iPads Prep-Two.
- Participation in River Detectives program through North Central catchment authority.
- Digital media showcase in term 4.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The 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

- Continue to develop processes clear processes for Learner Adjustment.
- Enhance Behaviour Management Skills for Graduate Teachers

Achievements

- Employment of Leader of Learner Adjustment across three collaborative schools. The LLA worked closely with staff and families to ensure Personalised Learning Plans met the needs of the students.
- School Wide Positive Behaviour framework based on three school rules: Respect of Self, Others and the Environment.
- Buddy system for Prep and senior school students.
- Alternative play options during classroom breaks, including shed time, gardening, sport clinic.
- Billabong Ranch camp added to the camp schedule as an outdoor education experience for students.

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 Billabong Ranch
- Year 3/4 Sleepover
- PALS

Bicycle Education

Year 5/6 Leadership Day: Northern Cluster of Schools

Rotary Club Junior Community Leadership Program

Instrumental music lessons

Wetlander Learning Launch term 2.

Wellbeing initiatives across the three collaborative schools. Eg. fishing, cooking,

STUDENT SATISFACTION

Insight SRC data indicates students' experienced positive relationships with staff and peers in 2017.



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

- Human resource practices, in accordance with CECV guidelines, were implemented when employing staff.
- Guidelines and procedures for volunteers continued to be implemented.
- Education of child safety through school publications (eg. newsletter, app, website), open days and induction meetings.

- 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.
- Training of volunteers.



Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Provide opportunities to develop leadership capacity of members of the school community at all levels.

Achievements

- School board formation – School Governance and Procedures.
- Principal engaged in the Summative Appraisal process.
- One parent leader and the school chaplain participated in the Diocesan study tour to Santa Fe that focussed on Parental Engagement.
- Parent forums established in term 3 and 4.
- Leadership team meet regularly to monitor school improvement.
- School Board and Parents and Friends association held monthly meetings.
- Annual financial audit of school finances completed in February/March.

EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2017

- Enhancing Classroom Behaviour Management Strategies – Early Career Teachers (Dan Petro)
- Master of Theological Studies (Australian Catholic University)
- Sandhurst Study Tour: Parent Engagement (Santa Fe)
- Mathematical Association of Victoria Primary Conference (Melbourne University & MAV)
- Learning Intentions and Success Criteria (Corwin Australia)
- Effective Maths Instruction (Catholic Education Sandhurst)
- Northern Plains Graduate Program
- The School Community as the Place to Encounter God (Catholic Education Sandhurst)
- Diploma in Business Management
- SiMON Training (SiMON)
- Digital Harvest Conference (Digital Harvest)
- iPads to Enhance Student Learning (Catholic Education Sandhurst)
- GAFE Training (Catholic Education Sandhurst)

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL

8

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL

\$ 2600

TEACHER SATISFACTION

Insight SRC data indicates that staff experience significant professional growth in 2017 and are highly engaged.

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Provide opportunities for families to engage positively in the life of the school.

Achievements

- A highly engaged and active Parents and Friends association
- Beginning and end of year mass and family BBQ's
- Saintz family night that brought many families together for a night of music and dancing.
- Mother's Day High Tea that raises funds for the Cancer Council of Australia
- Closed Door Sale: this initiative supports local business by gathering large numbers of shoppers (over 70 in 2017) on a Friday evening. The format was a new one in 2017, with the move from Sunday to Friday evening.
- Annual Twilight Fete in November
- School Canteen run by parent volunteers.
- School involvement/attendance in local events including; ANZAC Day march and ceremony, Book Parade.

PARENT SATISFACTION

Insight SRC data indicates parents believe students had high levels of learning experiences in 2017 and strong peer relationships.



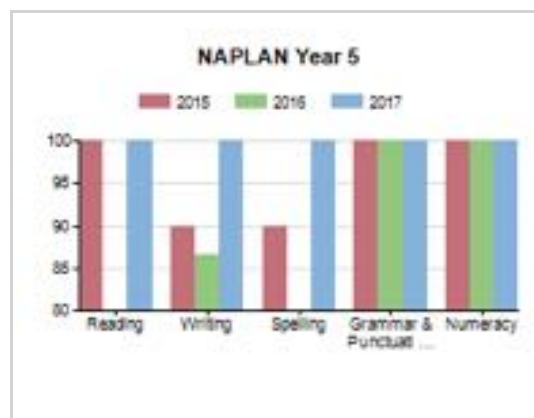
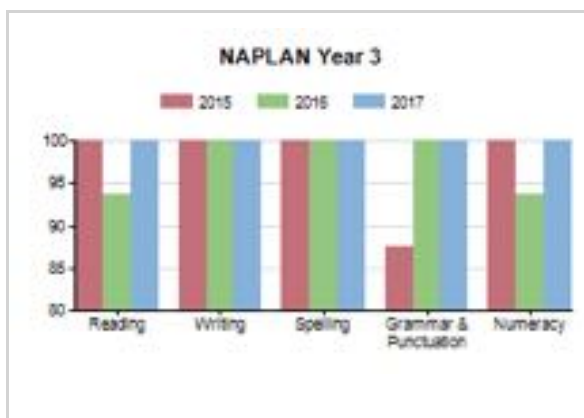
VRQA Compliance Data

E3026

St Joseph's School, Kerang

PROPORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS

NAPLAN TESTS	2015 %	2016 %	2015 - 2016 Changes %	2017 %	2016 - 2017 Changes %
YR 03 Grammar & Punctuation	87.5	100.0	12.5	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Numeracy	100.0	93.8	-6.2	100.0	6.2
YR 03 Reading	100.0	93.8	-6.2	100.0	6.2
YR 03 Spelling	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 03 Writing	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Grammar & Punctuation	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Numeracy	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
YR 05 Reading	100.0	80.0	-20.0	100.0	20.0
YR 05 Spelling	90.0	73.3	-16.7	100.0	26.7
YR 05 Writing	90.0	86.7	-3.3	100.0	13.3



AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL	%
Y1	92.00
Y2	89.82
Y3	92.64
Y4	91.87
Y5	93.06
Y6	89.97
Overall average attendance	91.56

TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE	
Teaching Staff Attendance Rate	94%

STAFF RETENTION RATE	
Staff Retention Rate	90.00%

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS	
Doctorate	0.00%
Masters	11.11%
Graduate	11.11%
Certificate Graduate	11.11%
Degree Bachelor	100.00%
Diploma Advanced	44.44%
No Qualifications Listed	0.00%

STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class	2
Teaching Staff (Head Count)	13
FTE Teaching Staff	9.750
Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)	7
FTE Non-Teaching Staff	6.578
Indigenous Teaching Staff	0

NOTE:

The School's financial performance information has been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au