

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Annual School Community Report 2017

Address:	9 Propsting Street
Suburb/Town:	ROSEBERY 7470
Telephone	(03) 64731393
Fax:	(03) 6473 1220
Email:	stjr@catholic.tas.edu.au

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Joseph's School is a co-educational Catholic Primary school located in Rosebery, an isolated mining town situated in the stunningly beautiful West Coast region of Tasmania. St Joseph's Catholic School has provided a Catholic education to children from Zeehan, Rosebery and Tullah since it was established by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1958. We are proud that the missionary spirit and charism of Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph is perpetuated in the work of the dedicated teachers and support staff of St. Joseph's School.

The School caters for students from Kindergarten to Year Six. Enrolment in classes K - 6 at the 2017 August Census was 72. Of this number, 38 were boys, 34 were girls. 12 are of aboriginal ancestry. Classes are arranged as Kindergarten, Prep / Gr One, Grade Two/Three, Grade Four/Five and Grade Five/Six.

Catholic Life and Mission

The education offered at St. Joseph's is an invitation for each student to develop to his/her full potential. The education program is delivered in a faith context and is therefore an invitation to a relationship with God.

The School's Catholic identity is expressed in various ways: through class and whole school prayer, liturgical celebrations, religious symbols, the Religious Education Program, community service and the manifestation of Gospel values in the day to day happenings and interactions of the school community.

Each week begins with a Prayer Assembly. The Prayer Assemblies helps students and staff begin each week as a community united in prayer.

Our services, weekly mass and whole school masses are celebrate by Father Amal, Parish Priest for the West Coast. Fr Amal lives in Queenstown and travels to Rosebery fortnightly to celebrate Mass with us.

Students and their teachers regularly prepare liturgies, masses and prayer services. These are most often lead by Fr Amal. It has been wonderful to see parents/careers and friends attend these celebrations.

Always well attended by members of the school community, and indeed, the wider community are the St. Joseph's School Holy Week Reflection and the Christmas Nativity Presentation. The staff and students play a very special part in bringing the life and message of Jesus to the community.

Of significance importance for our school was the Canonization for Mary MacKillop during October 2010. It is charism and ethos of St Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph that inform the Vision and Mission of our school. Her motto: **'never see a need without doing something about it'** led Mary MacKillop to minister in many different ways with those who were poor and pushed to the margins. In reverencing the dignity of each person and sharing with them her vision of a new world, she created new opportunities for those she served, responding to needs in the new Australian colonies: educating the poor, caring for the sick and providing shelter for women and children.

Religious Education is the foundation of our school and is an integral part of our Curriculum. The formal Religious Education Program is drawn from the Curriculum Framework for Religious Education, 'Good News for Living'. Under the guidance of Mr McBain, and the Religious Education Consultant from the Catholic Education Office, Mrs Gwenda Gregson, our teachers implemented the program with a high level of success throughout 2017.

Each year, the Grade Five/Six students participate in the 'Making Jesus Real Program' designed to promote Christian leadership and to foster a relationship with Jesus that is real to the students and applicable to their daily lives. The program was instigated by Mr Peter Mitchell from the Catholic Education Office and is now coordinated by Mr Marty Ogel who throughout 2017 visited St. Joseph's each term.

The 2017 year had seen a move of our Parish Mass/Liturgy times to 10.00am each second and fourth Thursday morning throughout the school year. Fr Amal attends St Joseph's twice per month on a Thursday. The second Thursday of each month are class Masses while the fourth Thursday is a whole school mass. Students, staff and parishioners took an active roles in this liturgy and its preparation. The Thursday morning Mass/Liturgy at St. Joseph's Rosebery takes the place of Sunday Mass.

In 2017, Mr McBain, working with parents, prepared a number of our students for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation. Three students celebrated with Archbishop Julian Porteous receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation in November at St Joseph's Queenstown. Sacramental programs are now coordinated by the Parish and supported by our school with parents taking a greater responsibility in the preparation for their children. This is a shift from a school based sacramental preparation to a program that is 'Parish based and School supported'. This program is conducted every two years at Rosebery consequently our next program will be conducted in 2018.

Over the last four years we have seen extensive renovation of our Church. Internal plaster walls were replaced and painted, sections of the outside walls were repaired and also repainted while our Church Cross was replaced. Heating was also improved. These renovations have greatly enhanced the look and atmosphere within our church. We are proud that our Parish Church stands in the middle of our school both physically and also providing an important and significant religious dimension to our school.

Our Learning Community

St. Joseph's Catholic School has always been committed to providing the best possible education for our students. The School aims to develop the whole child, spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and morally. In 2017 St. Joseph's School provided music with Mrs Oriel McGee as our Music and Drama teacher and Indonesian with Mrs Westley as our teacher of Indonesian language and culture. In 2017 Ms Natasha Jones provided a quality Physical Education Program for all Kinder to Grade 6 students. These specialist teachers have provided enrichment and breath to the core curriculum and have made the education of 'the whole child' more a reality at St. Joseph's.

Improving Literacy and Numeracy is always a high priority goal at St. Joseph's School. Building the knowledge, understanding, skill and effectiveness of teachers is the best way to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes of the students.

Throughout the year we continued our implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. This was conducted at Network Meetings and Professional Learning sessions with Mrs Leeann Medwin our Regional Education Consultant.

Teachers attended weekly professional development sessions after school. These sessions focused on the introduction of the Australian Curriculum and Teacher Planning for the delivery of the Curriculum. A specific area of study was our phonics based program 'Get Reading Right.'

Further to our work on Curriculum our Professional Learning also focused on the teaching of Phonics in the lower grades and reading for understanding in the upper Grades. Led by Mrs McGee we have incorporated an exciting and very successful Phonics program titled Get Reading Right in our Early Childhood Education classes.

All teachers participated in the Moderation Sessions for Religious Education and Oral Language which were conducted regionally. Our teachers gained knowledge and confidence in being able to determine the achievement levels of students comparable with those achieved in other schools.

In 2017, St. Joseph's School was assisted by visiting North West Catholic Schools' Educational Consultant Mrs Judy Pakinga. Mrs Pakinga has proved a highly valuable resource in helping our school improve literacy outcomes.

Our synthetic phonics program, Get Reading Right, was the basis of our support for children with reading and writing difficulties. (**Synthetic Phonics** - Teaching students explicitly to convert letters into sounds (phonemes) and then blend the sounds to form recognizable words.)

Small group work is an essential strategy in meeting the diverse literacy and numeracy needs in the composite classes at St. Joseph's School. Two Teacher Assistants – Mrs Stephanie Whittle and Ms Emma Cleaver worked in the junior primary classes where foundation learning is so important.

Teacher Assistant Mrs Michelle Coleman has been trained to administer speech programs devised by our Burnie based Speech Pathologist, Catherine Wood. The funding

enabling the services of Catherine Woods (Speech Pathologist) and Mrs Coleman is provided through Australian Government funding.

Towards the end of 2017 we were able to employ Mrs Barbie Bygraves to also support our comprehensive speech program and also our Kindergarten program.

Parents as Partners

St. Joseph's Catholic School seeks to build this partnership. Apart from keeping parents informed about every aspect of their child's learning and the life of the school, we have worked to improve literacy standards by hosting sessions to teach parents about early childhood language development and how they can enhance this development.

Our Kindergarten experience is based on the Australian Early Years Framework.

In 2017, there was a pleasing representation in parent participation at school functions, school and whole class masses and in classroom based activities. This reflected one of the 2017 goals in the Annual School plan for St. Joseph's School.

Assessment and Reporting

Fundamental to improving student outcomes is determining where students are and carefully monitoring their progress. At St. Joseph's School, a whole school literacy and numeracy assessment timetable is maintained in conjunction with the Catholic Education Office testing program using the ACER PAT tests. The use of both our own assessments plus those of the CEO result in a more coordinated approach to the identification and diagnosis of learning needs enabled appropriate early intervention strategies and programs to be put in place to assist students in their literacy development.

A variety of assessment tools, tests and screeners are used. Assessment in the early grades is now comprehensive and includes:

- Auditory Processing Assessment.
- Phonological Awareness Screen.
- P.I.P.S.
- Kindergarten Developmental Checklist.

- Get Reading Right

- Kbit2 Verbal and Nonverbal Tests

Reading Comprehension and Mathematics are tested regularly at all levels. The assessment includes both teacher developed assessment tasks as well as standardised tests. The program for assessment stands in addition to the most reliable and insightful assessment, which is teacher judgment.

St. Joseph's School formally reports to parents twice a year using an A - E rating to report achievement of its students. This form of reporting is in accordance with a mandate of the Australian Government. A Term One Interim Report is also issued but does not report achievement.

Parents are formally invited by the School to attend Parent/Teacher Interviews following the issue of the Term One Interim Report and the Mid-Year and End of Year Achievement Reports.

Kindergarten students are assessed at the end of Term One and at end of the year using the Kindergarten Checklist Indicators in order to determine progress in the broad domains of their development.

Students in Prep Class began and finished the year with Performance Indicators in Primary School (P.I.P.S.) screening to assess progress in their first formal year of schooling. The 2017 results showed St. Joseph's students to be at the national average in both reading and numeracy at the commencement of the year and average to significantly above average status at the end of year screening.

IN 2017 WE WERE EXTREMELY PROUD TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION FROM BOTH ACARA AND OUR CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE FOR "ACHIEVING WELL ABOVE AVERAGE GAIN IN YEAR 3 TO 5 READING, YEAR 3 TO 5 NUMERACY AND YEAR 3 TO 5 WRITING. This recognition highlights the wonderful work of all our staff in providing a very high level of education to all our students.

NAPLAN RESULTS

National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is conducted within our school. NAPLAN is administered to all Australian students in Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 in May each year.

NAPLAN - St. Joseph's School 2017:

Percentage of St. Joseph's Grade Three Students at or above National Minimum Standard

Number of Students: 3

Reading: 100%

Writing: 100%

Spelling: 100%

Grammar and Punctuation: 100%

Numeracy: 100%

Percentage of St Joseph's Grade Five Students at or above National Minimum Standard.

In 2017 we had 9 students who sat for the NAPLAN tests.

Number of Students: 9

Reading: 100%

Writing: 100%

Spelling: 100%

Grammar and Punctuation: 100%

Numeracy: 100%

Support for Learning

In 2017, St Joseph's School was given assistance through a number of grants:

System Priority Grants

- Religious Education
- Spirituality

School Priority Grants

- Building Professional Capacity
- ICT Grants
- Equity Grants

Australian Government Targeted Grants:

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Aboriginal Education
- Special Learning Needs (Speech)

Assistance from the Australian Government's grants helped make accessible excursions and incursions that can become prohibitive through costs for schools in isolated and remote areas. In 2017 we the pleasure of watching and joining with Meerkat Productions – Picture Book of the Year presentation. The book chosen for presentation was 'Gary'. A major undertaking was 'Dance Fever'. A professional dance instructor, Michael, visited St Joseph's each Tuesday afternoon throughout Term Three to lead all students into a number of dance routines including Hip-Hop. The children thoroughly enjoy each lesson and at the end put on a fabulous performance for parents demonstrating their wonderful newly found skills in dance.

Our students were able to participate in the Interschool Athletics and the Interschool Cross Country Carnivals held on the North West Coast.

Students also took part in the ANZAC Day ceremonies.

The very successful 2017 annual camp for Grade Five / Six involved a four day camp based at the Lea Scout Centre, Kingston near Hobart. The Camp provided a base to allow us to travel to a number of Historical venues. Port Arthur provided a wonderful opportunity for us to experience life as it may have been in the 1800s. A trip to the museum also allowed us an insight into the lives of our Aboriginal ancestors. While many of the activities were based on experiencing History away from the classroom we also look the opportunity to experience a number of more enjoyable activities such as ZooDo and the Aquatic Centre. The Camp program was organised by Mrs McGee our Grade Five/Six teacher. Mr McBain, Mr Young, Miss Jones and Mr and Mrs Grundy accompanied the children and provided support throughout the time away.

Physical Education has always been an important part of the curriculum at St. Joseph's School. In 2017, St. Joseph's School conducted an Austswim Learn to Swim Program at the Rosebery Swimming Pool under the instruction of Miss Babs Rodinson, an annual Athletics

Carnival and a Cross Country Running Event. As well St Joseph's participated in the North West Region Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival and Cross Country Carnival.

During the year the students greatly benefited from their participation in a visiting basketball clinic and joined with Rosebery District School for AUSKICK football training.

As a learning community, St. Joseph's School seeks to continue the education of staff. Staff Professional Development focused on the introduction of the Australian Curriculum with a focus of the Mathematics. One day per term each classroom teacher attended a Network Meeting to focus on the teaching of Mathematics. Teachers also attended meetings and Professional Learning in a number of areas such as ICT, Religious Education, Aboriginal Studies and Early Years Education.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a high priority within the community of St. Joseph's School where the personal and social well being of every individual is promoted. A climate of mutual respect and tolerance based on the teachings of Jesus is explicit at our school and implicit in all undertakings. Caring, responsible behaviour and self discipline are encouraged at all times.

St. Joseph's recognises that relationships are very important. Relationships between older and younger students have been fostered this year. Students play together, attend assemblies each week as a whole school while the older students set a wonderful example of respect to all.

The student leadership structure comprising four leaders from the Grade Six class which emphasises a leadership team approach. Younger students know they can approach these school leaders and opportunities are provided in which they can get to know them. Leadership extends to House Captains and Student Representative Council representatives from each class.

Student effort and success is acknowledged with 'Caught You Being Good Certificates' at the Monday morning Prayer Assembly. Group and class achievements are published in the newsletter. Each class group is given an

opportunity to regularly showcase its learning in class newsletters and class assemblies.

The pastoral care role of the St Joseph's Parents and Friends Association is a very important one. During 2017, this small, hard working parent body through its many initiatives significantly enhanced the school's sense of community, welcoming new members, catering for school functions and organising many hot lunches for the students as well as holding a number of fundraising activities.

St. Joseph's School makes every effort to communicate with, and keep informed, parents as partners through the weekly newsletter, class newsletters, special letters home, homework diaries, the Annual School Report, the enrolment package, teacher/parent contact, parent information sessions, report interviews and collaborative plan meetings initiated by school or parents.

Programs designed to meet pastoral care needs of the students included the Making Jesus Real Program, the Buddy Program, Health and Well-Being Units, daily fitness.

Celebrations as a school community build our positive school climate and culture. Significant school community celebrations included, St Joseph's Day, school and Class Masses, Prayer Assemblies, Book Week celebrations, Catholic Education Week activities and the end of year Thanksgiving Mass and Presentation / Graduation Ceremony.

To enhance our parent involvement and our communication with parents we have, under the supervision of Mrs Theresea Jarvis, established a facebook page and also an app titled SKOOLBAG. Through Facebook and Skoolbag parents are kept informed on activities throughout the school. Our weekly Newsletter, reports on excursions or sporting activities, photos of activities can be found on both while sudden changes or important news is pushed out to parents via these two apps/programs.

School Board and Parents and Friends

The St. Joseph's School Board works in collaboration with the principal in the planning for and bringing to reality improvements in all areas of function at St. Joseph's School. In 2017 the Parents and Friends through their fundraising efforts provided the school with

\$3,000 which has been used to provide a new outdoor activity area in the hill behind our presents play area. The Parents and Friends ran a very successful school Discos and very popular 'School Lunch' activities throughout the year.

Strategic Planning

The School Improvement Process commenced in 2009 with the administering of a school performance survey seeking feedback from the school community in the following areas of the school's function:

Catholic Culture and Ethos

Leadership

Learning Environment

Curriculum and Pedagogy

Student Learning and Achievement

In 2010, these indicators of performance were analysed during Stage Two of the Process at regular meetings throughout the year. The process was very capably coordinated by Miss Emma Groves. The Strategic Planning Stage commenced 2011 this and will be finalised in 2014.

Using as our basis our Annual School Plan for 2017 directed the strategic operation of the school. The Operational Goals were, on the whole, met successfully.

In 2017, \$12,000 was put aside and used for staff professional development mainly in the areas of literacy, numeracy, Religious Education, the Australian Curriculum and Persuasive Texts and I.C.T.

School Validation

In the years 2014 to 2017 St Joseph's undertook a detailed School Improvement Process. As part of this process in 2017 our school participated in a School Validation Program. *"The School Improvement Process supports schools as they continually strive to improve their practice and serve students and their families by providing holistic, high quality education in the Catholic tradition. In the service of the whole Catholic education community and of each Catholic school in Tasmania, the School Improvement Process*

provides common understandings, procedures and language, to connect schools and enable the sharing of professional practice and wisdom across networks of schools.

While parents (and careers) are the first and most enduring educators of their children, research shows that schools and teachers have very significant impact on students and their learning (Hattie, 2003). The influence schools and teachers have on the lives of students brings with it a duty and responsibility to continually strive to improve practice. The School Improvement Process supports schools and teachers to carry out and be accountable for this responsibility.

Vibrant educational learning communities are formed by transformative schools and teachers who systematically reflect and evaluate how effectively they are supporting student learning, and seek constantly to improve their practice. (Stoll, Fink and Earl, 2003).

As part of their accountability, all schools are required to engage in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission (TCEC) School Improvement Process." (Taken from School Process Framework and Process)

Throughout 2014 to 2017 St Joseph's School undertook research to ascertain parents, students and community views of our school. From the results of these surveys an extensive 5 year School Improvement plan was developed.

In September of 2017 our school was visited by a Panel from the Catholic Education Office to ascertain our successful progress in this five year School Improvement program.

Our Validation Report was highly complementary. Quoting from the report:

"In conclusion, it is the view of the Panel that the school is to be congratulated for the very real improvements it has made across all Domains and Elements of the School Improvement Framework. The work done by the Principal, Leadership Team and staff has genuinely developed St Joseph's Catholic Primary School; it is a settled, well run, pastoral and stimulating learning environment where children are being provided with a sound education."

School Registration Board

Also in May of 2017 we were required to renew our School Registration. A panel of two members of the School Registration attended our school to conduct a thorough inspection of our facilities, teaching and learning program, leadership and governance, compliance to requirements of work health and safety and financial viability.

Again the report from the School's Registration Board was highly complementary.

Building Program

Over the last ten years St Joseph's has undergone a remarkable building program. Starting in 2009 our school has been transformed from a school that could be described as being rundown to a vibrant modern school addressing the needs of all staff and pupils while accommodating the specific needs of a small, remote school in an area of extremes of weather.

2014 saw the near the completion of our School Development with a number of smaller projects to be finalised. These included increasing in size of the Eating Area on the side of the school hall and partially enclosing this area to provide shelter from inclement weather. Building two toilets at the end of the eating area will provide toileting facilities for students during Recess and Lunch time. The walkway up to the eating area was covered in as was the roofing gap between the school hall and the sheltered play area. This was accomplished in early in 2017 (Stage Five).

A major undertaking in 2016/17 was the removal of the pine bark in the 'equipment' play area to be replaced with artificial grass. This was a major project for St Joseph's as the cost was quite high. This project was highly successful, well beyond our expectations, and has allowed greater access and use of this play area and equipment for all our students.

Also as part of this project the school hall has received new glass windows and doors to bring light giving the hall a more open atmosphere.

These improvements are providing significant benefits to our students especially during our recess and lunch times and while using the hall.

Staffing 2017

Serving the St. Joseph's School Community in 2017 were:

Parish Priest of the West Coast: Fr Amal
Principal: Mr Peter McBain
Religious Education Coordinator: Mr Peter
McBain
Learning and Teaching Coordinator: Mrs Oriel
McGee

Teaching Staff 2017

Miss Lynietta Nightingale	Kindergarten
Miss Jennifer Hughes	Prep / Grade 1
Mrs Lorna Dooner	Grades 2/3
Miss Natasha Jones	Grades 4/5
Mrs Oriel McGee	Grade 5/6
Mrs Lorna Dooner	Special Learning Needs
Mrs Oriel McGee	Music / Dance / Drama
Mrs Kylie Westley	Indonesian
Ms Natasha Jones	Physical Education
Mrs Michelle Coleman	ICT Support

Teacher Assistants 2017:

Mrs Michelle Coleman
Ms Emma Cleaver
Ms Stephanie Whittle

Administration:

Administration Officer Mrs Mary Grundy
Administration Assistant Mrs Theresea Jarvis

Library Assistant: Mrs Theresea Jarvis

Cleaning: Mrs Emma Cleaver
Mrs Sharon Hodgetts

Bus Drivers:

Mr Shane McLean
Mrs Wendy Fellows

St. Joseph's School Board 2017:

Chairperson Mr Phil Micale
Secretary - Mrs Chloe Antonioli
Finance Officer Mrs Mary Grundy

Ex-Officio Board Members 2017:

Mr Peter McBain Principal
Fr Amal Parish Priest.

Parents and Friends Executive 2017:

President /Treasur	Mrs Fealy
Secretary / Fundraising	Mrs Mary deMillion
Treasurer	Mrs Mary Grundy

Staff Qualifications:

St. Joseph's School has been able to attract well qualified professional staff members.

The qualifications of professional staff in 2017 included:

Bachelor of Education	6
Master of Education	1

Farewells:

At the end of 2017 we said a very sad Farewell to Miss Jennifer Hughes and Ms Natasha Jones.

Miss Hughes moved to continue her teaching career at Laminier Catholic Primary School, Launceston while Ms Jones also moved to continue her teaching career in Launceston.

We extend our very best wishes to Miss Hughes and Ms Jones as they continue their very successful careers in their new schools.

Student Enrolment:

Student numbers fluctuated in 2017, yet still meeting the predicted enrolment of 72.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Kinder	5	6	11
Gr P - 6	33	28	61

Of the St Joseph's student population, approximately 59% reside in Rosebery, 33% in Zeehan and 8% in Tullah.

Community Involvement

St. Joseph's School prides itself on its community involvement. Our students participated in the North West Primary Schools Athletics, Swimming Carnivals and Annual Cross Country Event.

At a more local level, our students participated in Anzac Day Ceremonies in both Rosebery and Zeehan, the Folk Festival and Christmas Parade in Rosebery.

The St. Joseph's School outreach program includes caring for communities across the world, through Caritas Project Compassion and locally and the Archbishop's Samaritan Fund.

St. Joseph's is a school held in high regard in the local communities of Rosebery, Zeehan and Tullah and is generously supported by individuals, groups and families within the community who may or may not have past or present links with the school. The generosity and support is made manifest in the many

annual prizes and bursaries provided for our students by these people.

St. Joseph's School continues to serve the community with pride. In 2017, our many achievements would not have been possible without the involvement, support, loyalty and solid work given by members of the school community.

This Report was prepared by:

Peter McBain

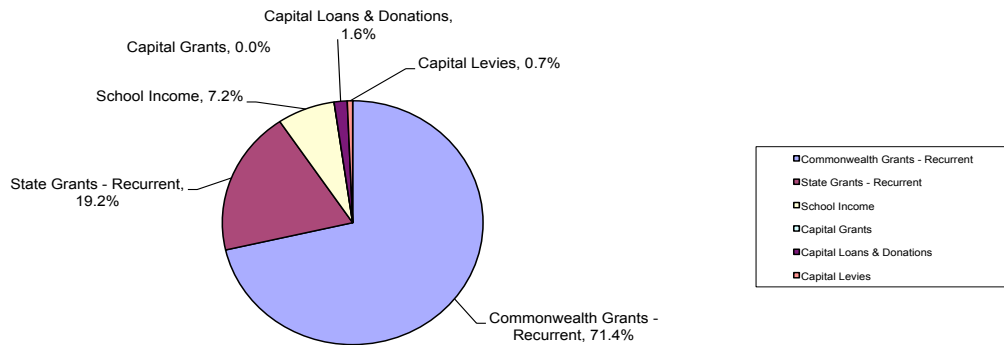
Principal

Signed: _____

Date: 01 June 2017

Summary Financial Information

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ROSEBERY SOURCES OF INCOME 2017 Total Income \$1.8 million



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ROSEBERY EXPENDITURE 2017 Total Expenditure \$1.6 million

