The School
St Joseph’s School, Lockhart is a rural school located in the Riverina district of New South Wales. We provide a comprehensive educational program for all students based on the outcomes identified by the NSW Board of Studies and the Australian Curriculum.

In 2012, the school was organised from Kindergarten to Year 6 each day in four classes. These were K, 1, 2 and 3/4/5/6. Support staff included two permanent part-time teachers, three special needs teacher assistants, a clerical assistant and a cleaner.

The school principal and staff are assisted by a School Council and report to the Parish Council of St Mary’s Church Lockhart on a bi-monthly basis.

This annual report was prepared in conjunction with stakeholders at St Joseph’s School.

Catholic Identity
Our vision is to inspire and motivate each child towards achieving their full potential through Jesus Christ’s love.

Religious Education is integral to all that occurs at St Joseph’s Lockhart. The Diocesan Religious Education program ‘Sharing Our Story’ forms the basis of the R.E. program.

The school works in close rapport with St Mary’s Parish of Lockhart, its Priest, Father Darren Howie, the Parish Council and Parish Community. The school and parish mutually support each other for the benefit of all. Each class is responsible for the preparation of a Mass on a regular basis. Students in Years 3 and 4 received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and those in Years 5 and 6 received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Student Council of St Joseph’s Lockhart provides support for the Catholic Missions and other worthwhile foundations by raising funds through a variety of activities each year. The amount raised in 2012 was a record amount and was a credit to the students and their families.

The school’s Pastoral Care Policy is embedded within all school policies and treats all individuals with respect, dignity and Catholic values.

A Message from key School Bodies
2012 has gone again extremely quickly at St Joseph’s with many things being achieved at our wonderful school. You only have to drive past to notice how great things do look. To my fellow council members I thank you for your support during the year, it was a great privilege to work with you on the school council and I appreciate your time and thoughts.

In the last 12 months we have achieved a lot here at St Joseph’s with the main project being the addition of our new classroom. This project has taken some time to get to this point let me tell you. Countless meetings, phone calls, working bees, but look what we have achieved. I believe we have a very modern presentable classroom that makes the other rooms jealous. Many thanks go out to my fellow council members and in particular Liza Gooden. Liza put hours of her time to organise the building, council regulations, and all those little things. Thank you Liza. I also have to thank all the parent helpers who put their time and effort to make this all happen. A lot of working bees were organised and no one ever had a problem in helping. There are just too many people to single out for your efforts, so thanks. I do have to mention Brian and Di Turton for their generous donation of a disability ramp which was needed for the new classroom. We thank them very much. We do have a very excited Year 1 Class who has filled the room up with bright and wonderful work. Thank you to the parents for your weekend duties throughout the year and for your help with fundraising events. Fundraising is very important for the school and goes towards covering our expenses.

We had a Harvest Grain drive pledge giving families the opportunity to donate any spare grain, which did go towards our new classroom. I would like to thank families who donated, as this was much appreciated. We are running it again this harvest so we would love to get a similar result. We do have a very proactive Council group, and with the support of the schooling families, I see this a very exciting time ahead and a pleasure to be Chairman of the school.

Back in March we did have a flood go through our school once again. You wouldn’t think it could be possible to be bigger than 2010 but
it was. Thanks go out to the people who were able to help clean up the mess. Luckily our classrooms weren’t flooded. A lot of sporting equipment was damaged, but through insurance we have all new wonderful stuff. The children are thrilled and so are we. I would like to personally thank two families that are leaving the school, they have all contributed in many ways and their presence will be missed around the school. Thank you to Bonnie and Dave Schneider and Robyn and Rodney McDonnell for all your hard work and I wish their children the best in their secondary education.

On conclusion I would like thank Debbie and the teaching staff for your hard work throughout 2012. I would also like to thank each and every one of you for a wonderful year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and see you all back here in 2013 with a happy smile.

THANK YOU!!
Chairman of School Council
Trent Gooden

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing
In NAPLAN testing results for 2012, the results of the standard deviations between State and school were that there was a trivial to small difference in writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation in both Year 3 and Year 5 with a noticeable difference in reading in Year 3.

Professional Learning
In 2012, staff have undergone varied professional development in various curriculum based areas including Reading Recovery continuing contact, First Steps Writing, SENA Administration, compliance workshops in CPR and Child Protection, Live Life Well @ School, Inclusive Practice, Making Jesus Real, Inquiry Learning, Wellbeing, Beststart training, John Hattie’s Visible Learning, Tac-P language and curriculum reviews in Religious Education and Creative Arts.

Teaching Staff
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:
A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
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Student Attendance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>95.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>88.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>93.19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>94.62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>92.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>94.47%</td>
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Student Non-Attendance
At St Joseph’s School, the following procedure is adopted in cases of student non-attendance;
- The parent/carer of the child is to be contacted by the school.
- The parent/carer is informed that they have a legal obligation to notify the school about their child’s absence.
- If the school feels that the absence has not been appropriate ie. truancy, the school at this time makes an appointment for the parent/carer to meet with the school principal to put procedures in place for the student to be able to meet legislative requirements in their attendance at school.

Enrolment Policy
Enrolments are considered for all children after turning five years of age. A transition program is organised annually to assist in the enrolment process. No Catholic child will be refused a Catholic Education on financial grounds. Enrolments of non-Catholic children are accepted as long as there is sufficient accommodation for these children, the Parish Priest and Principal are in agreement with the enrolment, the pupil participates in all religious observances as allowed by doctrine and the proportion of non-Catholic pupils does not become so large as to affect the Catholic ethos of the school. Full details are
available from the CSO’s policy which is available on the web site – www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Characteristics of the Student Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
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*Language background Other Than English

School Policies

Discipline
It is the policy of St Joseph’s School to offer all students an education of the highest quality and to assist each student to develop fully as an individual and as a member of the Catholic School community and the wider community. To this end, teachers encourage a learning/teaching environment where there is appropriate management to ensure purposeful learning. In 2011 we have put into place a draft ‘Wellbeing Policy’ which observes the right of every child to feel safe, to learn and to be treated respectfully. In acknowledging these rights, the children have the responsibility to keep themselves and others safe, to learn to do the best of their ability and let others do the same and the responsibility to treat others with respect. This school policy on student management is understood and adhered to by teachers and students.

Student Welfare
St Joseph’s School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning. This is characterised by endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, truth and honesty.

A safe and secure environment is developed when all members of the school community respect an individual’s rights and freedoms, responsibilities and duties, as well as responding to the needs of students, staff and community. The Pastoral Care policy of St Joseph’s School asserts that students have a right to a safe environment at school and that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Clearly defined steps will be taken to protect students in a safe, healthy and friendly environment.

Complaints and Grievances
Complaints and suggestions can be opportunities for growth and improvement. Complaints, as well as compliments and other constructive feedback, create opportunities for a school to improve its services and prevent future problems. A community that is open to complaints and suggestions is characterised by signs of impartiality and confidentiality, respect for the dignity of those involved, and is proactive in ensuring there is no fear of victimisation. The processes in the Complaints Handling Procedure at St Joseph’s School are to ensure procedural fairness, with a fair hearing and a deliberated decision.

School Policies
These policies are available on the school website www.sjloww.catholic.edu.au or in full text at the school office upon request.

Changes to School Policies
Minor changes were made to some school policies in 2012 on a needs basis.

Improvement Targets
In 2012, the main priorities in our school’s Annual Improvement Plan were as follows;
- Beginning implementation of our MORE project
- Reading Recovery Continuing Contact
- Implementation of language project
- ‘First Steps’ Writing training and follow up
- Work Health & Safety audit

In 2011, the main priorities in our schools Strategic Renewal Framework were as follows;
- Reading Recovery training
- Initiation of teacher Professional Learning Plans
- 2011 CSO conference
- Language/speech program
- Continuation of the ‘Making Jesus Real’ program

All of these priorities were addressed.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility
We are committed to preparing young people for tomorrow’s world by providing an education which is congruent with the values of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic
Church. Our school’s Vision and Mission statement is based on respect for others and the children taking personal responsibility for their actions.

In putting these values into action, we participated in National Schools Clean Up Day to enhance our school and provide service to our local area. The school also participated in community based events such as Senior Citizens Week, ANZAC Day, the Lockhart Show, meeting with the Governor of New South Wales, the Wagga Wagga Schools Extravaganza and Remembrance Day as well as activities based on being more aware of those in need such as an environmental workshop and Mission Day.

The Life Education program is highly valued and supported at St Joseph’s, promoting nutrition, active lifestyle, communication, problem solving, personal health choices and growth development. In keeping our students safe, we also participated once again in our annual intensive swimming program in which all students benefitted from these life-saving skills being taught. We also joined with Central School to be involved in Bike Week activities.

Student leadership is encouraged at our school through the Student Council. Student councillors are elected by their grade peer group each term. Our school also holds elections each year for school captains and sports captains.

The Student Council members are drawn from each class across the school population. The school captains and Year 6 cohort are permanent council members for the calendar year. This forum provides an opportunity for students to propose, discuss and present ideas, suggestions and requests to the appropriate adult group of staff, school council or parish council.

The school’s ‘buddy system’ supports new enrollees, especially Kindergarten students. There is also an orientation day to support the children who are enrolling at our school. Our transition program was continued this year, where the new Kindergarten children for 2013 spent one morning per week in the Kinder classroom for the last half of Term 4. This has been very successful for all those involved.

In the ‘Self and Relationships’ units of the PDHPE program, the students have been involved in ongoing experiences about interpersonal relationships, growth and development. In addition to this, each class at the beginning of the school year, establishes ‘Norms of Behaviour’ to promote respect and responsibility in the classroom. We also had a touring group at the school who performed ‘Return of the Bully’ to promote awareness in wellbeing.

The Year 6 students travelled to Wagga Wagga for a leadership conference this year and used the skills and ideas from this to benefit the school. They began ‘The Buzz’ which was a weekly 2-page addition to the school newsletter, designed and written by them.

The school also continued the implementation of the Making Jesus Real program which challenged the students to become responsible for their own growth as a person and develop a good attitude towards the things that they encounter in life.

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Joseph’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at St Joseph’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Financial Statement Summary

About This Report

This report was generated using information available from the school. This includes annual improvement plans, school policies, weekly newsletters, surveys and reports to and from the school and wider community as well as from data supplied by the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga.

The report was written by the Principal, Debbie Sheather, in December, 2012.

It has been presented to the Parish Council of St Mary’s Lockhart, the school community of St Joseph’s Primary School Lockhart with the full knowledge of the school staff and the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.