Principal’s Message
The purpose of this annual report is to provide an open account of 2004 at St Mary’s School Yoogali.
My thanks to every member of the St Mary’s community for making 2004 such a successful year. To the dedicated staff, who worked so tirelessly in the interests of the children’s education; congratulations on a job well done. To the parent community whose enthusiasm for supporting St Mary’s never wavers and can be seen in evidence in so many ways from the tuckshop, to working bees, fundraising and reading groups; thank you all.
2004 at St Mary’s clearly shows when we work together towards a common goal, great things are possible.

Mary-Jane Simms

Our vision for St Mary’s
We strive for St Mary’s to be:
- A vibrant Christ-centred parish school, based on Gospel values;
- A dynamic learning community, educating for lifelong learning: body, spirit, heart and mind;
- A positive, welcoming environment, where the skills and talents of each individual are valued and developed, so that each person reaches their full potential.

TEACHING AND LEARNING
New curriculum for St Mary’s.
From the start of 2004, Sharing Our Story became the diocesan Religious Education program used in all schools throughout the diocese of Wagga.
At the start of the year John Goonan, Religious Education Coordinator for our diocese, travelled to Yoogali to provide inservice training to St Mary’s and St Therese’s staff. This training day provided us with an excellent understanding of the philosophy of the program and a great enthusiasm for teaching Religious Education using it as a tool.

Sacramental Programs
St Mary’s has become rather well known for its powerful and moving liturgies, especially on major sacramental occasions. In 2004 we continued this fine tradition. First Reconciliation took place on the evening of July 29. The First Communion candidates received the Eucharist for the first time on October 31.
Confirmation took place on August 28 and 29. We were greatly indebted to Bishop Hanna for providing an extra mass for Confirmation at Yoogali this year.
Liturgies
Throughout the year classes prepare the First Friday liturgy for our parish. These masses are a joyful celebration of our faith, alive with music, drama, art and liturgical movement. The theme for each mass reflects the children's current focus in Religious Education.

Children's Masses
To celebrate our place as a parish school, once per term St Mary's school hosts the Sunday mass in our parish. Families from within the school band together to take on roles in the liturgy and organise morning tea after mass. We see it as an opportunity to build fellowship within our parish community.

Mission Week
At St Mary's we believe it is important for the children to understand that they can help others through their actions.
During Mission Week in October a mini-fete was held. All classes provided a stall and $503.50 was raised for disadvantaged children in developing countries.

Creative Arts
St Mary's students have the opportunity to express themselves creatively in a variety of ways. The children engage in Visual Arts, Music, Dance and Drama gaining skills which are showcased in a variety of ways, such as whole school assemblies which are held every three weeks, masses, paraliturgies and participation in the Leeton Eisteddfod. During 2004 the musical Bebopaloosa was our major focus.

Bebopaloosa
St Mary's developed and staged 'Bebopaloosa: The Show' in December 2004. This was a showcase of all the performing arts talents, which St Mary's has to offer. The show was a combination of students' acting, singing and dancing.

Every student in the school was involved in the performance of Bebopaloosa. The Infants classes had the audience remembering and singing along to the music from the fifties, sixties and seventies, whilst Years 3, 4 and 5 relived the music from the eighties, nineties and the current sounds. The Year Six students performed the spoken dialogue and dramatic parts.

The Wider Community
Demaris our Sponsor child
Since 2001, St Mary's has been sponsoring Demaris Mwangi through World Vision. Demaris, a young girl from Kenya, is now ten years old. Through fundraisers such as the 'Crazy Hair Day' in September the children raised funds to meet our financial commitment to Demaris.

Caring for Demaris and taking part in Mission Week activities helps us to actively live our faith and maintain our commitment to being thinking, caring, global citizens.

Sports Report
2004 was a great year for St Mary's sport. As well as our St Mary's Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals we had a number of students represent the school at deanery and diocesan levels, as well as students who represented the diocese at MacKillop level. Congratulations must go to these students, as they did a fantastic job in representing our school.
In 2004 St Mary’s students were involved in a number of sports gala days, designed to give the children the chance to experience a wide range of sports, and acquire some new skills along the way. The students were able to participate in Rugby Union, AFL and Soccer clinics. It is hoped that the students will be able to extend this next year to include netball also.

St Mary’s were fortunate to have two students receive a coveted Diocesan sports award this year. Awards are for students who have represented the diocese in more than one sport. Congratulations to Renee Simpson and Tynetta French who did both themselves and their school proud.

Darrell Wallace
2005 Sports Coordinator

Kindergarten Orientation
Features of the 2004 Kindergarten Orientation program:

- three sessions with Kindergarten teacher Miss Fattore allowing the children to experience school at different times of the day
- Year 6 students as buddies for the new Kinders
- information session with the principal and Parents and Friends Association president
- A chance to get to know other parents at a morning tea supplied by the Kinder parents of 2004.

School Policies
At St Mary’s the staff, have worked to ensure that we have a thorough understanding of our roles, responsibilities and procedures. To facilitate clear and open understandings the staff annually reviews St Mary’s policies. Our Pastoral Care policy is the foundation of our interactions with each other. Staff and children set norms at the commencement of each year in keeping with our belief that positive relationships underpin our school.

Policies on discipline and student welfare (including bullying) have been formed to respect the dignity of each individual. Complaints and grievances are also dealt with in keeping with our Vision and Mission statement. All classes have a copy of the St Mary’s policies and procedures.

New report for St Mary’s
During 2004, with the support of Bernadette Gibson from the Catholic Schools Office, the staff of St Mary’s began preparing a new report form for 2005. The purpose of this change was to ensure that our report format is in line with recent changes to some board of studies syllabus documents and accurately reflects the teaching and learning that is taking place in our school.

There will be four different reports in 2005.
Early Stage One (Kindergarten)
Stage One (Year One and Year Two)
Stage Two (Year Three and Year Four)
Stage Three (Year Five and Year Six)

It takes two years for the children to complete the syllabus requirements for stages one, two and three.

CURRICULUM FOCUS
Mathematics
All New South Wales schools must teach according to documentation from the Board of Studies. With the introduction of the new Board of Studies Mathematics syllabus, Mathematics was a particular curriculum focus at St Mary’s in 2004.

The focus for Mathematics within the new syllabus is to ensure that problem solving is more embedded into every unit of work. The new syllabus aims to ensure that questioning, reasoning, and applying strategies are more evident in the teaching and learning of Mathematics.

Bernadette Gibson from the Catholic Schools Office assisted the staff to
become familiar with the new documents through staff meetings and pupil free days.

Throughout 2004 updating our computer hardware throughout the school continued to be a focus for the St Mary's Board. Our thanks to Father John McGee, Anthony Biondo and Robert Vardanega for their diligent, continued efforts behind the scenes to see this through.

All classes now have direct access to the internet via the diocesan intranet. Training in how to best use this technology in the classroom was the focus of a staff training day conducted by Michael Vineburg, Diocesan Information Technology Education Officer in April. Our focus in 2005 will be to upgrade the software within the school according to the specific needs of classes.

**SPECIALISED ITALIAN PROGRAM CONTINUES**
In 2004 all classes at St Mary's participated in the Italian language program. Infants classes took part in 30 lessons each week whilst primary classes engaged in the Italian language program for 40 minutes each week. Mrs Eleonora Taranto, a specialist Italian teacher visited St Mary’s one day per week to implement this program. The Italian language program is partially funded by Co.As.It, the Italian Association of assistance and will continue in 2005.

**Students with special needs**
In the diocese of Wagga we believe that every child must be given the opportunity to achieve their optimum level of learning.
During 2004 some of our students received funding for additional assistance to support their learning. Funding is provided by the diocese of Wagga and both federal and state governments. This funding enables us to provide individual assistance to students to address their particular areas of need.

**Extension and Enrichment**
Mrs Liz Tynan co-ordinated the Enrichment and Extension program at St Mary's. This program ran weekly for one term and aimed to extend the critical thinking and creative skills of the children.

**Student Achievement**
The students in Year 3 and Year 5 undertook the Basic Skills test on August 4 and the Primary Writing Assessment task on July 28. These state-wide assessments provide diagnostic information to parents and the school about literacy and numeracy achievements. These tests form a part of our overall assessment data and help to provide direction for planning to meet the children's academic needs. St Mary's aims to provide quality education and this is evidenced in the children's results in the Basic Skills test. St Mary's results continue to be very pleasing.

**Staff Achievement**
The Staff undertook a variety of inservices throughout 2004 to keep them up to date with best practice in education. These included:
- Mathematics syllabus-developing a sound working knowledge and creating school policies to support our teaching
- Myinternet - training of staff in functions and features of the new diocesan intranet
- Harassment and Privacy legislation-Child Protection-Caitlin Grant
- Copyright for Schools-Mark Moriarty
- C.P.R update and Emergency Care

**School Renewal**
**Planning for growth**
With seven classes for the first time at St Mary’s in 2004 an extra classroom was needed. This was delivered during January
and created quite a buzz of excitement within our community.

A huge debt of thanks must go to the 2003/2004 St Mary’s Board for their wisdom and efforts in seeing this project through from the planning stage to such a successful conclusion.

The Casella family in particular must be acknowledged for their generous donation, which made this project possible, as must everyone who helped get the new building ready for use. The installation of the Casella room strongly highlighted the marvellous community spirit that is a hallmark of our school.

On March 1 2004, the St Mary’s community gathered together for the blessing and opening of the Casella room. Bishop Gerard Hanna Bishop of the diocese of Wagga blessed the new facility. A plaque commemorating the occasion was unveiled by John Casella and Bishop Hanna. Following the official opening the community gathered for a barbeque tea to celebrate the happy occasion.

**Successful Block Grant Application**

**In March 2004 St Mary’s applied to the Catholic Block Grant Authority for a grant for refurbishment of our school.**

The application included a proposal for a new administration area, library and canteen and for refurbishments to the staffroom. The projected cost of this project is $361,567.

The Catholic Block Grant Authority provides 70% of the projected project amount to successful applicants. We were informed early in 2005 that our application had been successful. **St Mary’s is to receive a grant of $253,097.00.**

We are indebted to the St Mary’s Board and Diocesan Financial Administrator, David Shaw for their input into this application.

These redevelopments will be a major focus for St Mary’s in 2005. With the support of the St Mary’s School Council and in consultation with the staff and school community, planning will take place to maximise the potential of the grant funds. Our aim is to build facilities that will meet our needs now and into the future.

![Student Enrolment Chart](chart)

**St Mary’s staff for 2004**

Principal: Mrs MaryJane Simms
Assistant Principal: Sharon Croce
Religious Education Coordinator: Sharon Croce
Physical Education Coordinator-Rani Piva
Kindergarten: Linda Fattore
Year One: Sharon Croce
Year Two: Jane Docherty/MaryJane Simms
Year Three: Stacey Freebody
Year Four: Rani Piva
Year Five: Darrell Wallace
Year Six: Melissa Foley/Kim De Paoli
Special Needs Assistants:Loretta Malcolm
Janitos Bortolin
Secretary: Kym Beltrame (leave replacement)
Italian Program: Eleonora Taranto
Librarian: Lucia Gullotta
Cleaning Contract: Mary Wade

St Mary’s prides itself on its dedicated and professional staff. All teachers at St Mary’s have provided the Catholic Schools office with documentary evidence of their teaching qualifications and have been approved for teaching within the diocese of Wagga.
Financial Statement Summary

This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

2004 Parents and Friends Report

2004 proved to be a very busy fundraising year. Once again our dedicated and hardworking Parents and Friends Association was able to meet the school’s fundraising target. 2004 got off to a great start with $7,500.00 being raised through our famous Lamington Drive. This was followed up by a children’s disco and an unforgettable Mothers’ Night Out in Term Two, which was enjoyed immensely by not only our school mums but also mums from the wider community. Also in Term Two, our school accepted a challenge from St Therese’s school, Yenda for a Trivia Night. Although closely contested, St Mary’s eventually came away with a great win.
Our successes in 2004 could not have been possible without the generosity and support of our St Mary's families who are all to be congratulated on our achievement. A special mention must be made of our 2004 Tuckshop Committee. Their endless work, effort and dedication to our school was to be commended. The Parents and Friends Association looks forward to another very successful year in 2005.

Louise Vardanega
President
St Mary's Parents and Friends Association

Focusing forward

St Mary's focuses for 2005 are as follows:

- Planning and construction of new library, administration area and canteen, refurbishment of staffroom
- Continue to develop computer facilities: including hardware software and staff training
- Finalise and implement new electronic reports
- Inservice staff and renew school documentation in Mathematics and Creative and Practical Arts

Clearly another exciting year of collaboration and learning is ahead as we prepare today's children to become tomorrow's adults.

Many thanks to Melissa Foley, Darrell Wallace, Louise Vardanega, Tricia Marin and Father John McGee for their contributions to this report.

Mary Jane Simms
Principal