1. The School

1.1 The School

Vision Statement – Saint Thomas Aquinas School will be a place in which a shared commitment to a faith based on Jesus guides all our efforts.

In order to achieve this we will:

- Educate the whole person: body, spirit, heart and mind;
- Promote education in the service of a better world.

School Motto: Pray, Learn, Co-operate

1.2 Religious Education

In 2005 six students from Years Two, Three, Four and Five were prepared for, and received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The Sacramental Program was run during Term Two, with instruction provided by the school. Reception of the Sacraments was held at a Sunday parish Mass.

Attendance at parish masses was used to mark feast days and special occasions e.g. All Saints Day, Ash Wednesday, The Annunciation.

In December, the final school mass was celebrated by Bishop Hanna. Father Columba Macbeth Green and Father Paddy Sykes co-celebrated.

1.3 The Arts

During 2005 Saint Thomas Aquinas students entered the Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod. They were Highly Commended in the Choral Speech section for small schools.

Students submitted entries into the CWA International Day competition and the RSL Anzac Day competition.
A dramatic presentation incorporating music, dance and drama, under the banner ‘The History of Saint Thomas Aquinas School,’ was received well by the community, and served to showcase the students’ talents and skills in the Arts. The NSW Creative Arts Syllabus is used at Saint Thomas Aquinas.

1.4 Sport

During 2005 Saint Thomas Aquinas students participated in inter-school Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming, Touch Football and Soccer Carnivals.

Swimming lessons were held for all students during Term One at Borambola.

Soccer, Rugby League and AFL Development Clinics were held at the school.

Saint Thomas Aquinas uses the NSW PDHPE Syllabus.

1.5 General and Specific School Initiatives

Saint Thomas Aquinas students visited nursing home residents, sharing meals and performing for them.
Students experienced a day in a Wagga school.
Students performed percussion tunes at the annual Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon.
Students joined with Tarcutta Public School each week for lunch and play.

1.6 School Policies

It was decided not to update School Policies in light of the decision to close Saint Thomas Aquinas School at the end of 2005.

The following policies were available during 2005: Critical Incidents, Homework, Sun Safety, Supervision, Chemical Safety, Assessment Policy, Excursion Policy, Sacrament Policy, Pastoral Care and Discipline; as well as policies for all Key Learning Areas.

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established polices which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at: http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm
The implementation of these policies is supported by the Catholic Schools Office.

2. Information on Key School Programs

2.1 Curriculum Focus

Following the installation of new computer facilities towards the end of 2004, emphasis was placed on the use of computer technology and My Internet.
2.2 Programs to Support Students

During 2005 a teacher assistant was employed to support student learning.

2.3 Student Achievement

Basic Skills Testing and Primary Writing Assessment were conducted, showing student achievement of:
Up to Band 5 in Literacy
Up to Band 5 in Numeracy
Up to Band 3 in Primary Writing Assessment

3. School Renewal

A School Renewal Framework was prepared. The process included consultation with Saint Thomas Aquinas staff and P & F. The main items included: School maintenance and beautification project, developing the use of technology for learning, and increasing school profile in the community. The SRF was revised following the decision to close STA at the end of 2005.

4. School Overview

4.1 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile

Eleven students were enrolled at Saint Thomas Aquinas during 2005, in the following grades:

- Kindergarten – 2 students
- Year One – 4 students
- Year Three – 2 students
- Year Four – 2 students
- Year Five – 1 student
- Year Six – 1 student

4.1 Structure of Classes

Saint Thomas Aquinas operates a single K-6 class.

4.2 Staffing

All staff have appropriate qualifications.

4.3 Parent Involvement and Participation

Saint Thomas Aquinas P & F Committee met on the second Monday of each month. The Committee had been extremely active and supportive of the school and contributed a great deal via regular fundraising and maintenance.
During 2005 the P & F Committee abandoned fundraising plans following the decision to close STA at the end of 2005.

Parents were involved in school excursions, including a major excursion to the Gold Coast in Term Four.

### 4.4 Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are used by the school for educational purposes and the parent community for social occasions.

Parish council meetings are occasionally held at the school.

### 4.5 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.

#### Income

- School Fees: 8%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 66%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%

#### Expense

- Salary and Related Expenses: 85%
- Non Salary Expenses: 15%

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About this Report:
This report was prepared by the Principal, Mr Simon Shields