2006

Annual Report
Sacred Heart Primary
Tocumwal

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Introduction
Sacred Heart is a small Catholic rural school in the Murray Darling Basin, which supports families with the holistic development of their children. As a staff we live and model the teachings of Jesus and how they apply to everyday life.

1. The School

1.1 Sacred Heart Primary School

Vision Statement
Sacred Heart Primary School Tocumwal as a community is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school.

Mission Statement
Sacred Heart Primary is a community of Learners where the children, staff and parents are witnesses to their faith. Therefore we:
+ model gospel values when dealing with others
+ promote, through our religious education programme, a knowledge and understanding of Catholic teachings and a celebration of the sacraments
+ foster an environment which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviours towards others
+ demonstrate care and support for all members of our learning community
+ participate in regular liturgies and celebrations of prayer

As a community of Learners parents are acknowledged and supported in their role as prime educators. Therefore we:
+ provide regular recognition of parental efforts
+ provide opportunities and encourage parents to be involved in our learning community
+ provide opportunities for members of our learning community to participate in a broad range of activities at different venues
+ meet regularly to exchange information about their child

As a Community of Learners we promote the balanced development of the whole person. Therefore we:
+ provide quality education through spiritual, academic, emotional, physical and social programmes that stimulate, challenge and support our children
+ promote opportunities that develop leadership, responsibility, acceptance, tolerance, confidence, cooperation, flexibility and self-esteem
+ recognize the talents of all members of our learning community
+ have a Pastoral care policy which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviour towards others
+ utilize the 7 Key Learning Areas (Religion, English, Maths, Human Society and its Environment, Science & Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative & Practical Arts) to extend, challenge and support all children.

As a Community of Learners we, as leaders strive for personal excellence, equality of opportunity and justice for all. Therefore we:
+ regularly participate in professional development either formally or informally and record all professional development completed
+ use staff meetings for professional dialogue and the development of all the Key Learning Areas
+ Incorporate ideas into the newsletter that affirm and/or challenge parents as they support their children.

Religious Education
Sacred Heart Primary School is a Parish Primary School which we see as an extension of the local Catholic Church, existing for and serving that Church.

The school promotes values and attitudes that will enhance the growth and development of the parish school children. School resources will be made available for the good of the whole Parish. The participation of the Priest and the parishioners in the school will always be sought for furthering the growth and development of our community.

Correspondingly, the school will seek to involve itself in supporting Parish activities. Prayer is an important part of the life of Sacred Heart School community. Through school and classroom prayer we join as a community to pray. Teachers pray with children daily. Staff and children are encouraged to share prayerful experiences, both formally and informally. Our Religious Education co-ordinator and Music teacher supports the Religious Instruction in our school with her wealth of talent in both these areas. Fr Martin Cruickshank our Parish Priest has a strong supportive presence in the school and is always willing to give of his time to the various families of our Parish.
The school Religious Education Curriculum is called Sharing Our Story K-12. This document is supported by RELATE Religious Education, Learning & Teaching Journal that is supplied to all the teaching staff. Sacramental programs are conducted in the school with the support of the parish and the Parish Priest. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in Year 3. Eucharist is offered in Year 3 and Confirmation in Years 5 & 6 (every even year).

**The Arts**

Music lessons include breathing and vocal exercises, rhythm and time recognition, musical terms e.g. ritardando, < > etc, playing of percussion instruments with arrangements by Peter Leyden. The students sing popular songs, musicals, country songs, songs for special events e.g. Anzac Day. etc. Religious hymns are also taught which are used for Religious and Liturgical ceremonies and lessons. Children perform at school assemblies, entertain with end-of-year performances and also perform at the Lion’s Hostel for the Aged.

**Sport**

Physical Education is a lynch pin in the School environment. Each day the students partake in some form of sport. The School holds an annual Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnival. Children have the opportunity to go on to compete in Deanery and Diocesan level sporting events. Several programmes are initiated at the School – Jump Rope for Heart (The Heart Foundation) Swimming lessons are conducted by an accredited instructor twice a year. Auskick, from time to time – sporting clinics are held locally so the children can access the very latest in skill development eg Milo Cricket.

**School Initiatives**

At the beginning of each year a Senior student is paired with a new Kindergarten student to offer peer support, this relationship is fostered throughout the year through various tasks undertaken, e.g. boarding the bus, playground activities, school orientation. Kindergarten orientation occurs each November when for one day each week the new Kinders are invited to come and take part in school activities. The school is encouraging those parents with school age Pre-Schoolers to think about part-time school, for the transition to full-time schooling. A research project has been started to trial a social and emotional program written by Michael E. Bernard, PhD. Called “You Can Do It”. This program if suitable will be inserviced to all the staff and implemented in term 2 2007.

**School Policies**

During 2006 the staff of Sacred Heart have been actively working towards the development of a new Plain English Reporting System, this will be completed in time to trial during term two. In 2006/7 the school will continue to review & develop school Curriculum & Policy.

www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

The welfare of all students at Sacred Heart is of concern to all the staff at school. School staff do their best to care for each and every student’s needs at school and in the home environment if the need arises. It is part of building a Christian Community to care for all in that community where possible. The staff encourages all students to strive for self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanction. It is our aim that students will gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. All complaints from parents and guardians are firstly dealt with by the class teachers and then passed onto the Principal for further consideration if there is a need.

**School Council**

The Sacred Heart School Council brings together representatives of all those within the parish who are concerned with the work of the Catholic School. The School Council is comprised of:

- The Parish Priest
- The School Principal
- One Staff Representative
- Two or three parents elected by parents
- One representative appointed by the School Auxiliary
- One representative from the Parish

The School Council meets at the school on the second Wednesday of each month.

**2. Information on Key School Programs**

**Curriculum Focus**

During 2005 the Curriculum focus was to improve Math skills throughout the school year. The Curriculum focus for 2006 is Creative Arts. Both KLA’s are undergoing curriculum audits to bring them in line with the latest trends in teaching and learning and The Board of Studies.

**Programs to Support Learning**

The school is now fully networked and wireless throughout each classroom, staffroom, office and learning centre (library). In 2006 Trish McKenna our Technology skills teacher will focus on improving the skills of the students and staff in
computing. She presents a technology lesson for all students K-6. She also in-services the staff once a month on the latest trends or improvements in Education and Technology.

Reading Recovery is an early intervention reading program that is implemented in Year 1. Children needing extra support in this area are targeted and given 20 weeks intensive reading support by Mr Pat Boake.

**Equity Programs**
Sacred Heart is a CAP (Country Areas Program) school. This means that the school develops needs-based priorities for funding each year. The programs developed include excursions to Melbourne, DECA – Driver Education in Shepparton, Melbourne Zoo, Canberra, Sport and Recreational camps where available, Dance workshops and development of Technology skills.

**Programs to Support Students**
Through support from our governing body we can offer student support in various ways. We have a family counselor who works through the Catholic organization called Centrecare – she visits the school regularly and has several students on her files. We have a special needs assistant – she currently works 22.5hrs each week with students deemed to have disabilities. Each year the school is visited by the Life Education Van – this has the facility to enhance the students learning through real life strategies.

**Respect and Responsibility**
Sacred Heart encourages our students to self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanctions. The students gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. The attainment of self-discipline can be fostered by giving students a degree of responsibility, according to the situation. Where student behaviour is inappropriate or unacceptable a discipline response may be considered necessary. The purpose of any punishment should be reformatory, directed towards altering attitudes and subsequent behaviour. Any students who come into conflict with the standards of our school must be made aware that it is their actions and not the student that is unacceptable.

**Student Achievement**
State-wide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks. Sacred Heart has participated in BST Literacy & Numeracy since 1998 and BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

**Year 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Skills 1998 to 2006**
The students at Sacred Heart in years 3,4,5&6 participate in the NSW University Tests. These tests give each student the opportunity to experience an external test. These tests are returned to the University of NSW for marking. All results are sent back to the school and then passed onto the parents. The KLA’s covered by this year’s testing are Literacy, Maths & Science. As a school we achieve high results in these tests. With children receiving annually credits and distinctions in their results.

The children in years 3&5 each year sit a State-wide Basic Skills Test. (BST) These cover the KLA’s of Numeracy and Literacy, and in particular the art of writing. As a small rural school we always perform above average in these tests with the results also being sent to the school parents. The professional teaching staff at Sacred Heart then analyse the various data produced from the test and use it along with other forms of assessment to guide their future teaching.

**Staff Achievement**
Mr Pat Boake – Reading Recovery Training Continuing Contact.
Ms Kelly Druett – Teaching & Learning and the development of Integrated Teaching Units.
Mrs Melissa Jones – Teaching & Learning and the development of Integrated Teaching Units.
3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

Vision and Mission
This will continue to be displayed around the school and the classrooms. It will also be published in the school newsletter and in the foyer of the Church.

Policies & Curricula Programs
The Math program in the school will be reviewed this year and the Creative Arts will be audited by the staff for its review in 2007.

Leadership & Administration
All compliance records will be completed and the Principal will continue to share his professional reading with the school staff.

Professional Development
The staff will receive professional development in Creative Arts, Chemical Safety, My Internet, Senior First Aide, Religious Education, Reading Recovery & Harassment.

Facilities & Resources
The School Maintenance Plan will continue to be completed when school funds become available.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment

Enrolment Policy
The school enrolment for 2006 has stayed steady with it being in the low fifties. There is a low rate of non-attendance by children Enrolment policy can be found at: www.eso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Student Enrolment Profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Student attendance and retention rates
Sacred Heart has a high attendance and retention rate of students at our school.

Post-school destinations
Students attend Finley High School or St Mary’s Nathalia at the completion of their primary schooling.

Structure of Classes
Sacred Heart Primary School Class Structures

Junior Room
Kinder and Year1 Teacher- Mrs Melissa Jones
Full-time Classroom Teacher.

Middle Room
Years 2, 3 & 4 in 2005. Mr Pat Boake – Four days a week teaching (.8) Principal Release one day a week (.1) Mrs Marcia McGrillen one teaching day a week (.1)

Senior Room
Years 5 & 6 Teacher- Ms Kelly Druett.
Full-time Classroom Teacher.

Staff

Teacher Standards
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
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher Attendance and Retention
The federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 93.5% was achieved in 2006 by staff at Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal.

Parent Involvement and Participation
School Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss the needs of the School. In 2005/2006 the School Auxiliary was made a fundraising team of the School Council and now there is one parent meeting per month. The School Council has enlisted the help of all parents to be part of teams designed, to assist in fund raising for the School, including a Tuckshop Team and a Uniform Team.
Community Use of School Facilities
The local Parish Community uses the school toilets before, during and after Masses. The School Library is often used by the Catholic Women’s League for their monthly meeting. The Tocumwal Cricket Club uses the school oval and cricket nets for training and playing their Saturday morning games. On the odd occasion the Tocumwal Police have used the school grounds for fitness training.

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with Sacred Heart. Twice during the year the parent and student body were surveyed and the following responses were tabulated.

Parents
My child is usually happy at Sacred Heart Primary.

<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 Sacred Heart Primary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at Sacred Heart Primary.

<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>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Statement Summary
See Appendix A

About This Report
This annual report was generated in collaboration with the Principal, the School Staff, School Parent Community, the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga and the Catholic Parish Community of Tocumwal.
APPENDIX A

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.

System Income 2006

- School Fees 14%
- Other Fee Income 5%
- State Government Recurrent Grants 21%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants 57%
- Capital Income 3%

System Expenses 2006

- Salary and Related Expenses 73%
- Non Salary Expenses 20%
- Capital Expenditure 7%
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

### Income

- **School Fees**: 7%
- **Other Fee Income**: 7%
- **Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants**: 65%
- **State Government Recurrent Grants**: 21%

### Expenses

- **Capital Expenditure**: 1%
- **Non Salary Expenses**: 15%
- **Salary and Related Expenses**: 84%