Annual Report
St Peter’s Primary School
Coleambally

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Introduction
Welcome to the St Peter's Primary School Annual Report. This annual report is written for the 2006 school year and it provides an account of what occurred at St Peter's Primary School.

1. The School

The School
St Peter's Primary School is a faith based, caring, positive, family school. It is a member of the Wagga Wagga Diocesan system of schools.

St Peter's provides Primary education to students from within the Darlington Point/Coleambally and Jerilderie Parishes. Students travel from Darlington Point and from farms within the Coleambally Irrigation Area.

St Peter's Vision Statement
St. Peter's School is a school where:

- Christ's teachings are implemented each day and where faith is fostered and nurtured.
- The staff as Catholic school educators is passionate about supporting & understanding all within the community of St. Peter's.
- Every child has the right to learn.
- We strive to accept, care, value, trust and recognize the self-worth of individuals.
- All are part of a learning journey in a happy and safe environment.
- There is a genuine partnership between children, parents, staff, Parish and the wider community.

Our school's vision statement goes hand in hand with the new Values for Australian Schools which are:

- A Fair Go
- Honesty and Integrity
- Respect and Responsibility
- Inclusion

Religious Education
Religious Education is a vital part of the curriculum at St Peter's and all classes participate daily in the Diocesan Religious Education program “Sharing Our Story”. This program was supplemented by regular visits to the classrooms by our Parish Priest, Fr Darren Howie.

Sacraments
First Holy Communion was celebrated on Sunday 18th June with 12 children receiving the sacrament for the first time. Miss Spokes did a wonderful job of preparing the children for their First Communion. The celebration was a lovely occasion with the children looking very smart in their white gowns. The celebration continued after Mass with the cutting of the cake and a cup of coffee.

On Tuesday 29th August 11 Year 2 students made the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They were thoroughly prepared for this sacrament by their teacher Mrs Sally McFadyen.

On Sunday 19th November 15 students from St Peter's were confirmed at a moving ceremony by Bishop Gerard Hanna. The church was full to capacity and Bishop Hanna was impressed with the preparation and knowledge of the children who were prepared by Yr 5/6 teacher Mr Craig Smith.

Masses and Liturgies
On Friday 12th May we held a Mother's Day liturgy with many mothers and grandmothers in attendance. The children in family groups wrote a small message to their mother which was added to a family photo and presented as a reflection as a PowerPoint display.
Our first Sunday of the Month Masses continued in 2006 with each class being responsible for the readings, prayers of the faithful and offertory. The Masses were well attended, especially the Fete Mass and the children enjoyed the opportunity to play their part in the parish.

**Project Compassion**
On Wednesday 12th April all St Peter’s children took part in a major Project Compassion activity with what we labelled our “Walk for Water”. The initial aim was to raise through sponsorship $525 for a water pump for a Tanzanian village. The children obtained sponsors and enthusiastically walked, jogged or ran around the town oval for an hour. In the end the children of St Peter’s raised an outstanding $2287 that was sent off to Caritas to help those in need in Tanzania and Australia.

**The Arts**

**Class Assemblies**
Once a term each class has the role of running the school assembly. Students from that class are responsible for introducing speakers and inviting teachers to hand out awards. The class then has the opportunity to share with the school a small item relating to something that they have been covering in class. The class may perform a play or dance, show some art work or some work in any other area.

**End of year play Christmas Play**
Each class practised long and hard for their performance on Speech Night. The K/1 class performed a play called “Aussie Night before Christmas” while the Year 2 class performed “The Little White Flower”. “Going Home for Christmas” was the title of the Year 3/4 play and while 5/6 performed “A Little Bit of Christmas”. The children really showed good dramatic skills combining humour and singing with the speaking parts and the audience were thoroughly entertained. As a lead up each class performed their play for the elderly residents of Cyprus View Lodge.

**Singing**
On Wednesday 20th December 30 children sang at the Combined Churches Christmas Carols at the Bowling Club. The children performed enthusiastically and the school received many positive comments from those present in the audience.

**School and Representative Sport**
The three main carnivals of Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics were much anticipated and again successfully run. Children were successful in progressing further in all three sporting areas and represented the school, MIA Deanery and Wagga Diocese proudly.

In Swimming 15 children represented the school at the Deanery Carnival and 4 children represented the MIA Deanery at the Diocesan Carnival. 16 children represented the school at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival with Alysia Hopwood and Luke Hogan making it to the Inter-Diocesan Carnival in Sydney. At this carnival Alysia ran a credible 26th and Luke a credible 23rd. In Athletics 25 children represented the school at the Deanery Carnival, with 6 of them then representing the MIA Deanery at the Diocesan Carnival. 4 children Rowan Lyell, Alysia Hopwood, Maddie Mannes and Louella Cadorin were selected to represent the Diocese at the Mackillop Carnival in Canberra.

Six boys from St Peter’s combined with boys from Darlington Point Public School to form a team to enter in the Trent Barrett Shield. The boys played on Thursday 31st August and were successful in winning the first round. They then progressed to the second round where they performed well again. The team went on to win the Australia Day Junior Team of the Year at the Darlington Point Australia Day Awards.
In 2006 St Peter's children combined with those of Coleambally Central School for an afternoon of Gala Sports. The children in Years 3-6 participated in games of Touch and Netball while the Kinder to Year 2 children participated in tabloid games and activities.

In addition to the school carnivals children in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to participate in Gala Days and Trials in netball, Australian Rules, cricket and touch. The children enjoyed the gala days immensely.

**School Initiatives**

**Healthy Food Expo**
During a week in August we held a Healthy Eating Expo to promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyle. During the week the children participated in a food trivia afternoon, listened to a guest speaker, our community nurse, Mrs Toni Rawson, and had the privilege of having breakfast, recess and lunch at school prepared by staff and parents. The Year 5/6 children helped prepare the menu by choosing the cereals available by comparing the salt and sugar levels. The children really enjoyed the week and learnt a lot about what foods and activities are good for our health. The week’s activities were followed by a number of Healthy Recesses where the children were given a variety of fruits and vegetables for recess.

**Meaningful Learning**
The Year 5/6 class as a part of their Mathematics class took part in the Reach for the Stars Balloon Relay. The challenge was to move a balloon over distances of 100m, 200m, 400m and 1000m on the town oval. The class split into 2 groups and planned what shape course they would run as well as how far they would each run. In class the children then compared and graphed the results and compared their times to the world records over those distances.

**School Transition Program**
Our transition program began in August with Mrs Fraser and the principal conducting a meeting at school for new and prospective parents. The preschool children participated in a four week program beginning with a two hour visit and ending in full day visit. This program ensures that moving to ‘big’ school is as stress free as possible for the child and parents.

**Student Representative Council**
The Student Representative Council met 2 or 3 times each term during lunchtimes. The SRC consisted of 1 representative from each year level as well as the school captains. During 2006 the children helped organise events such as Sports Mufti Day as well as giving input on what new facilities and procedures could be implemented for the good of the school.

**School Policies**

**Student Welfare and Discipline Policies**
The Student Welfare Policy and Discipline Policy are available at the school. These policies have been printed and are available in hard copy from the school office on request.

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established polices which are implemented by all schools and the implementation of these policies is supported by the Catholic Schools Office.

**Dealing with Complaints and Grievances**
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents/caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.

Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate.
The above CSO policies can be found at:  
www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council
Chairperson’s Report
2007 has been a busy year for the St Peter’s School Council. We as a school have achieved a lot during the year thanks to the parental support our school receives. 2006 has seen two major projects completed at St Peter’s.

The first project was the construction of our Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). This facility has proved to be an excellent addition to the school providing shade and refuge from the heat as well as an outdoor learning area for classes to utilise. Many thanks to the Bendigo Bank who donated funds to help cover the cost of the cement slab.

The second project was the installation of an automatic sprinkler system on the schools grounds. We were successful in obtaining a Community Water Grant from the Federal Government and in August we installed our new sprinkler system with the help of many volunteers. The new system has provided better lawn areas for the children to utilise during physical education sessions, recess and lunch breaks.

During the year we have held various working bees to maintain the school grounds and facilities. We would like to thank all the parents who have helped at working bees this year and with the mowing of the school grounds.

Barry Mannes
Chairperson
St Peter’s School Council

Parents & Friends Report
St Peter’s had another successful year in 2006 with our financial obligation to the School Council of $13,000 met yet again. The committee worked closely together to make sure our school was provided with all resources and necessities that benefit our children on their journey during their primary school years.

Our major fundraiser for the year was our annual school fete where all families worked together to make this event a very successful day both financially and socially. Other fundraisers for the year included raffles, pie drives, street stalls and the St Peter's Cookbook edition 2 which has been very popular.

Our school canteen continues to thrive with the tireless work of co-ordinators and parents to ensure our children enjoy healthy prepared food every Monday. Thankyou to all that give up their time to make this service available to the staff and children of St Peter's.

The P&F enjoy their role within the school and encourage more families to become involved with the running of our school; it has been a steep learning curve for me and one I have enjoyed immensely. Our children are St Peter's, they represent us proudly, they love their school life and it is so rewarding being involved with a committee that sees them benefit from the hard work and fundraising we provide. I encourage new faces to get involved in 2007 and look forward to working with you all closely again.

Janelle Mannes
President
St Peter’s Parents and Friends Association.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
MIA Writing Project
St Peter’s participated in the deanery wide MIA Writing Project in 2006. This whole school project began with professional development for teachers, where they were trained to administer and evaluate writing tasks that were completed by the children in all classes. The initial results helped teachers identify
class strengths and areas needing development over the first half of the project. The mid point and final writing tasks were again implemented to the children to see areas of growth and to direct future teaching. The children as a whole showed significant growth in many areas including sentence level, text structure and message quality. The MIA Writing Project has been a very worthwhile experience for students and staff to be involved in.

Creative Arts Policy
The curriculum focus for 2006 was the school’s Creative Arts Policy. During early Term 2 the staff participated in professional learning with Mandy Catena, our Education Officer and over a term rewrote the Creative Arts Policy. The new policy was then implemented for a term before being reviewed by a panel of teachers from other diocesan schools in late term 3.

Programs to Support Learning
Reading Recovery
Reading Recovery operated each day during 2006 with our Reading Recovery teacher Mr Smith. Two children from Year 1 were taught daily for half an hour per session. Monitoring is ongoing with children who have discontinued the program.

Buddy Reading
During the second half of the year all Year 6 children were paired up with those in Kinder for buddy reading. This occurred twice a week in the Kinder room and both the Kinder children and Year 6 children enjoyed it thoroughly. The Year 6’s were trained by Mrs Fraser to ensure the time spent with the Kinder children was effective for both sets of children.

Equity Programs
Indigenous Education
Indigenous children receive extra support through IESIP funding. This funding is used to employ a teacher assistant who works with the children in the classroom on literacy and numeracy development as well as attendance.

NAIDOC Week
During the first week of Term 3 St Peter’s celebrated NAIDOC Week with the library decorated accordingly. Children during their library visits were able to borrow featured indigenous books. During the week they also participated in literacy activities using aboriginal texts and visual art sessions based on aboriginal art.

Programs to Support Students
School Counsellor
Each child at St Peter’s has access to a school counsellor if needed. This may be to improve self esteem, work through family issues or to provide strategies for building positive and effective relationships. Teachers are also supported by the counsellor in dealing with the individual needs of children in their class.

Diocesan Support
Students who are at risk academically can receive testing and referral support from Diocesan Education officers. Bernadette Gibson filled this role during Term 1 and Mandy Catena from Term 2 to 4. Children are referred by their teacher and parental support is sought.

Peer Support
During Term 4 the introduction phase of the Peer Support Program was introduced with the Year 5 children running activities with groups of children from Year 4 to kinder. This program will extend in 2007 to a fortnightly meeting with the Year 6 children running the sessions with assistance if required by the supervising teacher.

Perceptual Motor Program
All children in Kinder and Year 1 participated in the Perceptual Motor Program during terms 2, 3 and 4. The PMP program benefits the children by developing perception and motor skills along with memory training. The children participate in activities that require
running, hopping, skipping, jumping, balancing, crawling, throwing, catching, bowling and sliding. This program would not be possible without the wonderful support of parents who roster on to help the teacher run the program.

Respect and Responsibility
The Values for Australian Schooling and National Safe Schools Framework are both on prominent display in the school office. The school’s Vision and Mission is closely aligned to the Values for Australian Schools and they are present in the day to day dealings with each other.

All parents and teachers were given the opportunity to attend a session with Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist Andrew Fuller. Andrew spoke to the group about resilience and what schools and parents can do to support children so that are provided with a supportive and nurturing learning environment.

Student Achievement
Statewide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic Skills 1998 to 2006
St Peter’s has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. Our school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching for the remainder of that year and for the following year.

Staff Achievement
In 2006 the staff undertook the following training:
- MIA Writing Project
- Anaphylaxis awareness
- Creative Arts Policy writing
- myclasses training
- CPR training
- New Diocesan reporting sessions
- Asthma Education
- Child Protection legislation

3. School Renewal
Progress of the School Renewal Framework
Creative Arts Policy
Our Creative Arts policy was rewritten and successfully reviewed during the 2006 school year. Recommendations from the review will be implemented during 2007.

Peer Support
An introduction to Peer Support was implemented in Term 4 and will continue throughout each term in 2007.

Covered Outdoor Learning Area
Our COLA was finally erected during 2006 and is an all purpose addition to our school. It was utilised at the end of year as our eating area as it provided refuge from the heat.

Investing in Our Schools
The School Council surveyed parents and from those results decided upon the projects that will appear in our application. The main areas of focus are ICT and air conditioning.

4. School Overview
School Enrolment
Enrolment Policy
St Peter’s has an enrolment policy and procedure that is followed to ensure the individual needs of the children entering the school can be best catered for. The enrolment policy is available at the school office.
The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolment Policy which is implemented in all schools. The CSO policy can be found at: www.cso.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>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
In 2006 St Peter’s provided 3 composite classes and 1 single stream class. These small class numbers provide good teacher student ratios and opportunities for all to learn.

The class numbers were as follows:
- Kinder/Year 1 - 23
- Year 2 - 15
- Year 3/4 - 20
- Year 5/6 - 22

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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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 98.9% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Peter Primary School, Coleambally.

Parent Involvement and Participation
Parents are a very valued part of the school community and are very active in the daily running of the school. They can be found helping out with the upkeep of the grounds, working in the tuckshop and on catering, organising stall for the fete, selling raffle tickets, helping with PMP and in classrooms and assisting with sporting carnivals.

Community Use of School Facilities
The school grounds are used for the annual school fete which is on the first Sunday in March each year. The Parish Council and Finance Committee also use the school multi-purpose room for their meetings.

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 St Peter’s Primary School.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Students
I am usually happy at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>
Staff
I am usually happy at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Financial Statement Summary
See Appendix A

About This Report
This report was written by the principal and staff of St Peter’s Primary School. The School Council and Parents & Friends reports were written by Council Chairman Barry Mannes and P & F President Janelle Mannes.
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

- **Capital Income** 5%
- **School Fees** 5%
- **Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants** 63%
- **State Government Recurrent Grants** 20%
- **Other Fee Income** 7%

### Expenses

- **Salary and Related Expenses** 73%
- **Non Salary Expenses** 16%
- **Capital Expenditure** 11%