Introduction
On behalf of the staff of St. Joseph’s School I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to making St. Joseph’s the highly successful school that it is. I would particularly like to thank the staff, the children and their parents and Father Tony for their continued support.
Graeme Urquhart
Principal

1. The School

Our Vision
In keeping with the evangelising Mission of the Catholic Church, that is to “carry forth the Good News to every sector of the human race”, St. Joseph’s School is a faith community, learning together, building the kingdom of God.

Our Mission
This shared Mission, arising from our Vision, is our commitment to our school community. Mindful of the circumstances of others, we will endeavour to meet the needs of our school community by:

- Providing a Religious Education Program, which enhances knowledge, understanding and practice of our Catholic faith tradition and one which will lead to a life of truth, love and service
- Creating a Catholic Community where all members treat each other with respect, take risks, take pride in themselves and each other, and, care about each other and recognise that everybody’s ideas and concerns are important
- Valuing the role of parents as primary educators of their children and encouraging their involvement in the life of the school
- Ensuring that Gospel values reflected in the total curriculum are obvious in the daily activities of the school community
- Promoting peace and love
- Being inclusive
- Reaching out to those in need
- Encouraging all members to grow spiritually and live out gospel values

- Treating each other with honesty and respect in a supportive and caring atmosphere
- Recognising, fostering, appreciating and celebrating cultural diversity
- Teaching a comprehensive and balanced curriculum in the Key Learning Areas
- Fostering learning as a lifelong process, providing learning opportunities and resources to cater for individual needs
- Engaging children in their learning and decision making processes
- Providing a happy and safe environment, which encourages student and teacher experimentation and risk taking to ensure the success of all
- Incorporating a range of learning styles, which enhances each child’s development
- Providing an education for students, which will prepare them for a life in which they will work collaboratively with others, exercise judgement, apply complex and diverse bodies of knowledge, continue to learn and to generate creative solutions to problems
- Promoting and continually renewing knowledge and skills through personal and professional development
- Promoting a responsible attitude towards care of the environment
- Reflecting on our practice of all of the above

Religious Education
Another busy year has gone by with the School Religious Education Program undergoing further adaptations in line with the new curriculum. This year saw more new and important elements incorporated into our Religion Program. With the full implementation of Sharing Our Story, development began on personalising the Parramatta Program to suit the needs of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Religious Education Co Coordinators from around the Diocese developed new units on Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation and were introduced to “Godly Play”; a means of presenting Bible stories to others through the use of scripts and three-dimensional representations.
Throughout the year we celebrated many important feats including those of St. Joseph and Mary MacKillop. Our initial plans to celebrate St. Joseph's Day with an outdoor tabloid were put on hold due to the unexpected and gratefully received rain. Instead we celebrated with a St Joseph's Day Race Meeting in the John O'Brien Hall.

Our Easter celebrations this year followed the events of Holy Week. We proceeded around the school grounds following the last hours of Jesus' life, beginning with Palm Sunday. Each class presented one key event retracing Jesus' final footsteps. This was a most reverent and beautiful way of identifying with Jesus in His last days.

In May we celebrated our Mother's Days Mass. This was a great opportunity to say "thanks" to our wonderful mothers and acknowledge their love and support.

Towards the end of July 25 students received First Communion. In June Bishop Hanna administered Confirmation to the Year 6 children. Most recently children from Year 2 received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. Fr Tony Schipp has been greatly involved in all sacramental programs this year and we thank him for his time and guidance.

We are grateful to our school community for their generous support throughout the year with our fundraising endeavours. This year we raised money for a number of programs including Project Compassion, the Sisters of St Joseph Outreach Program and the Children’s Mission. Overall our wonderful school community has raised over $1400.00. Each year we call for volunteers to assist with Altar serving at Mass on weekends. This year we again received strong support from our students in Years 4 to 6. Fr Tony assisted in training the Altar servers each Thursday and we thank him for his continued support.

**The Arts**

Culturally 2007 has been a very successful year for our school. Under the guidance of the class teachers our children performed very successfully in the Leeton Eisteddfod. They have had opportunities to entertain at different community functions and venues including the John O'Brien Bush Festival, the Rotary Christmas Fair and Carols by Candlelight.

Visiting performers for 2007 included Michael Mangan and the Peter and the Wolf Puppet Theatre. Years 1 to 6 travelled to Wagga Wagga to listen to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

St. Joseph’s School has a reputation for promoting the arts and encouraging its students to take opportunities to pursue their interests and develop their talents.

**Sport**

Swimming, Athletics and the Cross Country Carnivals were focal events for us during 2007. Galvin House won the Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals whilst Hartigan won the Athletics.

Quite a few children competed in Diocesan Sports Trials in Wagga and other regional centres during 2007.

Many children competed in the MIA and Diocesan Swimming Carnivals. Gemma Sullivan represented Wagga at the MacKillop Carnival in Homebush and 12 children competed at the MacKillop Athletics Carnival at Bankstown.

St Joseph’s finished well in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival with Prue Walsh, Gemma Sullivan and Stella Quast representing the Diocese at the MacKillop Carnival in Sydney. Prue Walsh was again selected to represent MacKillop at the NSWPSSA Carnival in Sydney.

In Term 3 children from Years 5 and 6 played AFL against Narrandera Public School in the Mathieson Shield and netball in the McCallum Shield. St Joseph’s won both the football and the netball. St Joseph’s also won the Dick Goss Shield for cricket.


Gemma Sullivan won the Duck Shield for Sports Person of the Year and Prue Walsh and Gemma Sullivan both won a Wagga Wagga Diocesan Sporting Award for Outstanding Participation in Sport for 2007.

**School Initiatives**

**Success for Boys**

Research has shown that many boys enjoy school and are successful in their studies. However it is of great concern that many others are underachieving against a range of key educational and broader social indicators. Australian schools know that boys are underperforming in literacy, are less engaged with school and disproportionately outnumber girls in disciplinary matters.

Through the Australian Government’s $19.4 million Success for Boys initiative, our school
applied successfully for a grant of $10750 to help meet our boy’s learning needs. The grant has enabled our school to focus on key intervention areas through the Core Module, Boys and Literacy and Boys and ICT. For 2008 we will focus on Indigenous Boys’ Transitions and Mentoring for Success. All teaching staff, teacher assistants and our Principal have participated fully in the 3 modules covered in 2007, a total of at least 18 hours professional development each. Measurable improvements have been noted in BST results, disciplinary programs, Literacy levels, engagement in learning and more positive attitudes from boys to their learning. Success for Boys has given our school a strong foundation for achieving successful outcomes for our boys. In addition to the Success for Boys Program, St Joseph’s was fortunate enough to secure additional funds as part of the Government’s Investing in our Schools Program. The funding has enabled us to refurbish the library and purchase IT equipment. As part of the refurbishment, the library was re-carpeted, new shelving, a circulation desk and a workbench was installed. In addition, approximately 3000 new books, CD’s, DVD’s and 16 laptops were added to the library. Students, staff and parents have worked together to support the library, which has now become a hub for IT enhanced teaching and learning.

School Policies
At St Joseph’s School, Curriculum Policies have been developed for all Key Learning Areas: Mathematics, English, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment, Creative and Practical Arts, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Religious Education. Copies of these policies, if required, are available from the school office. In addition, policies have been developed for the following areas; Enrolment, Casual Teacher, Excursions, Class Assemblies, Emergency Evacuation, School Visitors, Early Pickup of Students, Complaints and Grievances Resolution, First Aid, Medication, Bookwork, Homework, Reporting, Playground Support, Playground Supervision, Computer Education and Use, Integration, Programming, Coaching of Sporting Teams, Harassment, Legal Responsibilities, Copyright, Diocesan Accreditation and Programming.

Discipline
At St. Joseph’s School we believe that children respond best to an approach that encourages and rewards positive, independent behaviour. Our Discipline Policy reflects this. Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Student Welfare
We at St. Joseph’s School believe that every child has a right to be safe and feel safe. Our student welfare policies and practices guide us in achieving these goals.

Pastoral Care
Our school is a people oriented community. We aim to celebrate and affirm the dignity of all people created in the image and likeness of God.

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.

Enrolment
NSW legislation allows for the enrolment of children who turn 5 before August 1. At St. Joseph’s School, parents seeking to enrol their child / children who turn 5 after May 30 are advised of possible implications. The closing date for enrolment is advertised in the School Newsletter, the Parish Bulletin and the Narrandera Argus.

Diocesan policies on enrolment, discipline, student welfare, complaints and grievance resolution can be found at the Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga by following the link below:
www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council
This year commenced in a similar fashion to last year with both student and staff numbers being maintained. With the assistance of a number of grants we were able to refurbish the school’s playing
fields and install a computerised watering system, which hopefully will improve overall water efficiency. Another project, the renovation of the boys toilets, was made possible because of government grants. Hopefully this work will commence during the summer holiday break and be completed in time for the commencement of the 2008 school year. Our P and F are to be congratulated for their assistance this year. We appreciate their continued support, both financially and otherwise. Again St Joseph’s has continued to maintain consistent enrolments and we are looking forward to an equally successful 2008. 

John O’Mahoney
School Council Chairperson

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
The curriculum foci at St Joseph’s school during 2007 were Numeracy, English and Information Technology.

Programs to Support Learning
Reading Recovery is a literacy intervention programme for Year 1 children. Children receive one- on- one tuition for 30 minutes every day for a period of between 12 and 20 weeks. In 2007, seven children received such specialist help. In 2005 a pilot language class project began at St Joseph’s and continued into 2007. Its purpose was to provide Talking and Listening outcomes from the English K-6 Syllabus. The children targeted were those who were eligible for funding for language determined by their scores on CELF administered by a Speech Therapist; children who missed out on funding but would benefit from some additional assistance; children with significant articulation disorders.

The programme is a supplementary program and is supervised by a Speech Pathologist. In 2007 seven children in total were given some intervention in this form. Children chosen were from the Year 2 class and were given 45 minutes for 3 days a week. Five children received assistance in class for Literacy / Numeracy and Language by Teacher Assistants.

Equity Programs
ITAS and ISIEPS funding, for children of aboriginal background, was used to assist 9 children in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Programs to Support Students
The concept of shared student leadership is an important issue at St. Joseph’s. We believe that every child has the potential to act as a leader in some way whilst they are at school. It is up to us to provide the training and opportunities for this to happen.

In December the students and staff voted for the children they thought had the most appropriate leadership skills and personal qualities. These children became our student leaders for 2008. Our new leaders were introduced to the community at a special assembly. Individual Education Programs are designed, in consultation with parents and CSO Personnel, for all funded students. Classroom teachers continually modify programs to cater for the needs of students in their care.

During the year some children took the opportunity to participate, voluntarily, in German and Italian language lessons in the Library during their lunch hour.

Respect and Responsibility
At St. Joseph’s Primary School, emphasis is placed on student leadership. The senior students have many opportunities to take on a leadership role in the school. During 2007 the staff participated in “Success for Boys” training.

We proudly display the National Safe Schools Framework and Values for Australian Schools posters in our school. During November we conducted a Values / Respect and Responsibility Forum.

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></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>94.1%</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>92.8%</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007
Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in 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.

Staff Achievement
In addition to the numerous professional development courses staff have participated in, Melissa Lewis and Denise Duck have recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies with the Broken Bay Institute.

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

School Improvement Targets
The main areas targeted for improvement during 2007, in the School renewal Framework were:
• Bounce Back resiliency training for students and staff
• Review of our Pastoral Care Policy
• English including a Policy re-write and appropriate professional development
• Information Technology including the development of the Library as a Support Learning Centre
• Assessment and Reporting including criteria referenced assessment and A to E reporting and the use of Off Line Reporter Pro
• Implementing “Things Are Changing” puberty education program
• Developing Literacy and Numeracy programs based on the needs of the children

4. School Overview

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>93</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English
• as identified in the BST.

Structure of Classes
Kindergarten Mrs Firman
Year 1 Miss Lewis
Year 2 / 3 Mrs Lane
Year 3 / 4 Mrs Duck
Year 3 / 4 Mrs Stuchbery and Mrs O’Brien
Year 5 / 6 Mrs Petty and Mrs Aliendi
Year 5 / 6 Miss Wood, Mrs O’Brien and Mrs Hunt

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>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
The staff and Leadership Team from St. Joseph’s has been involved in a number of professional development programs including Gifted and Talented training, iLife Software, Reading Recovery Continuing Contact, First Aid / CPR, Language Class, Creative and Practical Arts, SENA 2, Religious Education Assessment, Boys Education, Criteria Reference Assessment, Gifted and Talented, Child Protection, Graduate Certificate in Religious Education, Autism, Special Needs Conference, Jolly Phonics, Early Infants Literacy Days, Bounce Back Resiliency Training and Information and Technology Conferences.

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 91.3% was achieved in 2007 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Narrandera.

**Parent Involvement and Participation**

At St Joseph’s School, Narrandera, the Good News is carried to every sector via our weekly newsletter in which the Principal and R.E.C. communicate information and reflections. The Principal and all teaching staff encourage parents to come to them prior to issues becoming very serious. This is referred to as “an open door policy” and is reciprocated by teachers who contact parents before issues get out of hand.

Pastoral Care of students, staff and parents is evident in the way we treat each other. Parents are seen as the first educators of their children and are, thus, always welcome. As such, they are actively involved in the education of their children at St Joseph’s Narrandera through participation in the classroom Literacy and Numeracy sessions, via communication in homework diaries, sporting activities, on excursions and incursions, in the Arts, HSIE, Science and Technology, as invaluable contributors and supporters, parents are invited to attend assemblies and performances on a regular basis.

The Religious Education program relies heavily on parental support. In particular, parents whose children are involved in Sacramental Programs are invited to participate fully by attending information sessions and classroom lessons. The Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Schipp, as part of the school team, plays an active role in welcoming and informing parents.

Experts from the C.S.O. willingly lead information and participation sessions for groups of parents and, on a one-to-one basis, where necessary. During 2006, extra support has been given in the areas of Mathematics and Special Needs.

Teachers in the Infants’ Department stress the importance of parents being involved in the reading and writing program at school and at home. Group and individual tutoring is given by teachers to parents so as to give each child every opportunity to develop his/her literacy skills effectively. Follow-up contact is viewed as crucial.

We believe in working with parents in the decision making process. This is done through meeting with parents formally, or for a chat. The Parents and Friends, School Council and Parish Council are formal forums for parental involvement. Parents are surveyed to determine directions to take with the school. Responses are treated with respect with parents continuing to be involved past the initial consultation.

We aim to keep our goals and practices in line with those of the parents by involving parents in the individual programmes of special needs students, remedial or gifted, and through direct contact when students require special pastoral support for behavioural issues.

On special feast days, our school is abuzz with parents, friends and students celebrating and enjoying each other’s company.

**Community Use of School Facilities**

Other community groups used the John O’Brien Hall on numerous occasions. Elections, family celebrations, musical performances, concerts, luncheons, leadership training days, senior and junior dancing evenings, yoga groups and morning teas were all accommodated.

**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 Joseph’s School.

**Parents**

My child is usually happy at St. Joseph’s School Narrandera.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs Development</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students**

I am usually happy at St. Joseph’s School, Narrandera.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs Development</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff
I am usually happy at St. Joseph’s School, Narrandera.

<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>50%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

About This Report
Graeme Urquhart, Sharon Stuchbery, Robyn Petty, Melissa Lewis, Denise Duck, Emma Lane, Marie O’Brien, Robyn Sullivan, Deb Firman, Nella Smith, Linda Carmichael, John O’Mahoney and Melissa Aliendi wrote this report.