Introduction
Welcome to the St Peter’s Annual Report for 2007. This annual report is written for the 2007 school year and provides an account of what occurred at St Peter’s Primary School during that time.

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:

- Care and Compassion
- Doing Your Best
- 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 fortnightly visits to each of the classrooms by our Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Grace.

Sacraments
First Holy Communion was celebrated on Sunday 17th June with 12 children receiving the sacrament for the first time. Miss Carrie Spokes did a fantastic job of preparing the children for their First Holy 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 First Communion cake.

On Tuesday 4th September 10 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.

Masses and Liturgies
On Friday 10th May we held a Mother’s Day Mass with many mothers and grandmothers in attendance. The children decorated the Church and wrote a small message on a scroll to their mother which was given during the reflection time of the Mass.

Our First Sunday of the Month Masses are organised by the staff, with children volunteering for readings, prayers of the faithful and offertory. The children enjoy being given the opportunity to participate in the Mass at their Parish. The Masses were well attended, especially the Fete mass.

Stations of the Cross
On Holy Thursday the students from Year 5/6 performed the Stations of the Cross in the school playground. Each child was given a part that detailed the journey of Jesus to his crucifixion. As the children were acting out each station we had narrators explaining to the gathered crowd what was happening.

St Peter’s Day
The Feast Day of St Peter and Paul, is celebrated on the 29th of June. In preparation for this day each class completed various activities in class learning about Peter. A whole school mass was held in the morning with many parents and community members present for the celebration. After mass the children enjoyed a healthy recess of fruit and soup. The children participated in fun activities during the day including The St
Peter’s Amazing Race’. In the children’s peer support group they were required to complete various tasks about St Peter to receive a clue to be able to successfully finish the race. At barbeque lunch was prepared for the children by volunteer parents.

**Project Compassion**

To raise money for Project Compassion each classroom consisted of a Project Compassion box which the children generously donated spare change and left over money from tuckshop days. The money raised was sent off to Caritas to help those in need.

**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 class 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 areas.

**Music From Down Under**

In Term 3 of this year the whole school presented a history of Australian music to a large crowd of family and friends at the Coleambally Bowling Club. All classes practised long and hard to make their performance memorable for all. The night was hosted by Molly Meldrum (Kieran Fraser) and Kylie Minogue (Maddie Mannes) who introduced us to Australian music from many different eras. Kindergarten performed Waltzing Matilda and a number of John Farnham songs while Years 1 and 2 became small versions of Slim Dusty and raised the roof with their interpretations of music from the early 80’s. Years 3 and 4 performed music from the first European arrivals through to Shannon Noll, Daddy Cool, John Paul Young and The Rogue Traders. Years 5 and 6 entertained the crowd with a fantastic rendition of Click Go the Shears, a Luke Hogan Solo performance of Johnny O’Keefe and a lively performance of Kylie Minogue’s Locomotion as well as 2 other songs. The night was rounded off with a whole school rendition of Australian Crawl’s *Land Down Under*. All classes have also visited Cypress View Lodge to perform some of their items for the residents.

**Andrew Chinn**

On Wednesday 14th November this well known musician visited St. Peter’s School. He spent the morning session with our school leaders and other students working on the new school song. These children were very privileged to have this time with Andrew and the school now has its own song - “You Are My Rock”. The student body love this song and sing it with gusto. After recess the students learnt to sing and move to a number of Andrew’s songs. They then performed in a casual afternoon concert to a large number of parents, grandparents and friends. This visit was an invaluable experience for the children.

**Presentation Night.**

Due to the major production in Term 3, the school performance at presentation was a relatively low-key affair. However, *The Christmas Story*, read by Jacob Breed and Christine Lando, carols performed by all classes was well received by all those present. Each class was responsible for was two carols and then the whole school sang another three carols to complete the story.

**Singing**

On Wednesday 19th December the children sang at the Combined Churches Christmas Carols at the Bowling Club. The children sang beautifully in partnership with Mr. John Mannes. Many positive comments were received about the school’s performance.

**School and Representative Sport**

The three main carnivals of Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics were much anticipated and successfully run. Children were successful in progressing further in all three sporting areas and represented the school, MIA Deanery and the Wagga Diocese, with one student, Luke Hogan, participating at State level in Athletics.

In swimming 21 children represented the school at the Deanery Carnival and 3 children, Bill Morton, Joshua Fattore and Matthew Wilson represented the MIA Deanery at the Diocesan Carnival. 13 children represented the school at the Diocesan Cross Country in Narrandera with Luke Hogan gaining a 3rd place in the 10 year boys. He was selected to attend the Inter-Diocesan Carnival in Sydney, but decided not to attend due to other sporting commitments. At our school athletics carnival we had several students such as Angela Rainbird,
Danny Brain, Luke Hogan and Joshua Hodgson; equal, break or create new school records in their respective events. Luke equalled a 30 year old record for Junior Boys High Jump. 18 children represented the school at the Deanery carnival in Griffith, with 4 students, Maddie Mannes, Luke Hogan, Megan Hayes and Louella Cadorin, chosen to represent the MIA Deanery at the Diocesan Carnival in Albury. Both Maddie and Luke were successful in trying out for inclusion in the MacKillop Athletics Team. Luke Hogan was successful in gaining a position in the MacKillop team and participated in the State Carnival in Sydney in early November in Junior Boys High Jump and recorded a jump of 1.25 metres.

Jacob Breed attended the Diocesan AFL Trials in Coolamon and was successful in trying out for the MacKillop Team in Gosford in June. He played several games while he was there, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a position in the next round of competition.

A team of Year 5/6 children comprising children from St Peter's and St Therese Yenda combined to form a team for the Mortimer Shield Rugby League and Tag Competition in Griffith. The boys played 2 games and won one of them. The girls were successful in their first round of competition and returned a few weeks later to compete in the final series. They played 2 games but could not repeat their success of the first round.

Children in Years 3/4/5 and 6 had an opportunity to combine with the children from the Central School and Darlington Point and participate in a second Gala Sport afternoon at the football oval in early November. The sports played were touch, soccer and netball. The children were allocated a team and had an opportunity to participate in all 3 sports.

We had a Tabloid Sport Day in Semester 1 at school. The day was organised by Brett from Melbourne and included a series of activities that ranged from simple to more complex. All children participated in this event.

School Initiatives

Super Spellers Spell-a-thon
During the month of August we held a Spell-a-thon to raise money to help reduce our Parish debt. Each year group in the school was given a list of spelling words to learn throughout the month of August. The children gathered sponsors to give them money for the amount of words they spelt correctly. On Friday 31st August the Spell-a-thon was held where the children were tested on their words. The Parish Priest, Fr Grace was later presented with a cheque for $1700 from the money raised to go towards the Parish debt.

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 2007 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. The school captains also met with the principal on a weekly basis to discuss issues, ideas or concerns they had about the daily life at the school.

School Transition Program

Our transition program began in August with Mrs Fraser, P&F representatives and the principal conducting a meeting with prospective parents to outline the mission and vision of our school and school procedures and routines. The pre-school children attended “big” school over a period of the first four weeks of Term 4, for the morning session to recess, the morning session and recess, the morning session to the end of lunch and finally the full day. The children returned for another full day visit in week 9. This program ensures that moving to “big” school is as stress free as possible for the child and parents.

Sri Lankan Donation

At the end of Term 3 we were fortunate to have Mrs Jan Mills and Mrs Lorraine Edwards from the local Soroptimists speak to the children about the work of a local woman at the ICA Children's Village in Sri Lanka. St Peter’s children raised much needed money to help with the purchase of footwear for the children at the school.

Teacher Assistant – Birrang Enterprises

The school was very fortunate during 2007 to have the services of a teacher assistant who was employed by Birrang Enterprises and worked three days per week at St Peter’s. Mrs Trudie Eddie worked in a variety of roles...
including assisting teachers in the classrooms and assisting in the day to day running of the library.

School Policies
Student Welfare and Discipline Policies
Our school has policies in place which are designed to address Student Welfare and Discipline. These policies are available for perusal at the school.

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established policies 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 policies can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council
Chairperson’s Report
2007 has been a busy year for the School Council. We as a school community have achieved a lot during the year and many thanks go to all the parents who support our school in any way.

The main project this year has been the implementation of the first stage of the Federal Government’s Investing in Our Schools Program (IOSP). We have purchased 12 laptops and 9 desktop computers; installed air conditioning in the 5/6 classroom, staff room and office and in the canteen; purchased new books for the library and new reading material for the primary area. Next Year we will be deciding where to allocate $29,000 in the new element of IOSP and parents will be again involved in the decision making process.

We were fortunate this year to receive a $10,000 grant from our local Bendigo Bank Branch and we thank them for their support of our school. The money was used to construct a path to the COLA, a ramp up to the front veranda and to install covered walkways to the library and to the COLA.

Our school grounds, after the installation of the sprinkler system last year are looking great and are now much more user friendly. Next year we will be looking at the extension of the system around the western side of the school and to the front of the building.

Many thanks to those parents who have helped at the working bees or catering jobs during the year and to Mick Breed who has donated his time and machinery to help with many jobs around the school.

Barry Mannes
Chairperson
St Peter’s School Council

Parents & Friends Report
This year started off quickly and the P & F and I are still running to catch up. Our first event of the year, the annual school fete was the most successful raising approximately $8000. This proves that when all the families of St Peter’s work together, there are no limits.

We then moved on to run a pie drive, street stall, Mother’s Day raffle and Father’s Day raffle. We opened up for business at the Coleambally Vintage Rally and held a wine tasting night promoting St Peter’s wine.

Our catering as always was very successful; we received many positive comments and praise. We catered for 4 clearing sales this year. We also catered for the Bridge Day at Darlington Point and have been asked to cater again next year.

The P & F also manned the door for COLCOM’s ‘Dancing with the Stars’ for which we received the proceeds.

I would like to thank all businesses and organisations who have supported the P & F over the past 12 months.

I would especially like to thank the teachers for their efforts in putting together the production “Music from Down Under”, I think I can talk on behalf of everybody in saying that seeing the smiles on our children’s faces that night, made our hearts swell with pride. That is irreplaceable and we thank you.
A big thank you the P & F committee particularly Janelle Mannes, who held the role of president for the majority of the year, and to Gill Morton our tuckshop coordinator, for all the hard work during the year in their respective roles.

Last but not least I would like to thank all the mothers, fathers, grandparents and parishioners for their help and donations throughout the year. This school could not run without the support of all of you.

Jeanette Burnett
President
Parents & Friends Association

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus

English Policy
The curriculum focus for 2007 was the school's English Policy. During the year the staff participated in professional learning with our Education Officer, Mandy Catena and over the course of Term 2 rewrote the English Policy. The new policy was then implemented during Term 3 before being reviewed by a visiting education officer and the principal at the end of the term.

Multiliteracies Project
At the beginning of Term 4 the school joined with Charles Sturt University under the leadership of Dr Christine Edwards-Groves to begin a project on Multiliteracies. During Term 4 each class worked on a mini project which incorporated information technology and new skills into them. During the first half of 2008 the project will continue and the school will be undertaking a major project which will have community involvement.

Programs to Support Learning

Reading Support Program
Reading Support operated 4 days a week during 2007 with Mr Smith conducting the program. The program entailed children who required an element of support in their reading and writing skills receiving either a 20 or 30 minute lesson over an extended period of time. Once the children completed their program other children were selected to enter the program in consultation with the classroom teacher.

Buddy Reading
During the year all Year 6 children have been involved with our buddy reading program. Each Year 6 child is paired with a Kindergarten child for a 10 minute session twice per week. The Year 6 children were given direction from the Kindergarten teacher regarding the format of their sessions. Each Term the children were involved in a six week course of Modelled Reading (Deppeler & Curry) with the Year 6 child acting as tutor. The Year 6 children received training before they commenced the program.

Equity Programs

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

NAIDOC Week
During the first week of Term 3 the school celebrated NAIDOC Week with the classes participating in a variety of activities in and out of class. The children's reading material for the week was chosen from the school's ample supply of Indigenous reading material.

Programs to Support Students

School Counsellor
Each child at St Peter's has access to a school counsellor from Centacare, who visits the school each fortnight, where 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 individual needs of children in their class.

Diocesan Support
Students who at risk academically can receive testing and referral support from Diocesan Education officers. Our school is serviced by Mrs Mandy Catena who visits the school on a regular basis. Children are referred by their teacher and are seen after parental support and permission is received.

Perceptual Motor Program
All children in Kindergarten and Year 1 participated in the Perceptual Motor Program during Terms 2 and 3. 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 year there had to be modifications to the regular program to allow access for a child in Kindergarten who is wheelchair bound. This program would not be possible without the wonderful support of parents who are rostered on to help the teacher run the program.

Peer Support Program
The Peer Support Program was implemented in February of this year. The program required children from Year 6 to be leaders and conduct the activities for their group of children. The groups comprised children from Kinder to Year 6. Activities ranged from engaging in games, rules of games, fair play, feelings, emotions and allowing children to express themselves in group format with positive feedback from the remaining children in the group. A teacher was allocated to supervise a group on the Friday when Peer Support was up and running.

Respect and Responsibility
Each year the students at St. Patrick’s participate in norm setting practices. These norms are then used as a point of reference when necessary. The basis for the process comes from an understanding of the respect and dignity that needs to be shown to all students and school community members at all times.

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.

The school held a forum on Monday 5th December where parents were explained the Values for Australian Schooling. At school the children spent sessions in their Peer Support groups focused on the concept of ‘A Fair Go for All’ on the playground and in games.

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</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</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.

Other Achievements
Many children also took the opportunity to challenge themselves, by competing in the University of NSW competitions in English, Mathematics and Science. Our involvement with these, saw our some of students achieve distinctions and credits, but more importantly, the opportunity to experience a different and challenging form of testing.

Staff Achievement
In 2007 the staff participated in the following training:
- Manual Handling training
- New Diocesan reporting sessions
- English modules and policy writing
- Child Protection legislation
- Worker’s Compensation
- Sharing Our Story sessions
- Multiliteracies sessions
- myclasses in-service

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

School Improvement Targets
Every year the school, through consultation, must determine priorities for development in categories including Vision and Mission, Policy, Administration, Professional Development and School Facilities.

One of our main priorities for the year was the completion of the components of the Investing in Our Schools Program. 21 new computers were purchased as well as the installation of 4 new air conditioners, new
library resources and classroom resources for the primary classes.

Other priorities for our school included the implementation of the new assessment and reporting procedures, full implementation of the Peer Support Program, continued development of facilities and resources, the rewriting of the English Policy and the further inclusion of Aboriginal Studies and perspectives across the curriculum.

Next year priorities include preparation for school registration, another curriculum review, the embedding of IT across the curriculum, school literacy and numeracy targets and the completion of the new component of the Investing in Our Schools Program.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment

Enrolment Policy
St Peter’s has priorities for enrolment which meet the requirements of the Catholic Schools Office. These include preference being given to Catholic children whose parents live within the Parish served by the school. The school enrolment guidelines can be viewed via 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>43</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
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</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

In 2007 the school provided 3 composite and 1 single stream class. The small class numbers in the infants area provide good teacher student ratios and opportunities for good early learning.

The class numbers were as follows:
- Kinder = 12
- Year 1/2 = 22
- Year 3/4 = 29
- Year 5/6 = 17

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>
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Professional Learning
The staff has been active this year in their pursuit of professional improvement. Infant staff members attended Early Literacy in-service days during the year. Primary teachers attended in-service days focusing on the Measurement strand of Mathematics.

All teachers were in-serviced on the new Diocesan student reporting package SAS Reporter which is used by all primary schools to report to parents.

One of our newer teachers has been working towards continuing development of their professional skills in the Institute of Teaching Programme. They have been very well supported by the experienced teachers on staff during their journey.

The whole staff completed a number of compulsory in-service sessions including: CPR, Duty of Care and Harassment in the Workplace.

Other professional development included Sportability training, Religious Education syllabus & assessment of work and a Spiritual Renewal day for all staff.

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 98.1% was achieved in 2007 by staff at St Peter’s 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 held on the first Sunday of March each year. The Parish Council and Finance Committee also use the library for their meetings. In December the COLA was used for St Peter’s Church’s Silver Jubilee celebrations. A BBQ tea, speeches and a PowerPoint presentation were all enjoyed by the past and present parishioners, priests, students and school staff in attendance.

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’s needs are being met at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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Students
My needs are being met at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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Staff
My needs are being met 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>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-</td>
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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**

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