

2010 Annual School Report

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa



Marquet Street
Merriwa NSW 2329
<http://www.merriwa.catholic.edu.au/>



**DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

It is with great pleasure that I present the St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa Annual School Report for 2010. The school community of St. Joseph's is very proud of the achievements made in 2010 and commend to you this report as testimony to the wonderful educational institution that it is.

St. Joseph's is a co-educational primary school located within the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese.

It is situated in the small rural town of Merriwa and has an enrolment of 50 students (August census 2010).

As a Catholic school, St. Joseph's Merriwa contributes to the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus said he came "that we may have life and have it to the full". St. Joseph's School offers an educational foundation for life to the full, through the development of the whole person - academically as well as spiritually, socially, physically and emotionally. We are proud of the commitment of the entire school community to this mission.

Literacy and numeracy are given prime focus at our school. This year the Stage 3 students were the very successful winners of the Newcastle Herald competition. This competition gives the students the opportunity to write newspaper articles for a real audience and about real content.

The environmental focus of our school continues to be strong. This year a further 52 trees have been planted in the playgrounds and students' vegetable gardens have helped supply healthy food for our canteen. The children take a real pride in their school environment and we hope that this pride encourages them to take the reduce, reuse and recycle message home now and throughout their lives.

Social justice and a sense of community are ideals encouraged in the students through the Gummun Place Hostel for the Aged visitation program as well as the many other community events participated in throughout the year.

Copies of this Annual School Report may be obtained from the school office or accessed electronically on the school website.

P & F

2010 has been another successful year for St. Joseph's Merriwa. The school community has helped out in various ways to raise money to benefit our children, support our teachers and add to the community spirit here at St. Joseph's.

We saw the finishing of building works, consisting of the refurbishment of our canteen, new play equipment, the Mary Mackillop Room which serves as an enclosed activity area and meeting room as well as interconnecting covered walkways. These were possible due to generous government grants and the excellent support of the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office team.

Fundraising for the year consisted of the Mother's Day Luncheon that is always received well in the community and was a huge success. The barbecue for the Festival of the Fleeces saw our school community join together to make the day a success. In September we had the Father's Day Breakfast, another tradition that the school does so well. St. Joseph's combined with Merriwa Central School to man the Steak Hut at the Show. This was a wonderful opportunity to show how we can work together to benefit our children. In November we held a Fair. It was planned that this would be a family day and it turned out to be so. The feedback from the community was very pleasing. Street stalls were pleasingly supported by our families in providing cakes, slices, produce and other items. The cleaning of the Aberdeen bus is our biggest fundraiser and without the support of our families this would not be possible to maintain. Families contributed to healthy eating at the canteen by donating afternoon tea for our students each Canteen day.

As well as these events, the P&F also helped in organising activities and events and purchasing equipment for the school. Some of these were the Grandparents Day, Mother's Day and Fathers Day gift stalls, and helping with Special Masses, working bees to help beautify the school, change rooms around and mower shed clean up. Chairs were purchased for the Mary MacKillop room, reading books for our children and a new school banner, as well as end of year prizes for the students, wages for the cleaner and outdoor groundsman.

With the various fundraising activities that happened throughout the year we raised \$19100 and of that amount we donated \$14000 back into the school.

Student Leaders/SRC

During 2010 the school leadership role was once again shared amongst all of Year 6. The leaders were each given a portfolio. Each leader was assisted by a year 5 student. The portfolios included Sport and Recreation, Health and Safety, Religion, Public Relations and Communications, Student Welfare and the Environment. These roles were very well administered by the leaders and their assistants.

At the Opening School Mass the leaders presented Leadership speeches to the wider school community. These highlighted the skills we had to be effective leaders and to complete our portfolios. We were presented with badges so that we were easily recognised as school leaders – we also looked very smart when we represented our school in the community.

The Year 6 leaders attended a leadership day in Maitland. This was a fantastic day, where the leaders joined in with other school leaders from other schools and participated in many games where we developed lots of skills to become great leaders in our school community.

On Pancake Tuesday, we prepared and cooked pikelets for the annual Pancake Tuesday fundraiser. We also had other fundraisers throughout the year and the funds went towards the annual Year 6 present for the school.

On ANZAC Day, representatives from the school participated in the Community March and Year 6 leaders laid a wreath in memory of fallen diggers. We also participated in a Remembrance Day service with Merriwa Central School – bringing the two schools together for a march down the street to the local cenotaph.

On the last day of Term 3, Year 6 led the annual Mission Day activities. On this day we learned about flood victims throughout the world. We then raised money to send to Catholic Mission to support many of these people.

Throughout the year, we participated in an orientation program for our 2011 Kindergarten students to help them get used to the school environment – a transition from Pre-school. We also had a buddy in Kindergarten 2010 who we helped throughout the year and participated in a buddy-reading programme with them.

At the end of the year, we attended the End of Year Mass to celebrate our successful year of being School Leaders and our completion of primary school. Afterwards, we met again to enjoy the Year 6 Dinner with our parents and the school staff where we reflected on the wonderful year. Then, after the lovely dinner, we presented our Year 6 present - A Mary MacKillop Banner to go in the new Mary MacKillop Room.

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

St. Joseph's Catholic School is part of the St Anne's Catholic Parish, Merriwa.

The school was established by the Parish in 1883, paying the wages of a lay teacher. The Sisters of St Joseph arrived in 1885 to continue the provision of Catholic education.

The Sisters of St Joseph continue to maintain a presence in the community as Pastoral Care workers. The two religious living in close proximity to the school are closely involved in school activities and community affairs.

Close proximity of the school to the convent and the church help in visually reinforcing its Catholic identity. There are many other aspects that affirm this identity. Religious symbols, both traditional and contemporary, in the form of statues, crucifixes, candles and sacred spaces adorn the school grounds and the classrooms. Class and school prayer is a valued part of each day and the children experience formal as well as informal prayer opportunities daily. A well prepared Liturgy of the Word is celebrated at each Monday assembly. Both students and teachers play an active role in these Liturgies. The parents are always welcome to attend.

Current Vision and Mission statements clearly articulate the role the school assumes as a community of Catholic faith. This vision underpins all school policies and procedures. The community of St. Joseph's School Merriwa believes that Jesus came that we "may have life, life in all its fullness" Jn 10. We see it as our mission to help this become a reality for the students whom we serve.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

A positive relationship between the school and Parish continues to be a high priority. We work closely with our Parish Priest and he is a regular visitor in the school grounds.

The Sacramental program is parish based and involves two staff members, the Sisters of St. Joseph and other parent volunteers. The sacramental program is supported by the school curriculum and the parish team is in close communication with the class teachers of the students involved.

During Catholic Schools Week parents, staff and parish members gathered together to share a meal. 40 people attended this evening and everyone had a wonderful night. Students and teachers prepared displays for the main street to highlight the Catholic identity of our school.

Mass was celebrated by the school community on several occasions throughout the year including Opening School Mass and the Final school Mass of the Year. Some of these were celebrated on weekdays and others at the regular Parish weekend Mass. Copies of the school newsletter were placed in the church to ensure that parishioners had access to what was happening within the school.

Students performed at the Mothers Day Lunch, held in a local hall for all members of the community. The hall had been decorated with drawings and writings about mothers. A Father's day liturgy and breakfast was very well attended by parents.

Traditionally, St. Joseph's Denman, join with us to celebrate St. Joseph's Day. We alternate the venue. In 2010, we joined the Denman community for a combined Cross Country Carnival. We celebrated lunch together and concluded the day with an Easter Mass.

The Principal is an ex-officio member of the Parish Council and attended meetings as appropriate.

Teaching of Religion

Religion lessons at St. Joseph's follow the curriculum set down by the Maitland – Newcastle Diocese. All class teachers are responsible for the teaching of Religious Education in their respective classes and are formally accredited to teach Religious Education or are in the process of satisfying the academic requirements needed to apply for accreditation. Each class has a structured lesson that develops the knowledge and understandings of our Catholic faith. Class and school liturgical, sacramental and prayer celebrations form an important aspect of the Religious Education curriculum. Monday Liturgy of the Word is conducted by the Stage 3 children and celebrated by the whole school. This Liturgy of the Word follows the Church liturgical year. Wherever possible, Catholic perspectives are integrated into all Key Learning Areas.

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

Prayer and Reflection opportunities begin all meetings and gatherings. Each year one professional development day is set aside for the teachers to join together in learning more about their spirituality or the teaching of Religious Education. This year staff joined with the staff from all the Upper Hunter Schools at Aberdeen to participate in a spiritual retreat facilitated by Richard Leonard – "Sane Spirituality".

A Lenten program was conducted by staff, for staff and community members from the Parish. This was an optional experience which many staff and parish members attended. St. Joseph's School also hosted a number of e-conferences which were attended by members of the staff as well as wider parish and community members. The e-conferences covered the writings of St Paul, The life of Jesus and finally Mary.

Daily prayer was experienced in classrooms, all of which have a sacred space and prayer focus. Many opportunities were made available for spontaneous prayer as well as formal prayer. The newsletter each fortnight has a reflection/prayer for the parents and staff to enjoy.

Service to the wider community is an important aspect of our faith development. As such, Mission Day is a major event on the yearly calendar. Regular visits to the Gummun Place Hostel for the Aged and the Merriwa Hospital are also included.

Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)

Our school motto "Actions Not Words" captures the spirit of our school and is a constant reminder of the importance to continue to witness the values of Jesus Christ in all interactions with each other and to provide a learning environment where learning is permeated by Gospel values. These values include Respect, Responsibility, Service, Compassion, Honesty, Justice, Integrity, Resilience and Achievement. In word and action, our goal is to live out the great law of 'Love One Another.'

Environmental stewardship programs continue to be an important aspect of the school. This highlights the respect we have for creation and our responsibility to care for it.

Compassion and service are displayed in the service projects the students have participated in with the elderly and sick in the wider community. This service includes visits to the aged care facility and the hospital, as well as fundraising for the poorer members of our local and wider community. Being a responsible citizen is encouraged through participation in ANZAC ceremonies, Remembrance Day services, Australia Day events, Clean up Australia Day and National Tree Day.

Policies

Enrolment Policy

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa, follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy *Enrolment (Amended 2008)*. The Policy has been devised to accommodate, as far as possible, the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. In situations where enrolments have to be restricted because of limitations on capacity, preference may need to be given to children of Catholic families, as defined in the Policy. Implementation of the Policy is via our local school Enrolment Committee which has discretionary authority in keeping with Diocesan guidelines. Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website (cf end of Report). Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Care Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Student Welfare

Student welfare at St. Joseph's Merriwa is based on the Diocesan Pastoral Care Policy. The School's Vision statement underlies all policies and practices within the school:

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa:

A community of Catholic faith

where the uniqueness of each child

will be nurtured and valued.

Where students will be

empowered and challenged

to become

lifelong learners with

optimism and

hope for the future.

Student welfare is supported at St. Joseph's School by the Anti-Bullying policy as well as its Behavioural Support and Special Needs Policies. These policies outline the rights and responsibilities of students as well as procedures followed for inappropriate behaviour. Family support can be provided through the "Seasons" programme as most teachers are trained companions. Copies of these policies are available from the school upon request.

Discipline

Discipline at St. Joseph's is supported by our Behavioural Support Policy which is aligned to the Restorative Justice philosophy. The policy provides a framework for building relationships and managing behaviour. The policy aims to promote Gospel values, develop self-esteem, encourage responsibility, protect rights and model respectful behaviour. Changes were made to this policy in February 2010 in light of government recommendations concerning serious offences requiring suspension and expulsion.

The school policy is supported by our Procedural Fairness Policy which is based on the Diocesan Pastoral Care Policy of 2002. This outlines procedures for suspension and expulsion, if this is being considered.

Copies of these policies are available from the school upon request

Complaints and Grievances

The Complaints and Grievances Procedure and Policy was developed by the teachers, parents and other school community members in 2007. This is an open and transparent policy relating to complaints or grievances. Many of the concerns of parents are dealt with at the class teacher level. More serious concerns are dealt with by the Principal. The Principal, in conjunction with the Child Protection Unit at the Catholic Schools Office, deals with those issues that come under the jurisdiction of the Child Protection Legislation. To ensure that Procedural Fairness is demonstrated, St. Joseph's has its own Procedural Fairness Policy based on the CSO Policy on Pastoral Care 2003 (p13) particularly if suspension or expulsion is being considered. The school also refers to the CSO Complaints Management Policy 2006. A copy of the school's policy can be found on the school website.

Student Achievements

Academic Achievements

In our quest to empower and challenge students to become lifelong learners, we offer our students a vast range of learning opportunities. The teachers, with the assistance of the Learning Support teacher, assist all students in this pursuit.

Children were encouraged to participate in a range of competitions such as the University of NSW - ICAS and Newcastle Permanent Maths Competitions.

The senior class participated in the Murder Under the Microscope programme in 2010 which encouraged the development of skills in Science and Technology as well as HSIE. The Science skills were further enriched through participation in the Upper Hunter Science Discovery Day. Our children excelled in bridge building and learned a great deal about catapults, electricity and hovercrafts.

The Newcastle Herald competition was again a learning highlight as the children honed their writing skills in a relevant and realistic way. Their journalism this year gained the enviable position of Overall Winner in the competition.

Public Speaking was a major focus across the grades as each child participated in a whole school public speaking competition. The winners at school level went on to compete against all the other Catholic schools' winners in a regional competition. The skills of our St. Joseph's children were again strengthened by this experience.

The senior class put their public speaking skills to great use in the Regional Debating Competition.

Gifted and Talented students in the primary classes were given the opportunity to attend an Enrichment day at St. Joseph's High School Aberdeen. The focus of the day was Music and Science.

Cultural Achievements

Music was a major highlight on the cultural agenda in 2010. We saw an increase in numbers of students taking the opportunity to learn an instrument at school, through the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music. Many of our students attended the three day Kia-Ora Music Camp held in Scone in March. This Music camp offered the students experiences with all musical instruments offered as well as concert band, choir, dance, song writing and clowning skills. The whole school was entertained later in the month by the Upper Hunter Schools Band which toured the Upper Hunter. Three of our own students performed with the band.

The School performance of "Jason Quigley Falls Asleep" was a great success with all students from years 3 – 6 taking an acting role. The Infants class performed "The Tree House". All students' performance skills improved greatly over the term and certainly performing for a large audience on the night brought out the best acting and singing to date. The local community "Little Sprouts Day" was a great opportunity for the students to celebrate literacy. They were also very fortunate to attend an African Drumming Concert on the day.

Singing for the Senior Citizens and at the local aged care facility and Hospital was a great opportunity for the students to practice their singing skills and at the same time demonstrate their care for all members of the community.

Several of our students took part in the "Why I live where I live" Poetry competition in Merriwa. Their participation and presentation was outstanding.

Sporting Achievements:

St. Joseph's Primary School is extremely proud of the high participation in sport and the many sporting achievements gained by individual students and school teams in 2010. St. Joseph's students participated in swimming, cross country, athletics, netball and

horse sports. A carnival was held for all these sports using our own or local council facilities. All students from Kindergarten-Year 6 were given the opportunity to excel at their age level. In addition, our students had opportunities to try out for places on Regional teams in a variety of sports. A team of St. Joseph's swimmers was selected to compete in the Regional carnival at Singleton. We also sent students to the Regional athletics carnival at Muswellbrook. A team of St. Joseph's runners competed at the Diocesan Cross Country in Lochinvar.

Participation in Horse Sport Events is an area which is growing rapidly at this school. In 2010, our team grew to 10 regular riders. These riders competed at 3 carnivals with great success. The team performed so well at the Merriwa carnival that they were awarded the best school overall.

Performance in Statewide Tests

NAPLAN Program 2010 - Year 3						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	22.2%	16.2%	24.8%	16.7%	12.5%
Band 5	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%	28.6%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	22.1%	22.4%	21.9%	30.4%	19.8%
Band 4	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	0.0%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	23.1%	24.4%	21.2%	29.8%	27.7%
Band 3	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%	42.9%	28.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	16.7%	17.7%	14.9%	13.2%	22.8%
Band 2	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	14.3%	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%
	<i>National Performance</i>	9.8%	10.3%	9.2%	5.4%	11.4%
Band 1	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	42.9%	14.3%	57.1%	14.3%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	4.0%	6.8%	5.9%	2.3%	3.7%

NAPLAN Program 2010 - Year 5						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	14.3%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	10.3%	8.2%	14.1%	6.7%	9.3%
Band 7	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	28.6%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	42.9%
	<i>National Performance</i>	18.4%	19.4%	20.8%	17.1%	17.1%
Band 6	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	28.6%	14.3%	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	25.4%	28.0%	26.4%	31.2%	27.7%
Band 5	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	0.0%	57.1%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	23.3%	23.9%	20.1%	26.9%	26.4%
Band 4	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	14.3%	28.6%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	<i>National Performance</i>	14.0%	12.4%	10.8%	11.2%	13.1%
Band 3	St Josephs Primary School Merriwa	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%
	<i>National Performance</i>	6.9%	6.3%	6.0%	5.1%	4.6%

Other Highlights for 2010

The greatest public highlight for the school this year was winning the *best overall newspaper* in the Newcastle Herald competition.

Staff

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience	Number of Staff	
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	7	
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0	
III. (a) Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	(a) 0	(b) 0
III. (b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.		

Professional Learning Undertaken

Professional learning is a high priority at St. Joseph's. We believe that improving the quality of the teacher will have significant flow on effects for the students. In addition to the many CSO courses attended, our staff members participated in a leadership conference, Spirituality Day with Fr. Richard Leonard, Explicit Teaching of Writing, Interactive Whiteboard Users meetings, Scootle inservices, emergency care, anaphylaxis training, Austswim training, cyber safety awareness, asthma training, CPR, Eat it to Beat It and Get Active. There was also programming support for teachers provided by the CSO as well as the following CSO courses attended.

Area	CourseTitle	Total
Assessment	Australian Curriculum	4
Assessment Total		4
Child Protection	Child Protection Training for Casual Employees	4
Child Protection Total		4
Curriculum	Cybersafety Workshop	6
	Using Data to Enhance Student Outcomes (Primary)	3
	Using Data to Enhance Student Outcomes (Primary Principals)	6
	Assessing Numeracy using the CMIT Schedule for Early Numeracy Assess	6
	Lexia	6
	Explicit Teaching of Comprehension	5
	Writing across the KLAs Primary	18
Curriculum Total		50
Leadership	"Spiritual Leadership of the Unchurched"	1
	"Leadership and the Quality Teaching Framework"	6
Leadership Total		7
Numeracy	Achieving Success in Maths	3
Numeracy Total		3
Occupational Health & Safety	Risk Management for Primary Principals Upper Hunter	12
Occupational Health & Safety Total		12
Religious Education	Primary RECs	12
	RECs/RSCs/MCs Pilgrimage	18
Religious Education Total		30
Special Education	Mini Certificate in Special Needs (Primary)	24
	Autism Spectrum Disorders and Postive Behaviour Support	6
Special Education Total		30
(blank)	Primary Teacher Librarian	6
	Emergency Care	8
	CPR	9
	Stage 3 Collaboration Day	6
	Stage 1 Collaborative Day	6
	Increasing the Effectiveness of Technology Use in the Classroom	6
(blank) Total		41
Accreditation	Spirituality Day	42
	Accreditation at Professional Competence	6
	Chemical Safety in Schools (CSIS)	12
	Annual Priests/Principals Conference	6
Accreditation Total		66
Learning Technology	Learning Technology User Group Meetings	10
Learning Technology Total		10
Grand Total		257

Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 97%.

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2009 to 2010 was 100 %.

One teacher commenced Maternity leave in Term 4.

Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2010

Scholastic Year	Number of Students	Attendance Rate %
Kinder	7	94.33
Year 1	9	93.08
Year 2	5	94.61
Year 3	7	91.18
Year 4	6	93.06
Year 5	9	94.06
Year 6	7	91.18
TOTAL	50	93.05

Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2010 was 93%.

School Priorities

Achievement of School Priorities

The major school priority for 2010 was the collaborative development and implementation of the Annual School Plan which was closely aligned to the CSO Annual Plan. This plan has enabled the teachers and school community to evaluate the needs of the students and teachers and to plan strategically to cater for these.

The new facilities were an inevitable focus of 2010 with the BER building project. We are very pleased with the upgraded facilities that we have received. Covered walkways, a multipurpose room and refurbished canteen as well as upgraded play equipment have enabled the school to cater for the physical environmental needs of all children.

Upgraded Information Technology was another priority for the year. This prompted the purchase of new laptops and an Interactive whiteboard along with an upgrade of the network. The teachers have participated in many workshops to increase their IT expertise in an effort to raise the level of student performance in this area.

Literacy and Numeracy teaching and learning has again been a major priority. Professional development funded by the school has been great. We are witnessing individual improvement in this area and realise it is a long term venture.

Facilities

Each classroom of the three classrooms and the library is equipped with air conditioning, an electronic interactive whiteboard, a ceiling mounted data projector and a number of fixed computers. A mobile bank of 18 laptop computers is shared by the three classrooms on a needs basis.

The library is very well stocked and offers a wonderful retreat for students at lunch time as well as weekly library lessons.

BER funding enabled the school to refurbish its canteen facility in 2010. This canteen facility is operated by the Parents and Friends Association and staffed by volunteer parents and grandparents. The BER funds also facilitated the establishment of a beautiful enclosed outdoor learning area adjoining the canteen. This area is used for assemblies, meetings and most importantly as an area to conduct daily fitness and gross-motor programs.

The school grounds consist of large playing fields, a shaded play gym (recently upgraded using P21 funds), as well as a shaded sandpit area, an outdoor chess area and handball courts. There is a paved assembly area. A water harvesting system enables us to maintain lawns for the children to play on and to support the growth of the many new trees planted each year to provide shade for the children and to reduce erosion in the playing fields. The extensive gardens planted and maintained by the school community add an aesthetic dimension to the grounds.

School Maintenance is determined in consultation with the CSO facilities team.

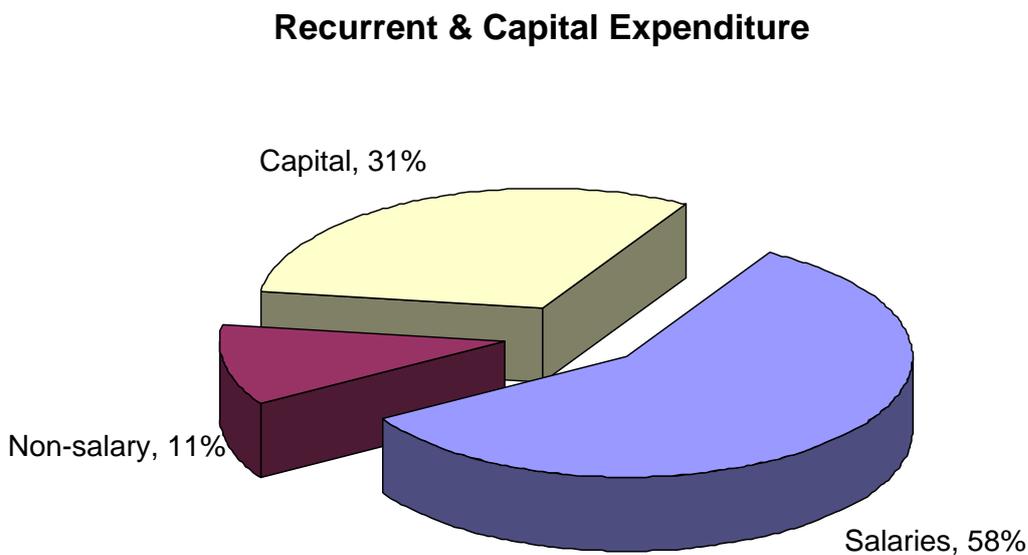
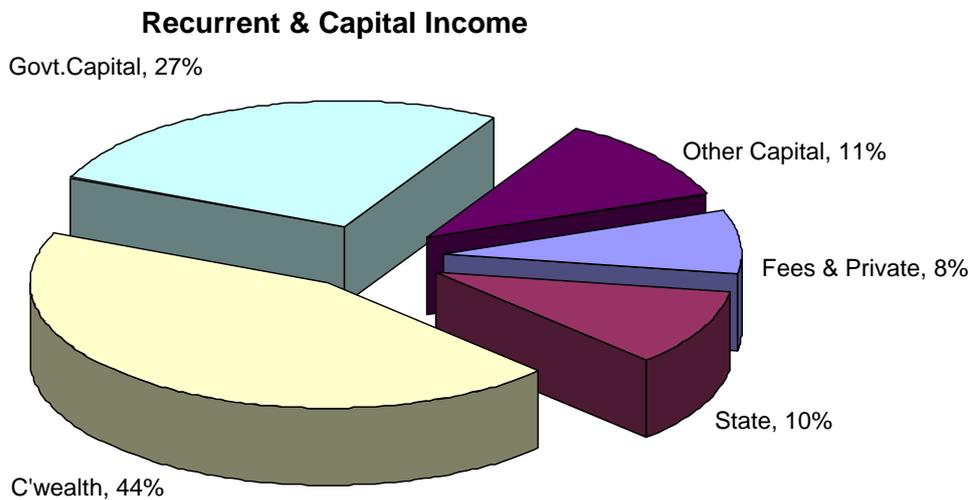
Community Satisfaction

Anecdotal feedback and parent participation has enabled community satisfaction to be gauged. There is a strong community atmosphere at the school which is valued by teachers, students and parents alike. The teachers have been described as motivated and dedicated. The high teacher to student ratio is very much appreciated by the school community. The quality of education is well regarded by the parents. The friendly atmosphere is a credit to the entire school community. The student community is very happy with the quality of teaching, the resources and facilities available to them in the school. The financial support given to the school by local business houses, to assist in the running of the School Family Fun Filled Fair highlights the high regard the community has for this school.

The enrolment numbers are increasing steadily, also testimony to the community's satisfaction with the school's performance.

Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for St. Joseph's Primary School, Merriwa for the school year ending 31 January 2011 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.



Concluding Statement

2010 was a very rewarding year for the school community of St. Joseph's Merriwa. We have witnessed great learning among the students as well as the teachers. We are educating children to value their community and to take a responsible position within it. The students are very well supported by their teachers, parents and members of the wider community. Thank you one and all.

Thank you to the staff from the Catholic Schools Office and our Parish Priest for the ongoing support for our efforts to provide quality education to our students.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should access the school website at <http://www.merriwa.catholic.edu.au/> or contact:

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School Name:	St. Joseph's Primary School
School Address:	Marquet Street, Merriwa NSW
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For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>