



2013

# Annual Report

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*Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, Wagga Wagga*

## CONTACT DETAILS:

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## **The School**

An enthusiastic and interested parent body, a committed and caring staff, a most supportive Parish Priest and a student body who show a willingness to be challenged and develop life long skills, have all contributed to another productive year in our school. Our school population is at virtual capacity with 408 students in our two-stream school.

The large increase in our school population over recent years has required continual updating existing facilities and resources. The support of our school community and the Sacred Heart Parish in facilitating such growth has been greatly appreciated

It is with pleasure that I present our 2013 Annual Report for Mater Dei Catholic Primary School.

## **Catholic Identity**

Our goal has been to provide opportunities for those in our school community to continue their faith development. We have worked closely with Father Bernie and the Koorringal Parish in achieving this. Sacramental programs have again been a focus. The students and teachers put a lot of time and effort into preparation for these sacraments and were joined by family and friends to celebrate these special occasions.

A revisit of our current Vision and Mission has been a major undertaking this year. Using the Bishop's Mandate as a reference point, parents, students, staff and clergy were all consulted as part of this process. It is hoped that we will be able to launch this new Vision & Mission in Catholic Schools Week in Term One of 2014.

A desire to have students develop close links with the Sacred Heart Parish has seen the continuation of school-led Parish Masses. This has given the opportunity for primary classes to take responsibility for leading five of the 5.30pm Masses in Terms Two and Three. It also provided a good opportunity for families of our school to support the classes leading the Masses. MDCC and Sacred Heart Primary School shared this responsibility for Sunday evening Masses.

Class Masses and Liturgies are held regularly in our school and allow individual classes to take on responsibility for the planning of such occasions which are strongly supported by parents and grandparents.

A recent initiative has been the celebration of a combined Mass between our Primary School and Mater Dei Catholic College on the Feast of the Assumption to recognise her patronage of both schools.

The pastoral component in our community continues to grow through the work of our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Lisa Simpson. Lisa has co-ordinated support to families in need with visits, meals and through other means.

Lisa has also assisted with our REC in the establishment of a "Minnie Vinnies" group in our school which has allowed these children to support those in the wider community. Visits to Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages were the major focus for students.

In developing student's global awareness and empathy for those less fortunate, significant amounts of money were raised through their involvement in the Missions fundraising, project compassion and other charitable events throughout the year.

The Spiritual Renewal Day for staff was held in Term focusing on Service & Discipleship. Staff were also led through the new Diocesan Lenten units by Sr Anne and were incorporated into RE lessons.

## **A Message from key School Bodies**

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School Parents and Friends Association  
2013 President's Report

2013 has been very busy for the P&F, with a number of major events, and some very innovative activities. The role of the P&F has subtly but significantly changed in recent years, with an increased focus on advocacy and consideration of community raised issues. Some great discussions have occurred over the last 12 months, often through the P&F, on matters as diverse and significant as the school's values and mission, the role of sport and creative activities in the school, and the provision of out of school hours care. I firmly believe that these types of discussions need to continue, and that the P&F provides the most suitable and accessible forum in which to raise and discuss issues of importance to the general school community. I would like to thank those people who participated in these discussions, whether energetically or subtly. The open discussion of a diverse range of views is vital for the maintenance of a progressive and vibrant school.

Major events for the P&F included the catering support to the car rally, the walkathon and the Lakeside Artshow, all of which were extremely successful. I would like to thank all those involved in the planning, coordination and operation of all these activities; countless hours were spent by many of our parents and friends in making these events possible. I am continually amazed at the resourcefulness and commitment of members of our school community, with the full range of events and activities held by the school being very well supported. I am sure that there are professional event planners who would be envious of the skills and knowledge of the organizing committees for all these events.

We are very lucky to have a dedicated and professional staff at our school to protect and nurture our children. We commit our children to their care each day. I am appreciative each day for the gentle, caring and compassionate way in which they approach their duties and perform their roles, even if I don't say it often enough. Thank you. It must be noted though that the leadership of the Principal is the greatest determinant of any school's culture and student outcomes. In Danny Malone we have an excellent leader and role model, and as a consequence we have a great school. Thankyou Danny for the great guidance and leadership you have provided to the whole school community, including the P&F over many years.

As my last President's report I would like to thank the wonderful people who have supported the P&F over many years. The parents and friends who turn out for each barbecue, swimming carnival, fete, assembly, mass and concert make our school community what it is. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our school. Finally I would like to thank all of the people who have served with me in the P&F Executive over a number of years. The role of the President was made easy by the great work done by all of you. You are truly extraordinary. Thank you for everything you do.

### **Chairman's AGM Report for Mater Dei Primary School**

On behalf of the board I would like to congratulate and welcome our new members, Col Levy, Prue Francis and Jenny Spain. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members, Peter King, Camilla Rocks and Kim Heffernan for their significant contribution to the board.

On behalf of the board and school community, I would also like to thank, Father Bernie, Danny Malone and all of the staff at Mater Dei for their ongoing contribution to the school.

Over the past year, the board has been working on the following projects:

-The Creative Arts Building: Lead by Peter Hurst and Jo Carroll and is currently under construction and very exciting for the school community.

-Website and App: This is due for release very soon and has been well organised by Paul Irvine, Kim Heffernan and Tracey Fitzgerald.

-Maintenance Programme: This has been a significant project for the board over the past couple of years and a programme is now in place for ongoing and future maintenance within the school.

Peter Hurst, Danny Malone, Sue Bradley and I have been working on the following projects: Creation of a maintenance programme (completed by Peter Hurst), structural reports, carpentry work, painting, replacing air conditioning, ongoing classroom work, compliance contracts (air conditioners, hot water services, smoke detectors) and general maintenance.

-The front of the School: New gardens, currently one side of the school is completed, with the other side yet to be finished.

-Vision Mission Discussions

-Review of School Finances

-Canteen: Review of finances and procedures.

As you can all see, there is a lot to be considered when running a school and the board is just one part of this process, along with the P&F, various sub committees, parent representatives and of course the fantastic staff at Mater Dei lead by Danny Malone.

#### School Board as elected and positions held:

Andrew McLeod – Chairperson

Jo Carroll – Vice Chairperson

Prue Francis - Secretary

Col Levy – Treasurer

Jenny Spain - Board representative for the Canteen

Scott Boyle - Board representative on the P&F

Peter Hurst – Maintenance

Paul Irvine - School Website & App

We look forward to the year ahead and continue to strive to make Mater Dei an even better place for our children.

Andrew McLeod

### Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Once again we were extremely pleased with the students results in the NAPLAN testing conducted for Year 3 and Year 5 students. Our student cohort achieved outcomes above the state average in almost every component. Whilst these results are very satisfying, we will carefully analyse feedback to assist with future learning and teaching.

Parents can refer to the “Myschool” website for greater detail.

### Professional Learning

In our own school environment there were several areas of focus. The developing of individual Professional Learning Plan by all staff was integral in determining much Professional Development. A discussion with a “Coach” was the catalyst for the formation of these Professional Learning Plans.

Maria Worsfold from The Catholic School’s Office worked with teachers on the Inquiry Mindset and how we can incorporate this across the school and in our Learning and Teaching.

The implementation of the English syllabus in 2014 has meant that much inservicing and preparation has taken place this year. This included School and Diocesan based Professional Learning. It is quite likely that our school will also trial the new Science syllabus next year.

Emphasis was also placed on the analysis of our NAPLAN, SENA and Observation data with a view to directing our teaching to areas of need.

Matt Humphreys from the CSO also undertook a session with staff on Google Apps which was most beneficial.

### Teaching Staff

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 within Australia

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

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
26			26

### Workforce Composition

Our school staff consists of a Principal, assistant Principal, twelve permanent full-time teachers, twelve part-time teachers, two teacher assistants and five support staff. All of these personnel have the appropriate qualifications and clearance screening required to fulfil their duties in our school.

### Student Attendance

*Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
Kinder	90.30%
Year 1	93.01%
Year 2	93.92%
Year 3	93.37%
Year 4	93.27%
Year 5	93.32%
Year 6	93.94%

### Student Non-Attendance

Teachers are provided with absentee slips. If no explanation of an absence has been provided to the teacher after a two week period, an “explanation of absence” form is distributed to the parent.

Should there be more than five unexplained absences, contact is then made by the Principal with the family.

Should there be regular absences by students, contact is made with parents to discuss that situation.

Should students be going to be absent beyond six school days, parents are now to apply for Principal exemption by completing appropriate forms.

### Enrolment Policy

Mater Dei School has developed its enrolment policy in alignment with the Diocesan Enrolment

Guidelines. It is clearly outlined in our school prospectus, enrolment brochure and website. In short, our school has a commitment in the first instance to Catholic families who reside in our zone and are active parishioners of Sacred Heart Koorngal. Catholic families residing in our zone where children are of appropriate age and readiness are the next to be offered enrolment. Should vacancies allow, offering of places can then be made to Catholic families in our Parish and then other Parishes, where necessary. Non-Catholic families are most welcome to apply but need to understand that Catholic families will have first priority in placement.

Diocesan Enrolment policy can be accessed through the following link:  
<http://cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm>

### Characteristics of the Student Body

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Indig'</i>	<i>LOTE*</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>183</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>404</i>

*\*Language background Other Than English*

#### Structure of Classes

Classes are divided into the seven different grades, with Kindergarten to Year 6 all being double-streamed. The maximum class size at the school is 30 students.

### School Policies

#### Discipline /Student Welfare/Complaints & Grievances

Our school is committed to the development of the whole person: body, spirit, heart and mind.

We have developed a School Welfare Policy that encompasses discipline, student welfare, complaints & grievances.

In accordance with the policy we aim to establish a community of care through:

- welcoming and including students and their families
- respecting the dignity and uniqueness of each student
- providing a safe, secure & stimulating environment conducive to learning

- ensuring fairness & justice within appropriate discipline structures
- promoting self-esteem and critical thinking in students
- processes that allow parents to express their concerns or grievances

#### Changes to School Policies

Most policies are current. Variations have been made to policies in alignment with Diocesan and school expectations.

All of these policies can be accessed via the Teacher's Drive on our school network. A hard copy of all policies is also kept in the School Office.

### Improvement Targets

The development by each teaching member of staff of a Professional Learning Plan has provided clear direction for much of our Professional Learning. The developing and on-going support of teachers with their plans has been provided by in-school "coaches".

Key inservicing for the implementation of the new English Syllabus has taken place with all schools to adopt the new syllabus in 2014.

After exploring much of our assessment data across the school, our teaching staff has highlighted that "Writing" in our school should be an area of focus in 2014.

Staff were involved in Curriculum Reviews in the Mathematics and HSIE Key Learning Areas. Included in this was a review of Scope & Sequences and Assessment processes.

Sessions were also led By Maria Worsfold from the CSO on the Inquiry Mindset and how we can incorporate Inquiry Learning into our classrooms.

Introduction of new technology and replacement of existing technology has continued this year. The purchasing of a further fifteen i-pads for use in all classrooms has highlighted the part technology is playing in our learning and teaching.

### Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

A number of workshops were undertaken with classes across the school. All classes participated in anti-bullying workshops with the big emphasis on the role of the by-stander. A number of

sessions, including a whole day workshop were run with our Year 5 cohort. These workshops concentrated on self responsibility and increasing the awareness of their actions towards others.

The role of the Pastoral Care co-ordinator continues to show the benefits such a role will bring. Aside of supporting families in need in our school community, a number of student initiatives have already begun. One such initiative has been the formation of a Mini Vinnies group within the school. The purpose of this group is outreach to the wider community and included visits to Retirement Villages and Nursing Homes.

The school has continued the “One in Spirit” award which, each fortnight, recognises a student who is demonstrating the values promoted by the School. We distribute each week one merit award and one “You Can Do It” award to each class for students who show strong academic effort, social or environmental awareness or the qualities sought through the “You Can Do It” program. Guest speakers have spoken to students throughout the year, focusing on the different “keys” of the YCDI program.

Our Student Council continues to give our student body a voice in matters concerning our school. Representatives from classes meet regularly with the Principal to discuss pertinent matters.

### Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

#### Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at Mater Dei Catholic Primary.

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
80%	15%	5%	0%

#### Students

I am usually happy at Mater Dei Catholic Primary.

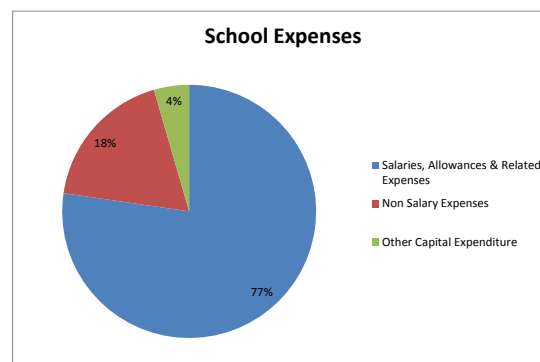
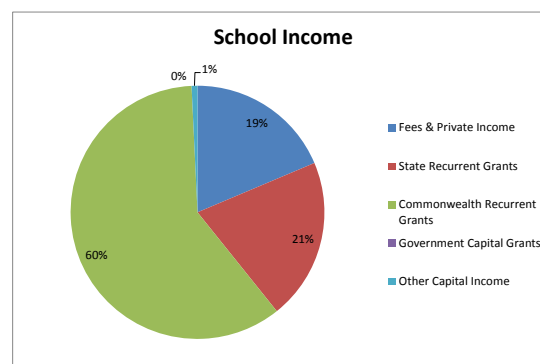
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
76%	20%	4%	0%

#### Staff

I am usually happy at Mater Dei Catholic Primary

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
75%	25%	0%	0%

### Financial Statement Summary



### About This Report

This report has been compiled by the Principal with the assistance of appropriate school and Diocesan personnel and encompasses educational and associated activities of our school community in 2013.