

St Mary's War Memorial School, West Wyalong

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Annual Report for 2008

A Message from Key School Bodies

From the Principal:

Our Vision

"Plant the Seed, Nurture the Growth, Celebrate the Harvest"

School Profile

St Mary's War Memorial School, is situated in West Wyalong - a rural town with a population of approximately 3000 people and an overall Shire population of 6000. As one of the most remote schools of the Western region of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, St Mary's qualifies as a Country Area Program School, attracting additional resources. St Mary's was founded in 1897 by the Sisters of Mercy and now provides Catholic Education from Kindergarten to Year 10. From the beginning of the 2010 school year St Mary's War Memorial School will cater for Years Kinder to 6. The township of West Wyalong is representative of a small rural community. The services include postal, police, community health, doctors, hospital, Centacare as well as a supermarket and a number of retail outlets, sporting clubs and recreational facilities.

Catholic Life and Mission

The School community regularly participates in a variety of Masses and Eucharistic celebrations throughout the year. We begin our assemblies and gatherings with prayer. Preparation for each Sacrament (Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation) occurs in the classroom and through meetings conducted at Parish level. Both students and staff have the opportunity to participate in Retreat and Reflection days which, at times, are held in conjunction with other Catholic schools in our diocese. The school is supportive of the development of the Archdiocesan's initiative of the Western Mission of which the Parish is an important part. A number of our staff attended the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney.

Parent Participation

Parents are informed about and kept up to date about the Religious Education Curriculum at the school. We include a parental component of all Sacramental Programs as we believe parents are the beginning teachers in a child's life and it is important that they guide their children through their faith journey. The invitation is always open for parents to participate in any religious celebration, and there are parents and grandparents represented at all of these events.

Pedagogical Practices

Our school vision of '*Plant the seed, Nurture the growth and Celebrate the harvest*' is at the core of all teaching and learning at St Mary's. We value the individual needs of each and every student and endeavour to always sow Christian values and nurture relationships, cultivate excellence and rise to challenges, and harvest opportunities to grow an optimistic community. Our Catholic values are integrated across the curriculum so that each Key Learning Area is taught within a Catholic dimension that aims to foster attitudes and values that are life-giving and which search for meaning and truth.

A quality school-wide approach to pedagogy has been developed, implemented and fostered to ensure that our classrooms are active, constructive and engaging learning environments that link

school-based learning to our students' lives and their wider communities. Our ongoing professional development program (significantly funded by the Country Areas Program) ensures that our teachers are continually acquiring new skills and are showcasing best teaching practice.

Key Curriculum Initiatives

St Mary's implemented a range of quality curriculum initiatives in 2008. These initiatives have been funded through the Country Areas Program (CAP), the Catholic Education Office and at school level.

Country Areas Program (CAP)

CAP is designed to assist schools and their communities to enhance learning outcomes for students in geographically isolated areas. There are three broad pathways identified to achieve the objectives of CAP: quality teaching and learning, quality improvement processes, and quality technology in teaching and learning. In 2008, the significant CAP initiatives included: Interactive Whiteboard training, Enhancing Peer Interaction using Collaborative Technologies, Radio SM (Podcasting), Intensive Reading program, Quality Teaching and Learning, and a Science Festival. These programs supported extensive professional development for teachers in the areas of quality teaching strategies, engaging students in the constructive use of technology, and meeting the needs of individual learners. CAP funds also enabled the purchase of relevant resources to implement new and improved teaching and learning through enhanced technology and improved literacy. The school also embarked on a comprehensive analysis of numeracy and literacy in the school resulting in the development of plans in these areas of the curriculum to be implemented in 2009.

From the School Board:

St Mary's War Memorial School at West Wyalong continues to provide a superior spiritual and curricular education to the West Wyalong community in spite of the continued drought being experienced by the area.

The school as a whole continues to contribute in a positive way to achieve this outcome.

The parents, friends, staff and in particular my fellow board members work tirelessly for the good of the school community and without their help the school pedagogical statement of "Plant the seed, nurture the growth and celebrate the harvest" could not be achieved.

I look forward to continuing to work with the entire school community for the good of St Mary's.

John Minogue, B.App.Sci(Ag) JP, Chairman

From the Student Representative Council:

In 2008, the SRC continued to support our World Vision sponsor child and we were successful in raising enough funds through our 'bake sales' and raffles. Once again our Easter raffle was a huge success with many students winning a bag of chocolates. The SRC also continued to support "Operation Christmas Child" with many boxes being sent overseas by the St Vincent de Paul society.

Student Performance

National Tests of Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The percentage of students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 achieving at or above the national Minimum Standards in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy is shown in the table below:



St Mary's Central School - Year 3

Table 3: Percentages in Bands

No. of Students: 14

		READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	OVERALL LITERACY	NUMBER, PATTERNS & ALGEBRA	MEASUREMENT, DATA, SPACE & GEOMETRY	NUMERACY
Band 6	State	20	26	22	26	20	22	22	18
	School	21	29	21	36	21	14	21	7
Band 5	State	27	28	24	17	29	21	21	22
	School	21	14	29	7	29	14	21	29
Band 4	State	20	26	27	23	27	21	20	27
	School	29	43	29	21	29	36	14	29
Band 3	State	16	14	15	21	15	24	22	23
	School	14	14	14	21	7	21	36	29
Band 2	State	12	4	9	8	7	9	11	7
	School	0	0	7	7	14	7	7	7
Band 1	State	4	2	3	4	2	4	3	3
	School	14	0	0	7	0	7	0	0

Percentages for the components may not add to 100 because of rounding.



St Mary's Central School - Year 5

Table 3: Percentages in Bands

No. of Students: 12

		READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	OVERALL LITERACY	NUMBER, PATTERNS & ALGEBRA	MEASUREMENT, DATA, SPACE & GEOMETRY	NUMERACY
Band 8	State	15	12	12	19	10	14	9	11
	School	0	17	0	8	0	17	8	17
Band 7	State	18	18	25	17	22	11	19	15
	School	25	0	25	8	17	0	17	8
Band 6	State	23	35	28	27	31	24	25	26
	School	8	50	50	42	25	25	8	8
Band 5	State	25	20	19	20	24	28	24	27
	School	25	8	8	25	42	25	17	33
Band 4	State	11	10	10	11	9	15	16	15
	School	25	8	0	0	0	33	42	25
Band 3	State	8	5	6	6	4	8	7	5
	School	17	17	17	17	17	0	8	8

Percentages for the components may not add to 100 because of rounding.



Table 3: Percentages in Bands

No. of Students: 7

		READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	OVERALL LITERACY
Band 9	State	11	10	11	10	8
	School	0	14	14	0	14
Band 8	State	18	19	25	20	18
	School	57	0	14	14	14
Band 7	State	24	24	29	25	30
	School	29	29	0	29	29
Band 6	State	29	30	20	23	28
	School	14	29	43	43	29
Band 5	State	14	11	9	14	12
	School	0	14	14	0	0
Band 4	State	4	7	6	7	4
	School	0	14	14	14	14

Percentages for the components may not add to 100 because of rounding.



Table 3: Percentages in Bands

No. of Students: 7

		READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	OVERALL LITERACY
Band 10	State	7	9	7	10	6
	School	14	0	14	14	14
Band 9	State	16	12	22	12	15
	School	29	29	29	14	14
Band 8	State	26	25	25	21	27
	School	29	14	14	14	29
Band 7	State	28	23	27	29	29
	School	14	57	29	43	29
Band 6	State	17	21	11	17	17
	School	14	0	14	14	14
Band 5	State	6	10	9	11	6
	School	0	0	0	0	0

Percentages for the components may not add to 100 because of rounding.

These tables highlight the following:

- 100% of Year 3 students achieved the national benchmark for writing, spelling and numeracy
- 91% of Year 5 students achieved the numeracy benchmark while 83% achieved the benchmark in all areas of literacy
- 100% of Year 7 students achieved the benchmark in reading and 86% achieved the benchmark in writing, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy
- 100% of Year 9 students achieved the national benchmark in all areas of literacy and numeracy.

The comparison of the national and school means is shown in the table below:

National and School Means

(School means scores shown in bold)

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year 3	400 405	414 431	399 427	403 408	397 401
Year 5	484 456	487 467	484 472	496 483	476 467
Year 7	537 581	534 517	539 513	529 509	545 503
Year 9	578 617	569 586	577 614	569 616	582 625

In 2008, as shown above, the school's NAPLAN results were higher than the national mean in Year 3 in all areas of literacy and numeracy. In Year 5, strengths can be noted in numeracy, spelling, and grammar and punctuation. In Year 7 the reading component of literacy is an area of strength and in Year 9 all areas of literacy and numeracy the school's results were above the national mean.

School Certificate

2008 School Certificate School vs State Grading Pattern Comparison

St Mary's War Memorial School (11430)

Riverina Area



Course Name	Students in School	Students in State	School Pattern (%)						State Pattern (%)						
			A	B	C	D	E	N	A	B	C	D	E	N	
English 200 hours	3	83194	33			67				13	26	38	18	6	
Mathematics 200 hours	3	83348	33		33	33				14	23	31	25	7	
Science 200 hours	3	83158	33			67				13	24	36	20	7	
Australian Geography 100 hours	3	83202	33			67				13	23	35	21	8	
Australian History 100 hours	3	83202	33			67				13	23	34	21	8	
Work Education 100 hours	3	2025	33		67					14	23	33	19	10	1
Agricultural Technology 100 hours	3	1216		33		67				7	21	38	22	11	
Industrial Technology (Metal) 100 hours	1	1347				100				8	25	40	19	7	
Personal Development, Health and P.E. 200 hours	3	57473	33		67					14	28	36	16	6	

The 3 students at St Mary's War Memorial School, as shown in the above table, have performed well in the School Certificate. In English 33% of St Mary's students achieved A compared to 13% from the State. In Mathematics 33% of St Mary's students achieved A compared to 14% from the State. It is necessary to keep in mind the small number of students who sat for the tests at our school when making comparisons with state averages.

Professional Learning and Teacher Standards

The teaching staff at St Mary's War Memorial School are committed to their ongoing professional development. In 2008, a comprehensive professional development program was designed and implemented to support quality teaching and learning. This program was funded through the

Country Areas Program (CAP), the Catholic Education Office's (CEO) own professional development program, and the CEO's funding allocation to St Mary's for School Determined Professional Development. Through CAP support, teachers attended professional development relating to: deeper understanding of the successful application of the Quality Teaching and Learning Framework, the effective use of web 2 tools, and attendance by two staff members at a national conference related to current international research on thinking and learning. As well as these programs CAP also provided support to enhance teacher skills in the tracking of the development of student literacy in the school and the teachers also were able to further develop their skills in the effective use of interactive whiteboards now located in every classroom. Through the CEO's professional development program, staff attended professional learning relating to quality teaching and learning, learning technologies and spirituality. School Determined Funds enabled staff to attend professional learning opportunities relating to CPR and anaphylactic training, complete an audit of literacy and numeracy within the school and also develop whole school literacy and numeracy plans to be implemented during 2009, as well as an analysis of the school's current approach to student rewards system, and the integration of technology into the classroom.

The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning at the school was \$1,375.00.

Of the 11.62 FTE class teachers all have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia.

Teacher Attendance and Retention

The average number of days teachers were in attendance at St Mary's War Memorial School in 2008 was 194.2. The total number of teaching days in a school year is 204. The percentage of teaching staff retained at St Mary's War Memorial School from 2007 to 2008 was 68%. One of these teachers has gone on to other employment, one has retired and five have left the district.

Student Attendance

Student attendance at St Mary's War Memorial School for 2008 was 80.21%. Absences usually were associated with illness or planned family leave.

Post School Destinations

Of the students who completed their compulsory years of schooling at St Mary's at the end of 2008, 66% have gone onto further education and 34% have entered the workforce.

Enrolment Policy and Profile

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website OR on the Catholic Education Office's website at <http://www.ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/schools/enrolments/policy.htm>

School Policies

Pastoral Care is the responsibility of each member of the School community. Our Mission statement calls us to "work together in a united, caring, challenging Christ-centred environment, promoting justice for all". Our response to this challenge is the basis of our Pastoral Care Program, with respect for each person and following Jesus' invitation to 'love each other as I have loved you' as paramount. Our School community is expected to work together for the good of all and all complaints and grievances are dealt with in accordance with our policies which are aligned with the policies of the Catholic Education Office. There have been no changes to these policies during 2008. Further information explaining our Pastoral Care Program can be found in the St Mary's War Memorial Handbook, and in the Policies documentation on our School's website: <http://www.smwms.cg.catholic.edu.au>

School Determined Improvement Targets

The St Mary's Strategic Plan guides and directs our focus for the selection of targets for improvement. This plan can be viewed on our school website, <http://www.smwms.cg.catholic.edu.au> The achievement of priorities for 2008 centred on the development of prayerful displays around the schools, the trialling of new technologies, the development of deeper knowledge related to the quality teaching and learning framework, the

creation of quality circles to share best practice and continue to address the recommendations outlined in the registration and accreditation report. We were successful in improving the use of religious icons around the school building to improve prayerful displays. Staff development in the implementation of the quality and teaching and learning framework provided the impetus for quality professional dialogue. The trialling of new technologies resulted in the launch of our own pod cast, Radio SM. The use of the quality circle enabled the staff to reflect on our understanding of how literacy and numeracy can be enhanced and subsequently the staff developed whole-school literacy and numeracy plans to be implemented in 2009. Our successful Science Festival Day resulted in renewed enthusiasm for this area of the curriculum. The need to continue to enhance our buildings and facilities was addressed and repainting of public areas of the main building ensured a fresh look for our educational environment.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

At St Mary's War Memorial School the community is committed to the development of core Christian values which includes the promotion of respect and responsibility. Our teaching strategies to ensure the development of these values are centred on, and emulate from, the Catholic Education Office's core document, '*Treasures New and Old*', During 2008 the staff participated in a spirituality day with staff from the diocese; our common goals were examined and affirmed. On a daily basis the students are reminded of the need to show care and concern for others.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

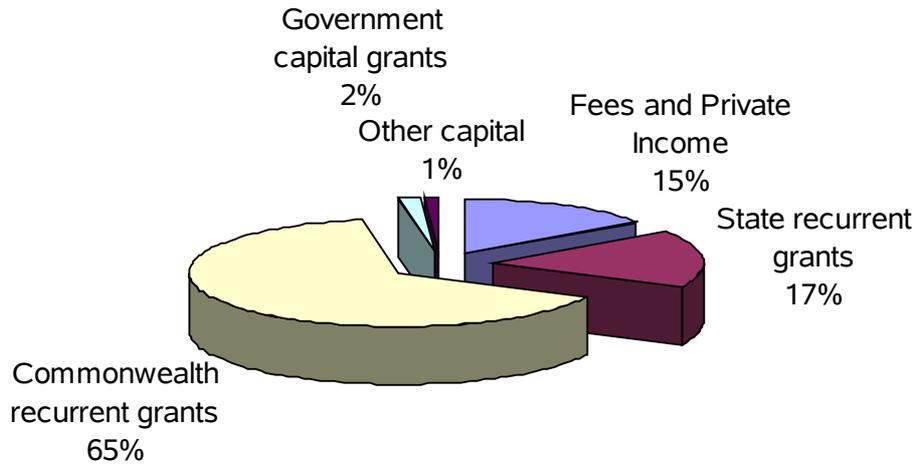
Organisational climate surveys were distributed to parents, teachers and students. From an analysis of the results of these surveys it was determined that there was overall satisfaction within the St Mary's War Memorial community. Parents agree that there is effective leadership within this school, that the staff are approachable and that parents are given the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities. The students agree that their teachers expect them to 'try their hardest' and they encourage students to improve the standard of their work. They also agree that the school expects students to act responsibly and that there are clear rules and expectations. The teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School agree that there is a positive ethos in the workplace, that they can influence decisions affecting their work and that they have recognition from their colleagues.

Summary Financial Information

A summary of the school's financial information is presented in the graphs below.

This report was prepared by: The School Executive

St. Mary's West Wyalong - Income



St. Mary's West Wyalong - Expenditure

