

# ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

**Year** 2010  
**School Name** Sacred Heart School  
**School Type** K - 6  
**Suburb/Town** Geeveston  
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**Principal:** Mr Stuart Kelly

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## School Profile

Sacred Heart Catholic School is a Co-Educational School (K-6) with an enrolment of 180 students that has provided a quality education for students in the Huon Valley Region for 73 years. The School is situated on 10 acres about 3km outside the township of Geeveston. Today, a dedicated and professional staff team carry on the spirit and traditions of our founders, The Sisters of Saint Joseph. The School has an excellent educational reputation in the local and wider community. The school has a comprehensive Aboriginal Education program, which has been adopted by many other Catholic primary schools, and participates fully in numerous community events and activities. The school is a collaborative environment where staff and students work together in teams where learning takes place in small interpersonal groupings. The school offers a range of specialist programs in Indonesian, visual art, physical education, library, outdoor education, learning support, school counselling and music. Information communication and technology is a particular strength of the school with ICT fully integrated across all learning areas. There are many opportunities for parents to work in partnership with the school,

thereby strengthening the bonds of communication.

## Catholic Life and Mission

### Liturgy

All students have the opportunity to participate in Mass several times a year. The school year always commences with a Commencement Mass where a commitment is made by the whole community to the year ahead asking God to be with us. Classes also share regular prayer times which are co planned with another class usually to highlight the areas of study in religious education or to mark important seasons and events of the church. These prayer services occur on a regular basis and parents are always invited to attend.

During November the Grade 6 class joins all other Grade 6 classes in Southern Catholic schools at St Mary's Cathedral for Mass. This celebration is in the presence of Archbishop Doyle, Archbishop of Hobart. This occasion is a time to celebrate the primary years that these students have spent in Catholic schools. All students are moving on from their primary years and to a new stage of their lives, in moving on to Secondary schools.

The Sacred Heart Grade 6 also have a family gathering where they remember primary years and are presented with a momento of their years at Sacred Heart. This occasion is a time of joy and sadness, and much looked forward to by the whole school community. During the end of year whole school mass the students receive a certificate of recognition of their time at Sacred Heart and receive a blessing for their lives to come.

In June 2010 the whole school community gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart with St James' College in Cygnet. An important Feast Day for the community, which sees the school community remember and celebrate the Founding Order of the School, The Sisters of St Joseph. In 2010 the school continued to strengthen the relationship with the Sisters by having the Sisters facilitate a professional learning session for the staff and also the school hosted a number of the Sisters and members of the Catholic Women's League for a morning tea and tour of the school.

Mrs Eva Dunn our School/Parish Pastoral Associate continued to build and strengthen the relationship between the school and the Huon Valley Parish. Eva's role had a positive impact on the school environment and she initiated many new programs and structures across all areas of the curriculum, particularly Religious Education. Eva worked with our School Counsellor, Mrs Robyn Evans to run weekly Rainbows sessions. The Rainbows program is designed to assist students that have experienced some form of loss.

#### School in Life of Parish Diocese.

In 2010 a number of children received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist in the Parish. This follows the new structure for the Sacramental Programs instituted by Archbishop Doyle in 2006 for Tasmania. The students were prepared in family groupings with parents and parish

working together. The Sacraments were over one weekend with Confirmation in a Liturgy of the Word on one evening and Eucharist during that weekend's Sunday Mass. This was a special time for both the school community and the wider Huon Valley parish Community.

In Term 1 the children of Sacred Heart entered whole heartedly into Project Compassion. Children collected coins during Lent. Some classes had interesting ways to raise money which would be used by Caritas for a better life for children in other parts of the world. During Holy week the school gathered to place their coins on the large letters saying 'Project Compassion'. Grade 6 showed their leadership skills by organising the day of the coin line and assisting children to place coins. Later the coins were collected and a cheque presented to the Parish Priest, Fr Greg Barker to pass to Caritas.

Grade Learning Teams continued to plan and lead monthly Parish Masses in St Joseph's Church. These special occasions were well attended by Parish members and parents in the school community.

#### Spirituality program

In 2010 the school offered a number of formal and informal opportunities for the staff and students to develop and enrich their own spirituality. Individual staff attended a 'Courage to Be' retreat offered by the Catholic Education Office. Staff gather weekly for prayer and reflection and attend Mass regularly. The staff also attended a spirituality session at the Josephite's History and Origins Centre led by the Sisters of St Joseph. One staff member was fortunate enough to travel to Sydney to participate in the Josephite Colloquium at Mary MacKillop Place. In 2010 the staff through the assistance of the Catholic Education Office implemented Christian Meditation into the daily life of the students. The students and staff enjoyed this structured but

prayerful and relaxing start to the busy school day.

There were numerous opportunities throughout the year for the children and their families to attend whole school and small group gatherings that aimed to strengthen their spirituality. Our Pastoral Associate, Mrs Eva Dunn facilitated numerous workshops and activities for our community members and worked in class with our teachers to support the Religious Education Programs.

Peter Mitchell's Making Jesus Real (MJR) program was once again a highlight of the programs being offered to our Grade 5/6 Team. This spirituality program for children challenges them to reflect upon the GOD Moments of their daily lives and to live daily the Gospel message. In 2010 we implemented the MJR across the school from Kindergarten to Grade 6 based on a peer support model.

Religious Education program.

Good News for Living is the Tasmanian Religious Education program followed by schools in Tasmania. During 2010 staff continued to share knowledge and planning in preparation of units of work for their classes using some staff meeting time to have periods of co planning. Sr Gabrielle Morgan from the Catholic Education Office worked more particularly on the implementation of the Christian Meditation program and assisted classroom teachers to plan more deeply for their class. After teaching this unit an evaluation completed the school task. This unit now forms an important part of the whole school curriculum in Religious Education.

In 2010 our system continued the external moderation for the key learning areas of Mathematics and Religious Education. The Sacrament Unit was moderated across the schools in the Catholic Education System. This process was a valuable one

with staff at class, school & system level all contributing and discussing key issues in this area.

Staff continued to work towards Accreditation to teach Religious Education. Two staff members completed their Graduate Certificate of Religious Education offered by ACU and the CEO together. Other courses were offered at school. Due to the distance to travel to Hobart it is more efficient to bring a speaker or presenter from Hobart and the whole staff work together. This continued education in Religious Education for staff is also assisting in raising understanding in the classroom.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach.

In 2010 Sacred Heart Catholic School contributed to various community and outreach programs. The major contribution was the support of an orphanage in Cambodia. Led by staff and community members, the school held numerous activities and fundraisers to support our Cambodian friends. The last two years has seen the school and the Cambodian Children's Trust (CCT) Team raise over \$30,000. In 2010 two families in the school travelled to Cambodia to personally 'hand' the money over.

The school also supported Project Compassion, Archbishop's Doyle's Samaritan Fund (Catholic Education Week), ABC Giving Tree and numerous other local charities. Our classes and choir also visited Huon Eldercare Complex in Franklin on a number of occasions. In 2010 planning commenced to implement a Junior Joeys Program that will see students volunteering their time to participate in community outreach programs.

A highlight in 2010 was the annual school fair. The fair was a great success with

numerous parents volunteering large amounts of time to ensure the whole community was able to enjoy the occasion. The fair raised over \$6000, which goes directly back into supporting the staff and the programs the school offers.

#### Parent Participation.

The parents of the school participate in many ways including parent tutoring in class, attending camps and excursions and also the very active Parents & Friends group. Without the hard work of the parent group the playgrounds and our surroundings would not be so pleasant. These parent groups also are a way of alleviating some of the distance and isolation which can be part of rural communities.

In 2010 the Parents and Friends Association at Sacred Heart Catholic School continued to actively support our teaching and learning programs and fundraise significant funds to support the school budget. The members have met monthly throughout the school year to plan and organise a number of very significant events. These events have highlighted the strong sense of community that is evident at Sacred Heart Catholic School. In 2010 the Parents & Friends association contributed over \$4000 to fully resource a new spelling program and another \$2000 to ensure our classrooms have the latest mathematical resources.

The School Board, led by Mr Tony Bradley continued to be a very supportive and proactive group in our community. The Board met monthly to assist with the planning and finances of the school. In 2010 the School Board was instrumental in the overseeing of the building program, which saw the majority of the school transformed into a modern and flexible learning facility. The Board also purchased a new mid-sized coach that has been placed on one of the school's government contract runs.

## **Our Learning Community**

### Learning and Teaching

Our learning and teaching program continued to be reviewed and developed during 2010. With the launch of our School Improvement Plan we were able to plan and develop an Educational BluePrint for the next three years. This BluePrint came directly from the data and research gathered when collecting data and information from our key stakeholders. This plan has seen a number of exciting initiatives launched at the beginning of 2009. These included the introduction of Grade Learning Teams, change of the School timetable, review of staff meeting times and professional learning opportunities, review of teacher assistant timetables and responsibilities, and a review of our physical resources to cater for our new team approach.

A major focus in 2010 was the external moderation in our system. In 2010 we focussed on the key learning areas of Religious Education and Mathematics. These processes were successful both at school, regional and state level.

In 2009 Sacred Heart commenced a numeracy project, ACTION MATHS that was funded through the Federal Government. This comprehensive program aims to strengthen the numeracy skills of the students through building the capacity of our teaching staff. Every student in the school has a numeracy interview with their teacher that clearly outlines their strengths and weaknesses. This valuable data is then used to collaboratively plan engaging learning experiences for students.

In 2010 the staff began preparations for the implementation of the Australia Curriculum that was launched in December 2010. The Grade 5/6 Team completed a trial for the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) on the History curriculum. The trial gave the staff and the students an insight into the History

Curriculum and what was expected. The staff also planned and resourced a new spelling program, 'Letters & Sounds' that commenced at the beginning of 2011. 2010 also saw the start of the Multi-Lit reading intervention program that has students that need extra assistance in reading working with a parent/grandparent volunteer each day to improve their skills.

A specialist program continued to be offered so that not only were award conditions met for staff but students had the opportunity for PE, Music, LOTE and Library taken by specialist teachers who could develop skills to a greater level. Students participated in a variety of outside school activities which added greatly to developing a whole person. Chess competitions were held regularly and the more able chess players represented the school in local competition as well as state competition in Launceston. Greater contact is made outside the Huon Valley for students able to participate in Athletic, Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals when the school joins other southern Catholic schools in competition.

In 2010 two teachers completed their Post Graduate Degree in Mathematics and one staff member continue their Masters of Education Leadership. Our Administration Team also secured two Indigenous Traineeships through the Federal Government, which saw the school employ two young people to train and support over the next two years.

2009 saw the introduction of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) and National School Pride stimulus packages all Australian Schools. Sacred Heart was successful in securing funding in the first round of the program and engaged Architects from K2LD in Melbourne to commence concept drawings. After consultation with the community it was decided to demolish the

an existing building and replace it with a flexible learning environment for our Upper Primary students. The tendering process proved to be difficult but finally TASCAN Construction we contracted to commence the building. The building was completed in June 2010.

By the end of 2010 the BER Project at Sacred Heart Catholic School was completed. The project saw the completion of the new Josephite Learning Centre (Gr 5 & 6), and the refurbishments of the Kinder to Grade 4 learning spaces. The school is very grateful to the financial support of the Federal Government and the support of the Tasmanian Catholic Office. The Building the Education Revolution Program gave the school community the opportunity to remove and refurbish old learning spaces and replace them with ones that promote active, student-centred learning for all students, through the creation of flexible, functional spaces that would support contemporary learning and teaching practices. The Josephite Learning Centre was highly commended at the Victorian's Council of Educational Facility Planners Awards in late 2010.

#### Targeted programs

In 2010, 6 students were funded for learning disabilities and another 4 students received assistance for speech. The literacy and numeracy funding grant also enabled many other children to extra tuition in small groups, in class and also individually if required. The Country Areas Program allowed an Artist in residence program to continue whereby all grade 4 students receive instruction in drawing and perspective, while students from grade 5 and 6 with talent are given extra tuition to develop their skills to a higher level. The Country Areas program also allows a Teacher Aide with ICT skills to work with Early Years children to introduce and also skill them to a level of independence in ICT.

Aboriginal Grants allow for all students who have aboriginal heritage to develop to their full potential or gain greater achievement. A unit of work has been developed across the school which is developmental in knowledge building and also in awareness of the Tasmanian Aboriginal population and its distinctive culture. Each year around the time of NAIDOC Week this unit is taught. An assembly of activity is presented to parents.

Through the Aboriginal Educational Funding our Grade 6 students received a grant to develop our Reconciliation Garden that was built by our Grade 6 leavers in 2008. The garden continues to be a quiet and reflective area in our school environment.

#### Literacy and Numeracy

Sacred Heart's literacy & numeracy results in the 2010 highlighted the extensive work and professional learning that had been facilitated over the previous years. The results have been thoroughly unpacked and have been an extremely useful tool for informing our teaching and learning programs.

School Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value: 948

Bottom Quarter - 20%

Middle Quarters - 65% & 15%

Top Quarter - 0%

#### NAPLAN Results 2010

##### Grade 3

READING - 406 (na 414) WRITING - 409 (na 419) SPELLING - 389 (na 399) GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION - 401 (na 417) NUMERACY - 404 (na 395)

##### Grade 5

READING - 488 (na 487) WRITING - 453 (na 485) SPELLING - 473 (na 487)

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION - 478 (na 500) NUMERACY - 478 (na 489)

(na = National Average)

A rigorous testing program occurs in November, which is analysed by class teachers and the Support teacher to assist with targets for the next year and also allows teachers to provide a differentiated program for all students. The staff analysis forms part of the discussion and planning for professional development activities for staff.

Two written reports with A-E ratings were sent home to parents throughout the year and two compulsory parent/teachers were held.

#### Pastoral Care

The promotion of a family atmosphere is supported in all we do. Our Behaviour Management process was continued with a greater emphasis on the positive rewards for good behaviour. Another element was introduced in 2009/2010 with a 2 weekly focus on social issues identified by staff as needing some practise. These were introduced at assembly by a different class for each focus. They then provided information for other classes and also led us in thinking about that identified social aspect. Children were encouraged to identify when the focus was seen and to be identified with gold card reward.

A tightening and a more explicit understanding of the 2 stage behaviour modification program was reviewed and refined. Children became very familiar with it and it was accepted well by both students and families. A very small group of students had difficulty and a modified Restorative Justice Interview program was introduced and had some success. Parents are always kept informed of the serious challenges that their children may have. There is an open door policy and parents are encouraged to come and speak with

staff members so that as a team we are able to work out difficulties together.

Students in grade 6 follow the 'Making Jesus Real' program which assists them as they begin the transition to secondary school and also entering teenage years. Students spend time each week both as a class group also writing a private journal about how they are journeying through this time. This program is based on children learning and taking responsibility for their lives now and into the future. It is based on all the values we hold as necessary for our community to work .

## **Strategic Planning**

Sacred Heart Catholic School has engaged its key stakeholders over a number of years in a process of analysis and evaluation to assist with the School Improvement Process and strategically plan for the future needs of the school. The process has been school-based, learning centred and future orientated.

The School Improvement Process is driven by the desire to enhance student learning by engaging and involving the community in critical reflection. The School Improvement Plan (2009 - 2011) encompasses the five domains in the School Improvement Process, responds to the External Validation (Nov 2007) and the Archbishop's Charter for Catholic Education.

The School Community is confident that the School Improvement Plan is a holistic and sustainable plan that will enhance student learning, within a safe and Christ-centred environment, in which all students will have the opportunity to reach their potential and participate fully in the daily life of the school.

Our School Improvement Plan commenced in January 2009 and gave the School Leadership Team and School Board clear and achievable goals to pursue. In April 2009 His Grace, Archbishop Adrian Doyle

formally responded to the School Improvement Plan by symbolically mandating the school as an 'Institute of Catholic Education'. A review of the School Improvement Plan was held mid 2010. Valuable feedback was gained from parent community about our progress with the School Improvement and other priorities.

In June 2010 the school was registered with the Schools Registration Board until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. The school was able to meet all the requirements of the Board, which was particularly impressed with the School Improvement Process the school had undertaken with the community over many years.

## **Enrolment and Staffing**

The enrolment for 2010 was consistent at 180 (Kindergarten - 24, P-6 156). There was a staff of 14 full and part time teaching staff with 7 teacher assistants , a utility officer and 2 office staff. All staff have the required qualifications to be registered with the Tasmanian Teacher Registration Board. Five staff members have post-graduate qualifications (1 Masters of Educational Leadership & 2 Graduate Certificates in Religious Education & 2 Graduate Certificates in Mathematics). An Artist in Residence program is able to be followed thanks to the Country Areas Program and a part time artist is added to the staff.

Out of the 16 students in Grade 6 in 2010, 12 commenced their secondary education in the Catholic System and four students went to the local Department High School.

Sacred Heart Catholic School complies to the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission's Enrolment for Catholic Schools Policy and Sacred Heart Catholic School's Attendance Policy.

SCHOOL FACTS (taken from MySchool website)

School Sector: Non-government

School Type: Primary

Year Range: Kindergarten - 6

Total Enrolments: 156 (P-6) + 24 (K)

Boys: 90 (P-6)

Girls: 66 (P-6)

Full Time Equivalent enrolments: 156

Indigenous students: 15%

Location: Provincial

Student Attendance Rate: 95%

Teaching Staff: 13

Full-Time equivalent teaching staff: 9.9

Teaching Staff Attendance: 96% (taken from centralised database)

Non-Teaching staff: 9

Full-Time equivalent non-teaching staff: 3.3

### **Community Involvement**

As a school we try to participate in as many community events as is possible. The choir and music students participated in a community concert which involves all schools in the Huon Valley - public and independent. The school also participated in other events such as the Huon

Agricultural Show and ANZAC and Remembrance Day services. During the year several classes visited the Elderly Peoples homes in the Valley providing friendship and care.

Connection with the Parish is through Sacramental preparation and attendance at weekday masses.

### **Summary Financial Information**

#### **Financial Statement**

A copy of the school Financial Statement will be forwarded to you from the Finance and Administrative Services CEO.

#### **About this Report**

In preparing this report, information has been gathered from evaluations conducted during the year. Information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes have also been analysed and from this goals for the school's future development have been determined.

#### **This Report was prepared by:**

Stuart Kelly

Principal

#### **Signed**