Sacred Heart Catholic School is a co-educational school (K-6) with an enrolment of 177 students that has provided a quality education in the Huon Valley for 77 years. The school is set on 10 acres about 3km from Geeveston. Today a dedicated and very professional staff carry on the spirit and traditions of our founding order; The Sisters of St Joseph. The school has an excellent educational reputation in the local and wider community. The school has a very comprehensive Aboriginal Educational Program, that has been adopted by many other Catholic schools, and also participates in many other community events and activities. The school is a collaborative environment where staff and students work in teams and learning takes place in small interpersonal groups. The school offers an extensive range of specialist programs including Spanish, Physical Education, Art, Music, Dance, Outdoor Education, Learning Support and counselling. Information Computer Technology is strong throughout the school with ICT fully integrated across all learning areas. In 2014, our one to one ipad program was extended to Grades 3-6. The school offers many opportunities for parents to work in partnership with the school, and this strengthens communication throughout the school.

Catholic Life and Mission

Liturgy

All staff and students joined in the celebration of Mass on a number of occasions throughout the year. This included our Beginning of Year Mass, Mass celebrating the Feasts of the Sacred Heart and St Mary MacKillop. We also have a Thanksgiving Mass where all in our community had the opportunity to express their gratitude for the year that had been. The Grade 6 leaving class were acknowledged with certificates and special awards after this Thanksgiving Mass and their parents joined our school community to wish them well as they ventured to secondary school. Classes come together each week for our school prayer gatherings with these often focusing on the Sunday Mass and also important events in the school year. Masses are prepared by different teaching teams thus giving each team the opportunity to do this a number of times over the year.

Our Grade 6 class joined other schools from Southern Tasmania to celebrate their final primary school year. This celebration took place with the Archbishop at St Mary's Cathedral. The Feast Day of St Mary
MacKillop provided a wonderful opportunity for our community to connect with our Josephite history and charism. This Feast day is always celebrated with St James Catholic College in Cygnet.

The school has continued to run its Junior Joeys program for students from Grades 4-6. These children gather regularly to connect with our founding order and organize fund-raising events responding to the famous motto of St Mary MacKillop; “Never see a need without doing something about it”. In 2014 our Junior Joeys also visited Eldercare to sing carols to the residents and also spent time doing craft with them. The Apple Drive conducted last year was a great opportunity for our Junior Joeys to help raise funds for Caritas and also, Geeveston Cares.

Our School / Parish Pastoral Associate, Mrs Eva Dunn, continued to run a range of programs including the Junior Joeys, Rainbows and was also able to assist classes with religious instruction and support with the preparation of Masses. Mrs Leanne Hall assisted with the Rainbows Program and also with the running of Godly Play experiences in our Early Years classes.

**School in Life of the Parish Diocese**

In 2014 a number of children received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Parish. These students were prepared at Sacred Heart by Fr Greg with some assistance from staff of Sacred Heart and St James. This was certainly a time of celebration for both our school community and the wider Huon Valley Parish community.

During the first Term the students raised significant funds for Project Compassion ($2500), Relay for Life ($3100) and Geeveston Cares ($500). The children saw these as great opportunities to help others in our world whether they be local, within Australia or in developing countries overseas. This generosity was evident yet again through Cambodiathon when the school raised $3500 for a Cambodian orphanage.

**Spirituality Programs**

In 2014 a number of opportunities were provided for enriching experiences in spirituality. Staff were able to attend a number of workshops offered by the TCEO and were also fortunate to have Fr Greg provide a number of staff spirituality sessions after school throughout the year. Four staff members were able to attend Josephite Colloquiums in both Tasmania and Sydney. These were very enriching experiences for all who attended.

Our connections with the local school at Geeveston and Dover continued with all schools coming together at Sacred Heart to participate in the Bravehearts Program. Students from each schools also came together regularly to play sport at different venues. Our Grade 6 class once again attended the World Day of Peace Liturgy hosted by the Christian Church in Geeveston.

2014 saw the continuation of our Breakfast Club that offered warm Milo and toast every morning.
This free program was supported by Banjos Bakery, Bendigo Bank, and student, staff and parent volunteers who generously came together each week in the service of others.

**Parent Participation**

Parents at Sacred Heart volunteered in many different ways. They assisted in classrooms, with programs like MultiLit, on excursions and camps, with the Veggie Garden, P&F Association and School Board to name but a few. We were very fortunate to have so many parents so actively involved in our school.

In 2014 our Parents and Friends Association continued to actively support our teaching and learning programs through fund-raising events, like Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Gift Stalls, the Trailer Raffle and the School Fair. The Fair was a huge success and together with the trailer raffle, raised over $18,000 for our school. Many resources were provided for classroom, ICT and the playground. At the end of 2014 the P&F made a commitment to financially support the new school playground development. The P&F also supported our Move Well Eat Well program by providing Tasty Tuesdays and Fruit stations at school sporting events.

The School Board led by Fiona Steel has continued to be a wonderful support to the Principal and the school community generally. The Board met monthly to assist with planning and finances of the school. This included the financial management of the school and the Government Bus Contracts. The Board has worked tirelessly to ensure that our school is affordable for all families and fee assistance is provided when necessary respecting the dignity of the parents within our school community. The School Board has worked hard to improve our financial operation with good successes over the year. In 2014 our School Board was instrumental in the purchase of a new school bus which was much needed at our school.

**Our Learning Community**

**Learning and Teaching**

Our Learning and teaching program continues to roll out the Australian Curriculum and staff have been well supported with professional learning opportunities both at school and externally through the TCEO.

In 2014, our major focus was around Literacy; particularly reading and oral language. Reading resources were directed to providing quality literature that students could easily access in their classrooms. New Libraries were established in classrooms and new reading programs like the Daily 5 were introduced with great success. Literacy Programs like Letters and Sounds continued and new staff were quickly brought up to speed with quality professional learning opportunities.

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Program continued to flourish particularly with the introduction of Circle Time opportunities in all learning areas around the school. PBS is aimed at improving the social
and emotional well-being of students.

Specialist Programs continued with LOTE, PE, Art, Music and Library. This not only fulfilled the teacher release time requirements but also provided quality programs for our students from Kinder – Grade 6. Back to back release times provided excellent opportunities for teachers to plan and carry out a multitude of classroom responsibilities.

**Literacy and Numeracy**

Sacred Heart’s Literacy and Numeracy results in 2014 highlighted the extensive work and commitment to provide a quality teaching and learning program for our students. Teachers have spent many hours unpacking data and using it to inform their planning and preparation.

**NAPLAN RESULTS 2014**

**Grade 3**

READING – 381 (na 418)
WRITING – 362 (na 402)
SPELLING – 368 (na 412)
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION – 357 (na 426)
NUMERACY – 363 (na 402)

**Grade 5**

READING – 541 (na 501)
WRITING – 482 (na 468)
SPELLING – 479 (na 498)
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION – 488 (na 504)
NUMERACY – 470 (na 487)

A rigorous Testing Program (PAT Testing) is conducted in Term 3 by class teachers and our Learning Support teacher, to assist teachers with targets for the next year and to also provide a differentiated program for all students.

Two written reports with A-E ratings were sent home to parents throughout the year and 2 Parent Teacher interviews were offered.

**Pastoral Care**

Students in Grade 6 follow the ‘Making Jesus Real Program’ that provides a values based approach to teaching religion in a language that our children can both relate to and understand. The program is based on children taking responsibility for their lives now and into the future.

Sacred Heart continues to work closely with a number of agencies in the area. In 2014 Mrs Annabelle Woods was our School Counsellor working with vulnerable students and their families and offering a range of support through programs like ‘Get Lost Mr Scary’ & Preventative Behaviour Programs. A number of children continued to attend Eddie Rice Camps and the Rainbows Program was facilitated by Mrs Eva Dunn and Mrs Leanne Hall, assisting children experiencing grief.

**Strategic Planning**

Over the past years, Sacred Heart has engaged its key stakeholders in a way that responds well to the School Improvement Process, thus ensuring that the school plans strategically for the future needs of the school. The process has been school based, learning centred and future orientated.
The school Improvement Plan is driven by a desire to enhance student learning by engaging and involving the community in critical reflection.

**Enrolments and staffing**

The enrolments for 2014 was consistent at 177 (Kindergarten – 24, P-6 153). There were 16 full and part-time teaching staff with 9 teacher assistants, 3 utility officers and 3 office staff.

**Community Involvement**

Sacred Heart participates in quite a number of community events including The Huon Show, Geeveston Community Days and ANZAC services across the Huon Valley. The school has a good connection with the parish through the sacramental program and attendance at monthly Masses.

**Summary of Financial Information**

**Financial Statement**

A copy of the school financial statement will be forwarded to you from the Finance and Administrative Services TCEO.

**This Report was prepared by:**

Luch Brighella
Principal

Signed