

## **ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT**

### **John Paul II School, Clarendon Vale, TAS**

**Year:** 2016

**School Name:** John Paul II Catholic School

**School Type:** K-6

**Suburb:** Clarendon Vale

**Address:** 161 Mockridge Rd. Clarendon Vale 7019

**Telephone:** 03 6247 7104

**Email:** johnpaul@catholic.tas.edu.au

**Website:** johnpaul.tas.edu.au

**Principal:** Mrs Fran Bearman

#### **School Profile**

John Paul II Catholic School is a vibrant school community. The school is nestled in a semi-rural environment in Clarence Plains. The school space is generous and characterised by abundant trees, gardens and large playgrounds. High-quality teaching is delivered by a dedicated and committed staff. Our culture is unique and diverse and the school has a strong relationship with local community organisations. The school was founded in 1983 to serve the needs of Clarence Plains, Lauderdale and the surrounding areas.

Today the school has an enrolment of approximately 150 students and a reputation for excellent teaching and outstanding pastoral care. Aspiration to continuously improve academic standards feature prominently in the life of our school. The school caters for students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Our educational vision is modelled on the values found in the life of Pope John Paul II, a man who courageously pushed out into unfamiliar territories, was not afraid to challenge convention but was at the same time a valiant defender of Gospel values. He held a special place in his heart for the fragile, the dispossessed and the orphaned.

Inspired by John Paul II, we endeavor to live out our motto "To love and serve the Lord in peace". As a Catholic School, while being open to the whole community, we extend the hand of welcome particularly to those who struggle. Our school is based on a rich Christian tradition as revealed in the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Classes are conducted in a modern education setting and the school makes use of both our indoor and outdoor learning spaces. With spacious grounds there are enormous opportunities for students to become involved in a wide range of activities, John Paul II Catholic School provides a rich learning environment vital for the early school years.

John Paul II Catholic School is situated between Clarendon Vale and Rokeby and borders on a paddock, which is shortly to be subdivided and sold as building blocks. Whilst many of our students are drawn from those immediate two suburbs, a good number come from further afield including Acton Park, Clifton Beach, Howrah, Lauderdale, Mornington, Oakdowns, Sandford, Seven Mile Beach and South Arm. New housing developments are increasing in the area. The school has its own bus and runs a daily bus service each morning and afternoon collecting children and then dropping them home.

The school is relatively young - we celebrated our silver anniversary in 2008. The original three classrooms were opened in 1983 while the most recent additions opened in 2011. Thanks to the BER funding our school facilities have been refurbished and increased in size. We now have eight classrooms, a spacious multi-purpose hall, a well stocked library, wide corridors, three smaller focused learning areas, a board room, various offices, and three blocks of toilets, a staffroom that includes a resource area, a canteen, a uniform store, a set of three games courts, a large playing field surrounded with shade-providing trees, two sets of adventure playground equipment, a large utilities shed and well kept gardens. In 2014, classrooms were upgraded with modern, glass sliding doors replacing heavy wooden doors between classrooms, the junior and senior toilets were refurbished and the administration area, offices and handicapped toilet were renovated. Further playground renovations have occurred and the school is proud of its outdoor sandpit, slides, outdoor play kitchen, mountain bike track and loose parts play. The school has an active outdoor play policy and uses loose parts play as part of the outdoor program. The school has embraced the Tasmanian Catholic Education Risk and Adventure in Outdoor Learning policy and encourages students to be active in their outdoor play.

## School Facts

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Location	Metropolitan
Year range	K - 6
Total Enrolments	134 (P-6)
Full time equivalent	133.4
Girls	47
Boys	87
Indigenous students	15%
Student attendance rate	95.2%
Teaching staff	17
Full time Equivalent teaching staff	9.2
Non teaching staff	16
Full time equivalent non teaching staff	6.1

## Leadership

In 2016 the John Paul II Catholic School leadership team consisted of:

Principal:	Mrs Fran Bearman
Assistant Principal:	Mrs Amanda Belbin
Assistant Principal:	Mr Tony Lennard
Learning Support:	Mrs Heather Beresford
Aboriginal Perspectives:	Mrs Amanda Belbin
Parish Priest:	Fr. Peter O'Loughlin

## Our Learning Community and Environment:

### Catholic Life and Mission

Adjoining the school is John Paul II Catholic Church, which is part of the Bellerive/Lindisfarne Catholic Parish. Our school is an integral part of this parish. John Paul II Catholic School promotes and fosters the values and experiences that define us as a Catholic school. Part of the school's mission is to provide opportunities for Catholic students to learn about and to be involved in aspects of their Faith. As an inclusive school, all non-Catholic students are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the Catholic life of the school.

We believe we are partners with parents and carers in the faith development of our young people. We build on the foundations established at home and, with the positive assistance of family, lead each student towards the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ. John Paul II Catholic School has a strong religious dimension that is evident throughout the school. Children are exposed to a rich variety of liturgical experiences and have daily exposure to Gospel values through all Key Learning Areas and interaction with staff and parents.

At John Paul II Catholic School the children and staff have been enriched by a wide variety of prayer experiences. As part of each staff meeting, staff meet to participate in communal prayer and/or reflection. Each class has prayer during the day at regular intervals, both formally and informally, and have prayer tables that display the colours and symbols of the liturgical seasons throughout the church year. Weekly morning gatherings are held and always include prayer. Liturgies are regularly held for Lent, ANZAC Day, Easter, NAIDOC Week, Advent and Mission Week. Feast Days and special seasons are celebrated through Masses and liturgies. In particular, the school celebrates John Paul II Day with a special Liturgy or Mass followed by fun activities as part of our Celebration Day. Prayer life of the students is nurtured through classroom prayer and community prayer, the latter providing a commencement focus at all major events such as Assemblies and parent gatherings. An important part of our senior program is the Making Jesus Real (MJR) program for Grade 5-6 students. This year the MJR program has expanded to include Grade 3 and 4.

### **Teaching Practice for Religious Education**

At John Paul II Catholic School the teaching of Religious Education engages in learning and teaching strategies that are 'quality practice'.

We have students who are:

- actively engaged in the topics
- able to bring higher order thinking skills into play when pursuing a discussion
- able to feel that their contributions are valued
- able to engage in topics of substance or rigor when examining Tradition and Scripture
- able to bring a positive attitude to Religious Education and Faith development in their personal and school life

## **Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission**

The Diocese of Hobart has an established policy on the Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education, which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese. The teaching staff at John Paul II Catholic School are well supported in terms of professional learning in Catholic Life and Mission. Many teaching staff are accredited for the teaching of Religious Education within the Diocese of Hobart. A number of staff have completed the Graduate Certificate of Religious Education. The staff value the opportunity to take time out of their busy day to stop and reflect upon their own spiritual development.

## **Assessment in Religion**

Assessments of Religion outcomes are related to the knowledge, understanding and skills of our Good News for Living Syllabus. Clear and direct links are made with student learning outcomes, as stated for the appropriate stages in GNFL. Assessment in Religion is ongoing and is incorporated into classroom learning activities. Provision is currently being made to assess and report by aligning Religious Education to the Australian Curriculum. Equal opportunity is provided for all students to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes. Assessment is interactive and cooperative and individual achievement and progress is recognised, which allow students to be given appropriate and differing opportunities to demonstrate achievements.

Our school enjoys a great rapport with our Parish Priest, Fr Peter O'Loughlin, and the community of regular parishioners who attend the weekly Thursday Mass. The school happily makes its resources available to support parish life. Through the parish some of the students prepared for their initiation into various sacraments. The school supported these students in a number of ways. Classes studied the same sacraments that these students were preparing for. We also raised the awareness of the school community via our assemblies and newsletters.

John Paul II Catholic School students supported community initiatives, including

- The Anzac Day Service (at South Arm)
- The Remembrance Day Service (at South Arm)
- Project Compassion (students and their teachers arranged a series of activities to help support this Catholic charity that runs each year before Easter).

**Student Attendance:** Student attendance for 2016 was a rating of 95.2%.

Non attendance at John Paul II is dealt with by using the following policy.

## John Paul II Catholic School Attendance Policy



### **Rationale:**

The Education Act requires that children of school age (six-fifteen years) who are residents are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-government school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Education Department.

### **Aims:**

To maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly and without unnecessary or frivolous absences.

### **Implementation:**

\*Education is a sequential process. Absences often mean students miss important stages in the development of topics, causing them to find 'catching up' difficult.

\*Absenteeism contributes significantly to student failure at school. All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent. Illness is reasonable grounds for an absence, shopping excursions or birthday parties are not.

\*Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if ill or if absolutely necessary.

\*Parents have a further responsibility to provide either a written note or phone informing the School of the absence. The Principal has a responsibility to ensure that attendance records are maintained and monitored at school.

\*All student absences are recorded daily by teachers and are aggregated on our database. The Principal has a further responsibility to ensure that unexplained absences are investigated and that high levels of absenteeism are adequately explained. Phone

calls are placed by the School Office daily to ascertain the status of absent children.

\*The Principal will contact parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, using the agreed protocols issued by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office. Student attendance and absence figures will appear on student end of year reports.

**Evaluation:** \*This policy was reviewed in 2012 and 2016 as part of the school's three-year review cycle. To be reviewed in 2019.

### **Learning and Teaching**

John Paul II Catholic School offers a comprehensive education to all students based on 21<sup>st</sup> century pedagogy. It is a learning and inclusive community of staff, parents and students. The community works together in a climate of respect, support and understanding to provide an environment of security and growth in which every student progresses. At John Paul II Catholic School there is an expectation that Catholic values are part of all curriculum areas. Every experience has a religious dimension and provides the opportunity for reflection as members of a Catholic community.

The students at John Paul II Catholic School have access to personalised learning experiences which emphasis deep thinking, discovery and enjoyment of learning. They have access to all areas of the Australian Curriculum with particular emphasis placed on the general capabilities and cross curricular aspects of learning.

The development of the Australian Curriculum is guided by the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, adopted by the council of state and territory education ministers in December 2008. This Declaration emphasises the importance of knowledge, understanding and skills of learning areas, general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities as the basis for a curriculum designed to support 21st century learning.

“The Australian Curriculum sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students. The Australian Curriculum describes the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.”

The Australian Curriculum describes a learning entitlement for each Australian student that provides a foundation for successful, lifelong learning and participation in the Australian community. It acknowledges that the needs and interests of students will

vary, and that schools and teachers will plan from the curriculum in ways that respond to those needs and interests. <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

Entitlement has become a key word in all of our curriculum planning, evaluation and goal setting. We endeavour to ensure it is evident in each planning document as we consider individual needs and progression for our students.

At John Paul II Catholic School we have participated in a range of professional development and planning sessions enabling us to interpret and use the Australian curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Health and Physical Education. We are gaining familiarity with Digital Technologies.

In the upcoming years we look forward to implementing a seamless curriculum developed from the Australian Curriculum with the same scope and sequence, unit design plan and assessment principles used throughout the school.

Members of the John Paul II Catholic School staff participated in a number of professional development courses, many organised through the Catholic Education Office. These included:-

- Network Meetings
- ICT in the Primary School
- Learning difficulties / disabilities
- Letters and Sounds
- Planning RE units
- Positive Behaviour Support PL
- Aboriginal Education

In 2016 various staff members were also involved with the following networks:

- ICT
- Special Learning Needs
- Assistant Principals



- Aboriginal Education and Perspectives
- Kindergarten
- Class Cluster groups
- Network

**Aboriginal Perspectives:** Fifteen per cent of our enrolment is Aboriginal. John Paul II has one Aboriginal Teacher. During NAIDOC week our school had a special Aboriginal Prayer in our Aboriginal Garden after which parents and grandparents were able to go to children's classrooms and have a look at what the children had been doing.

Aboriginal students were invited to the TMAG to participate in the Aboriginal culture programs. Students had the opportunity to experience making shell bracelets and working on tools, tracks and scats.

**Special Needs programs** There are 37 students who attracted special funding for a variety of reasons. Specific programs were tailored to meet their needs. Approximately another seventy non-funded students were given extra tuition, involved in literacy and numeracy catch-up or enrichment programs, social and emotional programs or worked in small groups with the teacher assistants or volunteer parents.

**Teachers with Special Expertise** All students Kindergarten-Grade 6 had the opportunity to benefit from classes featuring specialist teachers: Music with Mrs Leigh Lazarus and Physical Education with Mr Simon Terhell in Term 1 and 2 and Mrs Jade Rossiter in Term 3 and 4. Prep to Grade 6 students also participated in Chinese with Miss Flora Cheng and attended library lessons and borrowing with their class teacher, assisted by volunteer Library Technician, Mr Simon Gerrard.

### **Civics and Citizenship**

Another feature of our school is our Youth Parliament.

John Paul II Catholic School students from Grades 4-6 are involved in the School Parliament, which is modelled on Australia's own Government. This gives every child in Grades 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to work in teams, take responsibility for delivery of activities, develop oral language skills and fosters the confidence to speak in front of people. This program also enriches understanding of democratic process and decision-making. While learning about our Parliament, the roles within it and how it operates, the students are also having an experience of real student leadership. All students are involved in at least one portfolio (eg. Community, Culture, Sport & Recreation, Publicity) and have constituents to care for. All students are required to make at least two speeches throughout the life of the Parliament and have challenges to meet. Challenges include bringing in guest speakers or artists to work with our school community and to

organise relevant and inclusive activities to involve the students in. The Parliament is encouraged to be outward looking - to explore ways that benefit not just our own community but those beyond our immediate community. Grade 5 and 6 students also visit Canberra every 2 years and participate in their parliamentary program.

### **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

In mid 2013 John Paul II Catholic School introduced a 1:1 Ipad program. This program is all- inclusive and gives all Grades 3 to 6 children a chance to develop their individual skills and reach a level of competency expected in a 21st century learning environment. Children in Kindergarten, Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 have opportunities for ICT with shared class sets of I pads and a small number of laptops. Each classroom is well equipped for learning with access to an LCD television, an apple TV and many classes also have access to a data projector and elmo.

We have been well supported by TCEO Education Officer, Mrs Glynis Tully, who has in-serviced the staff in incorporating ICT within the various learning areas and has worked with classes of students.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

As an accredited Sun Smart school we have compulsory wearing of hats in terms one and four. Children do not wear hats in term two and three so they can absorb enough vitamin D. John Paul II Catholic School continued the implementation of the Move Well Eat Well program. With a number of students diagnosed with serious allergies or conditions (eg. diabetes, epilepsy) the staff was educated in how to deal with these conditions. Communication with respective support foundations and networks was maintained. In 2016 John Paul II Catholic School has continued to implement the PBS program and this has been very well received by the community.

### **Student Performance**

Each year our Grade 3 and 5 students participate in national benchmark testing **NAPLAN (National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy)**. In 2016 there were 24 year three students and 20 year 5 students who participated.

### **Student Learning and Achievement**

Student background

School ICSEA value: 959

Average ICSEA value: 1000

Bottom quarter

Middle quarters

Top quarter

39%

29%

22%

10%

*(As taken from My School Website. Percentages are rounded and may not add up to 100)*

The students in Years 3 and 5 at John Paul II Catholic School all participated in national literacy and numeracy benchmark testing. The students were well prepared and all students were encouraged to have a go.

The 2016 Naplan results are as follows –

Year 3	Reading	95% at or above NMS
Year 3	Writing	95% at or above NMS
Year 3	Spelling	95% at or above NMS
Year 3	Grammar/Punctuation	95% at or above NMS
Year 3	Numeracy	100% at or above NMS

Year 5	Reading	95% at or above NMS
Year 5	Writing	90% at or above NMS
Year 5	Spelling	85% at or above NMS
Year 5	Grammar/Punctuation	80% at or above NMS
Year 5	Numeracy	100% at or above NMS

### **Pastoral Care**

“All that we do at John Paul II School has its foundation in our belief in Jesus Christ and lived commitment to Christian values.”

The John Paul II Catholic School prides itself in being a caring and pastoral community, our behaviour management policies reflect a pastoral approach. John Paul II Catholic School believes that it is essential to create a positive environment in which students can work and learn happily and confidently. We have been a PBS (Positive Behaviour Support) school since 2012 and bullying is not tolerated in any form, whether it is verbal, physical or emotional. Cyber bullying is not to be treated any differently to any other type of bullying and there is a whole school approach to dealing with bullying issues. Students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours using our school matrix. Children who demonstrate these positive behaviours are affirmed and rewarded using our golden ticket system.

Staff members incorporate resilience skill building and social skill development activities into the students' programs. All classes participate in weekly circle time, a social and emotional program. In 2015, three members of the leadership team were trained in the RULER approach to Social and Emotional Learning and this program began in term 2, 2015.

## **Post School Destinations**

There are a number of Catholic Colleges and Department of Education Secondary Schools that students from John Paul II Catholic School move onto. At the end of 2016 students moved onto the following colleges and schools:

- MacKillop College
- Rokeby High School
- Clarence High School

## **Communication with parents**

There are many opportunities for communication informally each day at drop off or pick up or through an appointment. Email and phone calls are also regularly used to communicate with parents. Formally, John Paul II Catholic school offers three opportunities for Parent-Teacher Interviews and two written reports.

All staff members are willing to make time to talk with parent about their concerns.

## **Strategic Planning**

### **Enrolment and Staffing**

In 2016 the school consisted of 7 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The configuration of classes was: Kindergarten Saplings, Prep Bluegum, Grade 1 Leatherwood, Grade 2 Wattle, Grade 3 Blackwood, Grade 4/5 Huon and Grade 5/6 Sassafras. During the year there were 148 students at John Paul II Catholic School, including the Kindergarten students. The average class size was 21.5 (P-6) and 24 students identified as Aboriginal. There were 87 boys and 47 girls. Thirty seven students were funded for various needs over and above ordinary funding.

The staff consisted of 17 teachers, 11 teacher assistants 3 office staff, a utility officer and a cleaner All staff members were appropriately qualified for the positions they held and all teachers were registered as required by law.

## **Community Involvement**

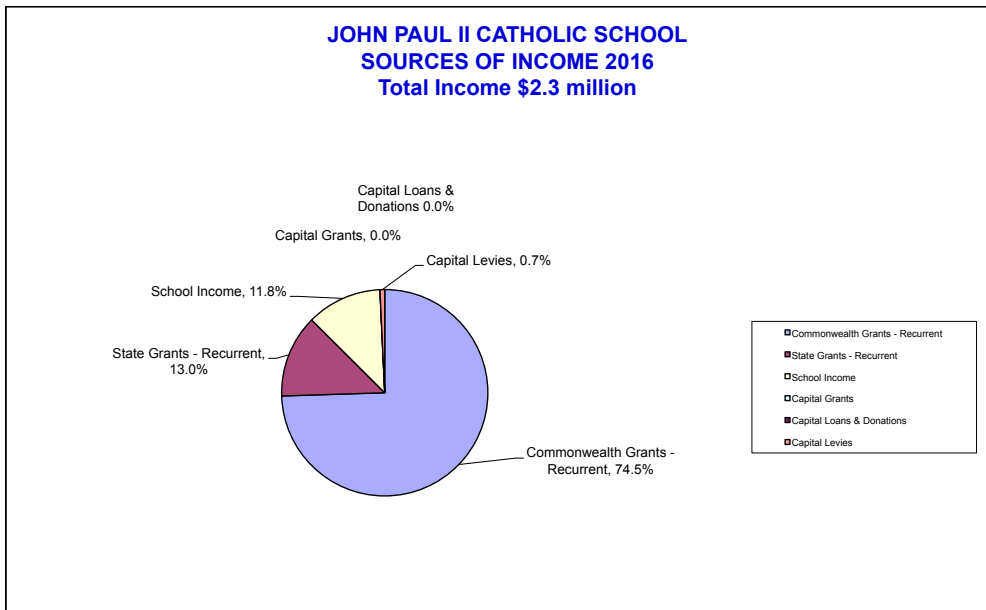
John Paul II Catholic School endeavoured to build its links with the community in a number of ways. Our Parents and Friends is vibrant with a committed team of parents involved in organising fundraising and community events such as the AFL Breakfast, School discos and special lunches.

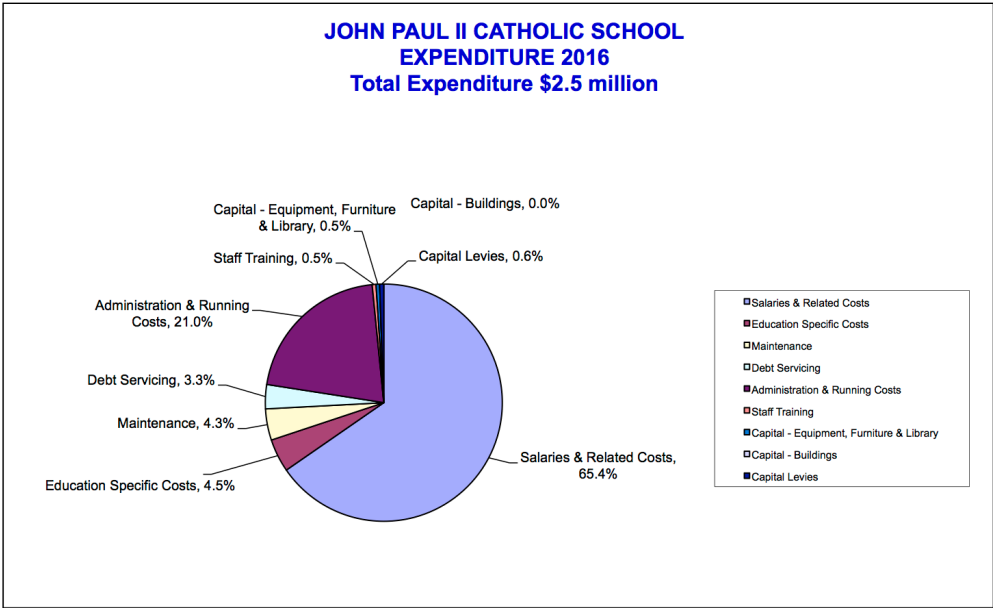
Members of the school community were actively involved in the South Arm ANZAC Day

ceremony; entertaining senior parishioners at the pre-Christmas party; supporting the charities Project Compassion and the Samaritan Fund with an array of fundraising activities; We invited all our grandparents along for a special morning of activities, entertainment and morning tea. We invited all the extended school community (family and friends) along to our annual concert and our AFL Breakfast.

### Summary Financial Information

This systemic financial summary has been prepared by the Finance and Administrative Services at the Catholic Education Office.





**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 analysis goals for the school’s future development have been determined.

This report was prepared by the Principal, Mrs Fran Bearman.

**Signed:**

*Fran Bearman*

Mrs Fran Bearman

Principal