

# St Mary of the Angels

## Primary School

Wirruna St

GUYRA, NSW 2365

Phone: 02 6779 1661 Fax: 02 6779 2016

Email: [admin@stmarysguyra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@stmarysguyra.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Koppman

Parish: St Mary of the Angels, Guyra

Principal: Sharon Wittig



## Annual School Report 2013

### Mission/Vision Statement

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School, as an integral part of the Parish Community consisting of Students, Teachers, Parents & Friends and Parish Priest, teaches and upholds gospel values. These values are demonstrated by concern and love for each individual in the community according to the teachings of Jesus Christ who is God the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. St Mary of the Angels strives to develop each child spiritually, morally, emotionally, academically and physically to the individual's full potential, instilling self-discipline and self-worth. St Mary of the Angels School Community works together to provide a Christian example and influence in the wider community, and to offer a choice of educational systems.

### About this Report

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2013 and gives information about 2014 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2014. The school consultant also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

### Principal's Message

2013 was again a year of action packed excitement at St Mary of the Angels. Our year began with great celebrations as our Parish Priest was awarded Guyra Citizen of the Year. This was a fabulous acknowledgement of the work that he does, not only within the school and parish, but also in the wider community.

This year could probably be categorised as one of very hard work for students, staff, our School Board, P & F and Parish Priest. I also imagine that our parents have been busier than ever this year too.

Our school is in the second year of our current Strategic Improvement Plan which has been promoted through our school newsletter. We have achieved many of our set goals throughout the year and will continue working on many of these improvements in the year ahead.

Our strong links with the Parish have again been a major part of building community. This year we offered a transition to the Church program for parents of Kindergarten and Transition students. This successful program will be offered again in 2014. Our Parish Priest has again been a major partner in our school team. We thank him for his care

and dedication. A strong school must be backed by a strong Parish.

During 2013 many government expectations have impacted on the general life of our school. Our staff have dedicated evening sessions and countless additional staff meeting hours to complete nine modules in the Team Leadership for School Improvement program. They have also completed eight training modules for Workplace Health and Safety as well as the Asthma Training Workshop. The implementation of the new Australian Curriculum is another major goal for St Mary of the Angels. Days have been spent training and preparing for the implementation of the English Syllabus in 2014 and this will be closely followed by Science and Mathematics in 2015.

Government expectations have also impacted heavily on our brilliant secretary. The increased workload in our SAS Operating system, the introduction of electronic attendance procedures and new medical documentation still do not move the welcoming smile from her face.

Once again we have been surrounded by the generosity of our parent body in both formal and informal settings. This year I have been especially grateful to our School Board for their support and guidance. Their patience in working through WH&S Policies has never wavered. Our School Board does a fabulous job in helping to guide our budget and our school directions. The quality of their contribution was recognised at a state level in October when we were asked to assist in producing a web training package for parental involvement in schools. A team from the Council of Catholic Schools Parents in Broken Bay visited our school to video for this training package.

It is impossible to capture everything that happens throughout the year so I will quickly mention a few snapshots. In 2013 we introduced Minilit groups to really focus on early literacy skills with targeted groups of students. We have had wonderful results and will continue this program next year. My thanks to our Minilit tutors who should be congratulated on our students improved results. We have also purchased PreLit resources which will be used to strengthen the foundations for reading in our Kindergarten and Transition classes.

In 2013 we have continued our involvement with the Scientist in Schools program. It was lovely to have our very own scientist visiting the school and inspiring our students with his experiments and knowledge.

This year the introduction of sets of iPads into each classroom has opened so many opportunities to improve both learning and the development of technology skills. We have also had the opportunity to trial a set of Google Chrome notebooks with outstanding success. These notebooks allow

students to access the internet with greater speed and information can be stored in the cloud for access both on and off site. Our school continues to provide up to date technology to minimise the gap between city and country.

Sport has played a major role within our curriculum. Although our numbers have grown, we have continued the small school tradition of including our infants children in all aspects of our sporting calendar. We have had great success in swimming, athletics and cross country with students representing at school, local and Diocesan levels. The Diocesan touch football carnival was again a highlight of the sporting calendar. Our lawn bowls program with the older students was again an outstanding success. We finished the year with a very effective swimming and water safety program.

This year we have had a number of wonderful opportunities to showcase efforts in Creative Arts. Our Visual Arts featured at the Guyra Show and the Waste in Art competition. Our Creative Arts Evening was one of the most enjoyable yet. Our dance students put in spectacular performances at the eisteddfod and the Don't Stop Believing Concert. What a fantastic and creative year!

Service to others is a key component of what St Mary of the Angels is all about. This starts with our school leaders who play such an important role within our school. It is difficult to place a value on the contribution they make to the caring environment that is so obvious to observers. Our school develops these leadership skills by providing training at the annual leadership conference in Armidale.

Our ongoing relationship with the residents at Kolora brings joy to everyone involved. This year we received special recognition in the MAD at Heart Community Awards. Kolora is as proud as we are of the video entry that documents the many experiences that enrich the lives of our students and the Kolora staff and residents.

With our increasing numbers, I am very pleased to announce that we will move to four classes for the 2014 school year. Our classes will be divided into Kindergarten/Year 1, a combined 2/3 class a separate Year 4 class and a senior Year 5/6 class. This new grouping will allow us to better deliver the individual teaching approach that is so important in our school.

In 2014 we will have a new look with girls summer uniforms being introduced and new sports shirts for boys and girls. At St Mary of the Angels we thank God for his many blessings showered upon us this year and look forward to the future with faith and confidence.

## Parental Involvement

2013 has been another year of consolidation at St Mary of the Angels. Once again there is considerable pressure because of uncertainty in funding both at State and Federal level. The State funding cuts to Catholic Schools has been frozen until 2017. This will mean an overall shortfall in the next four years as operating costs will rise.

The Gonski review recommendations, which was the proposed Federal Funding Model has been generally sorted out. However, the change in Federal Government has put these recommendations up for review.

The projected school numbers for 2014 have increased. This has resulted in close scrutiny of class numbers and may result in disappointment if student enrolment applications are unable to be accepted due to class sizes.

Many policies and procedures have been reviewed and amended. These include anti bullying, attendance, asthma, abduction of students, biological/chemical threat and bush fire policies. Our Uniform policy was also reviewed after consultation with parents. We have introduced a new girls summer uniform and a new sports shirt.

2013 saw a new P&F executive formed. This dynamic team initiated numerous fundraising opportunities. These included show catering, providing bar facilities at the local Rotary Snow Ball, hosting of a retro night, as well as numerous in school fundraising events. The P&F's main goal for 2013 was to raise sufficient funds for the construction of a shaded shelter area for the students to eat their morning tea and lunches.

School Board Chairperson

## Student Leadership

It is magic being a School Leader at St Mary of the Angels. We are given so much responsibility and respect from our teachers. This year we only had a small number of senior students so we had to accept quite a lot of responsibility. It was always fun helping the teachers to organise things and being asked to give our opinions.

This year we had great fun working with our little friends during the "Buddy Reading Program". It was great to help the little kids settle into the school and even more fun seeing their progress with reading throughout the year. During 2013 the senior students organised a number of clubs and activities during lunch times. I think the little kids really appreciated having lots of different activities to choose from.

It is hard to believe that our time in primary school has come to an end. We feel privileged to have been part of St Mary of the Angels and we hope the next Year Six leaders will step up and fill our places.

Year 6 2013

## School Profile

### School History

St Mary of the Angels Primary School Guyra was established in 1919 by the Ursuline Sisters and is located on the Northern Tablelands. St Mary of the Angels is currently staffed by lay teachers and provides an outstanding education for students from K-6. The school's current enrolment is 65 students. In 2008 work began on building a new school on the current site. Work was completed early in 2009 with the official school opening in May 2009. Much of the old school building was demolished leaving the original Ursuline classrooms. During 2009 work commenced on refurbishing this beautiful building into a modern, functional Parochial School Hall. The Parochial School Hall was officially reopened in July 2010. St Mary of the Angels will celebrate its centenary in 2019.

### Location/Drawing Area

St Mary of the Angels is located on the Northern Tablelands. Being a rural community, the majority of our students are from the township and the remainder of our students travel on buses from the outlying farming districts.

### Enrolment Policy

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

## Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Indigenous	LBOTE
K	2	4	0	0
1	7	8	0	0
2	4	6	0	0
3	5	9	0	0
4	3	3	0	0
5	5	5	0	0
6	3	1	0	0
2011	26	29	1	1
2012	34	38	0	0
2013	29	36	0	0

## Student Mobility

During 2013 one student left St Mary of the Angels to attend another local school. Two students moved from local schools to St Mary of the Angels and two students enrolled from outside our region.

## Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2013

Kindergarten	96%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	94%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	95%
All students	95%

## Management of Non-Attendance

School attendance is managed in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office Guidelines for the Management of Student Attendance.

The school Attendance Policy and Procedures give clear outlines for the management of non-attendance. The Attendance Policy and Procedures were updated in 2013 to comply with new Department of Education and Catholic Education Commission guidelines. In 2013 St Mary of the Angels moved to electronic roll marking. In 2014 Policies and Procedures will need to be revised to ensure that all documents support the use of this electronic marking.

## Staff Profile

During 2013 the staff at St Mary of the Angels totalled nine, including the Principal and four class teachers. All teachers have teaching qualifications

from a higher education institution from within Australia; one teacher has a Graduate Diploma in Literacy, two have a Bachelor of Education Degree, two have a Diploma in Teaching and one has a Master of Arts Degree. Support staff include three part-time teacher assistants and a part-time secretary.

St Mary of the Angels staffing allocation allows for three class groupings. We have two teachers with over twenty years of teaching experience, one teacher in her seventh year of teaching, another in her sixth year and a teacher working towards Professional Accomplishment with the NSW Institute of Teachers. For 2014 St Mary of the Angels will have a staff retention rate of 100%.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2013 was 96.31%.

## Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR\* 100%

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR\* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications 0%

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context 0%

\* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education 100

Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education 2

## Staff Professional Learning

Professional Development forms a very vital part of keeping up to date on changes in the teaching profession. During 2013 staff from St Mary of the Angels were involved in many professional development opportunities designed to improve both student learning and professional knowledge.

The main focus for 2013 was the Team Leadership for School Improvement K-12 (TLSI). This program provides school teams with a framework and strategies to plan and implement improvement; identifying high leverage strategies to achieve sustained continuous improvement. The staff completed 9 Modules during staff meetings throughout the course of the year. This was then supplemented by one teacher attending an Impact Leadership course in Coffs Harbour.

Professional Development in the area of Religious Education was accessed with the staff completing a day on Faith Formation looking at the Old Testament. The staff also participated in a Lenten Reflection afternoon - Come walk with me.

With the introduction of the New Australian English Curriculum in 2014 considerable Professional Development in the area of English was accessed by all staff. The staff were involved in completing Modules 1-3 for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum allowing staff time to look closely at the new curriculum before its implementation. Two staff members also attended a course to develop further skills to support Literacy in the classroom " National Curriculum Training – Creating and responding to Stories". This course challenged teachers to delve further into texts with their students to gain a deeper understanding of stories. In 2013 all staff attended a two day training workshop in the "MiniLit" program which has been implemented into our school this year.

The staff also updated their Asthma training and completed 8 on-line modules covering workplace Health and Safety topics to ensure that St Mary of the Angels is a safe and secure workplace.

## Catholic Identity

### Religious Education Program

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy.

### Liturgical Life

Masses were celebrated each Tuesday morning with students taking an active part in the presentation of Liturgies. Mass themes were carefully selected to enhance learning about the liturgical seasons and to complement themes being studied in class. There was an open invitation for parishioners and parents to attend these weekly Masses. On special

occasions parents and parishioners were invited to participate in the organisation and presentation of these Masses.

During 2013 the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist were celebrated within the Parish. These sacramental programs included sessions where parents, students and teachers worked together to assist students in their faith formation. Once again there was a very close working relationship between St Mary of the Angels School and the Parish Catechist Team. During 2013 St Mary of the Angels School also assisted in organising and running ecumenical services during Lent and Advent.

### Staff and Student Faith Formation

As a faith filled community, spiritual and faith formation are an important part of life at St Mary of the Angels. During 2013 Parish members and staff have joined together for Faith and Spiritual formation, working together on Advent and Lenten programmes. Staff completed a one day, in depth study of women in the old testament.

During 2013 St Mary of the Angels trialled a "Welcome to Church" program for parents of children in Transition and Kindergarten. This three session program helped parents to better understand aspects of religious education in our school. The program will continue in 2014.

One member of staff completed the RIC program and was welcomed into the Catholic Church. She has now commenced study to complete her Graduate Certificate in Theology.

The strong Religious Education Curriculum taught to our students was complemented by the celebration of weekly Mass. Students acted out their learning through service to others by their volunteer work within the community.

### Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2011	69	73
2012	68.4	62.8
2013	70.8	79

### Social Justice

Social Justice is an integral part of the Religious Education Curriculum with social justice issues being addressed within individual teaching units. Students and staff supported Project Compassion, Children's Mission Week and St Vincent De Paul with various fund-raising activities. In 2013 our senior classes attended the Catholic Mission's Village

Space workshop which promoted understanding of the United Nation's Rights of the Child. This thought provoking and moving performance led to much discussion on how we might promote social justice.

The P & F again contributed to a number of school activities to ensure that extra curricular activities were affordable and available to all students.

## Parish Links

St Mary of the Angels School and Parish work co-operatively together for mutual benefit. The School is especially proud of the wonderful relationship between the school and the catechists who work in the local public schools. This year we have again focused very hard on building the partnerships between school and parish. Parish members were involved in our "Welcome to Church" program to help new families in our school to better understand the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

Members of our P & F worked with Parish volunteers at various catering events to raise funds to achieve Parish goals. St Mary of the Angels School Board worked constructively with the Parish Priest to promote planned giving to enhance Parish finances. The school continues to host meetings for most Parish groups; St Vincent de Paul, Parish Council, Catholic Women's League and other Parish focus groups in our school hall.

## Respect and Responsibility

Student Leadership forms a major part of the culture of Respect and Responsibility that makes up the caring climate within our school. St Mary of the Angels actively promotes Gospel Values with respect and responsibility being a core element. Our student leaders act as great role models for younger students and accept responsibility for specific tasks around the school. During 2013 the school contributed to society and civic life through participation in ANZAC and Remembrance Days, Clean Up Australia Schools Day and other community/school initiatives. The values of Care and Compassion were modelled in fortnightly visits to the local aged care facility and participation in Seniors Week celebrations.

During 2013 senior students from St Mary of the Angels School modelled the values of respect and responsibility by participation in the Meals on Wheels program. Students assisted volunteers to deliver meals to elderly and sick residents from the local community.

In school initiatives to promote respect and responsibility also included senior students acting as 'bud-

dies' to younger students to assist with development of social skills and safe eating programs.

## School Curriculum

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

## Features of the School Curriculum

St Mary of the Angels School values each and every individual child in our care. It is therefore important to us that each individual child's needs are met. An important feature of our curriculum is the dedication of teachers to ensure that this happens. Quality learning tools are incorporated into class programs to allow students to manage their own learning at an appropriate pace and level. Students monitor this through the use of matrices, rubrics, graphing and recording.

Programs reflect an awareness of individual learning. Personal learning plans are in place for funded students and students with needs requiring special learning targets.

With the introduction of more advanced technology the school has made a great effort to bring technology to life within the classroom. Websites are carefully selected to enable students to access literacy and numeracy skills in a format that allows teachers to monitor progress and accelerate learning. During 2013 the school purchased sets of iPads for use in all classrooms. The school conducted trials with Google Chrome Notebooks to gauge their impact on learning.

St Mary of the Angels is the only Catholic School within the Armidale Diocese that operates a yearlong Transition to school program. This Transition class operates each Wednesday and teaches students vital social skills that allow them to make a smooth transition from home to school. The program also provides excellent foundations in literacy and numeracy allowing students to excel in their first years of schooling.

St Mary of the Angels is proud of the sporting opportunities offered to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Whole school programs operate for cross country, athletics and swimming. Students participate in local PSSA events with other local schools before moving on to Diocesan and Polding levels. The school promotes the development of

gross motor skills through the Tucabia program and gymnastic facilities available to the students.

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	0	25	75
	National	11	41	46
Writing	School	0	67	33
	National	8	43	47
Spelling	School	8	42	50
	National	13	42	43
Grammar & Punctuation	School	0	33	67
	National	10	37	51
Numeracy	School	8	58	34
	National	12	54	32

## Student Performance

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	0	55.5	44.4
	National	12	54	33
Writing	School	11	77	12
	National	18	60	20
Spelling	School	11	44	45
	National	16	51	30
Grammar & Punctuation	School	0	77	23
	National	14	51	33
Numeracy	School	11	77	12
	National	20	53	25

In 2013 our Year 3 students performed extremely well in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar with a high percentage of students achieving Bands 5 and 6. Reading was also a strength for Year 5 students. Results in 2013 show that improvement in writing needs to be a focus for 2014 and beyond.

## Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number where necessary.**

## National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3 and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	100	100
	National	95.3	96.1
Writing	School	100	100
	National	95	91.7
Spelling	School	100	100
	National	93.8	93.1
Grammar & Punctuation	School	100	100
	National	95.3	94.8
Numeracy	School	100	100
	National	95.7	93.4

All students at St Mary of the Angels met the national minimum standards in all areas of literacy and numeracy.

# School Policy Summary

## Student Welfare

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

Senior students play an important role in the pastoral care which exists within our school. In 2013 the Buddy Reading Program was further developed to enhance the relationships between youngest and oldest students. Although this program was essentially a curriculum initiative, the flow on into the playground was wonderful with older students providing huge support to younger students in helping to solve little conflicts and building social skills.

In 2013 St Mary of the Angels offered counselling through Centacare to a number of students whose learning was impacted by family or social situations.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the school office.

No changes were made to Pastoral Care Policies during 2013.

## Discipline Policy

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the school office.

During 2013 changes were made to the Discipline Policies to link them to the CSO Operational Policy "Guidelines and Procedures for Students with Challenging Behaviours and Education Act 5A - Behaviour Managing Process".

## Anti-Bullying Policy

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School bases its Anti-Bullying policy and procedures on the Catholic Schools Office operational policy "Student Anti-Bullying Policy". The full text of this policy is available on [www.arm.catholic.edu.au](http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au).

During 2013 changes were made to the Anti-Bullying Policy to link it to the CSO Operational Policy "Guidelines and Procedures for Students with Challenging Behaviours and Education Act 5A - Behaviour Managing Process".

## Enrolment Policy

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the school office.

During 2013 minor changes were made to the enrolment policy to ensure compliance with the Diocesan Enrolment Flow Chart and "Meeting Process for Students Identified as Needing Additional Support on the Enrolment Application" document.

## Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Mary of the Angels

Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available from the school office.

## **Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction**

During 2013 an independent company was employed by the Diocese to conduct a comprehensive survey covering all aspects of school life. Teachers, parents and students all completed surveys. Results of the survey were presented in summary form covering the following areas Leadership, General, Resources, Teaching and Learning, Improvement Processes and Catholic Ethos. Summaries for parent, student and staff satisfaction scored St Mary of the Angels as excellent in every one of these areas. Parent surveys constantly highlighted the warm and caring atmosphere within the school.

A number of parents noted that the combined Year 4/5/6 class was larger than they would like. Fortunately this concern may be able to be addressed in changed class structures in 2014. Generally people love the modern school, the warm and caring environment, that the school is smaller and that all the children interact and get along together.

Parents also noted the quality of teaching and individual attention to students learning that is such an important part of our school culture. Parents also expressed great satisfaction with the school's Transition program.

## **School Review and Development**

### **Annual School Priorities 2013**

Implementation of Literacy Enhancement Program to improve literacy outcomes for students in Years 1 and 2.

Further extension of Oral Language initiatives to include articulation and PreLit to give students the best possible start in literacy development.

Completion of Team Leadership for School Improvement Modules to ensure that the talents of all school members are utilised and all personnel are committed to achieving shared school goals.

Work with CSO personnel to implement an Orientation to Kindergarten program that promotes understanding of Catholic Traditions and expectations.

Awareness of requirements of the new Australian Curriculum and its implications for our school.

Promote and enrich the partnership between the school and the aged in our local community.

## **Projected School Priorities 2014**

Conduct faith formation sessions around Catholic Values so the teachers can name, understand and articulate the core Catholic values.

Continue the trialling of Welcome to School and Church program for Kindergarten, Transition and new families to the school.

Provide professional development in the area of assessment that challenges staff to use assessment practices to drive whole school improvement and promote better learning opportunities for individual students.

Using an investigation, education and professional sharing approach, implement the new English Curriculum and develop school support documents to complement this syllabus.

Prepare for the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum through professional development, resourcing and development of school documents to ensure a smooth transition for Mathematics and Science.

Continue to develop familiarity with AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers and the implications of these for the individual and the teaching profession.

Revise the structuring of classes/personnel within the school to enhance learning opportunities for students in 2014 and beyond.

Design and implement a Technology Plan to ensure that the standard of technology within the school is current, maintained and replaced so that delivery of technology application meets the highest standards.

Complete National Collection of Data for Disabilities and assess how this information can be used at a school level to make improvements in office procedures and in planning for students with "disabilities".

### **Major Achievements from the 2013 Annual Plan**

St Mary of the Angels enthusiastically implemented the Literacy Enhancement Program to improve literacy outcomes. During 2013 all teachers and a number of tutors were trained in the delivery of the MiniLit program. This program was conducted with sixteen students receiving tutoring in small groups for hourly sessions four times per week. Improvement was noted for all students with some growing well beyond the expected level.

In 2013 a further extension of Oral Language initiatives with younger grades included a dedicated focus on oral language during all literacy sessions. Kindergarten TacP screenings were conducted to

identify areas of weakness for each child. End of year results showed that the program is achieving good results. With the lengthy delay in speech referrals in Guyra, it was also necessary to provide additional articulation lessons for targeted students. A school PreLit kit was purchased to further enhance oral language in 2014.

Staff spent in addition of twenty hours completing Team Leadership for School Improvement Modules to ensure that the talents of all school members are utilised and all personnel are committed to achieving shared school goals.

In 2013 the school initiated a Welcome to Church program for parents of Kindergarten and Transition students. This program was well received and feedback indicated that parents involved had a better understanding of the values and traditions of the

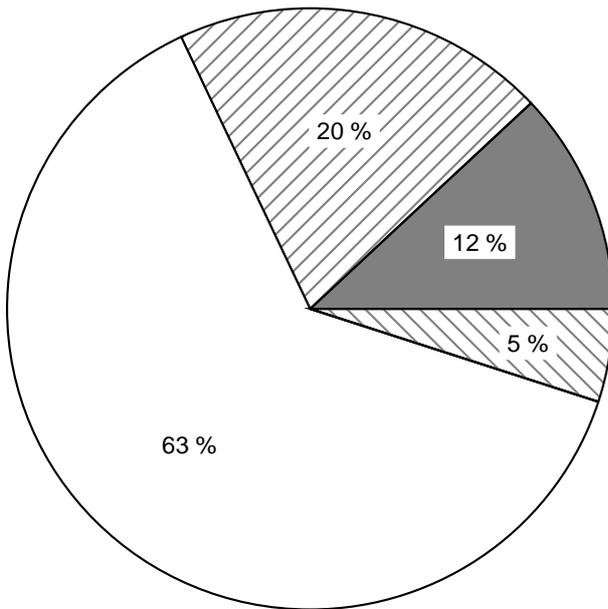
Catholic Faith. Parents have indicated that a follow up program in 2014 would be well received.

A good deal of time was spent gaining an awareness of requirements of the new Australian Curriculum and its implications for our school. Staff completed modules on the new English Curriculum from the Community of Learners site and attended professional development opportunities. Professional development was also covered in the area of Mathematics. The English curriculum will be trialled in 2014 with staff continuing their dialogue with other professionals across the Diocese.

St Mary of the Angels continued to promote and enrich the partnership between the school and the aged in our local community. These efforts were acknowledged with an award from the MAD at Heart Community Involvement Group.

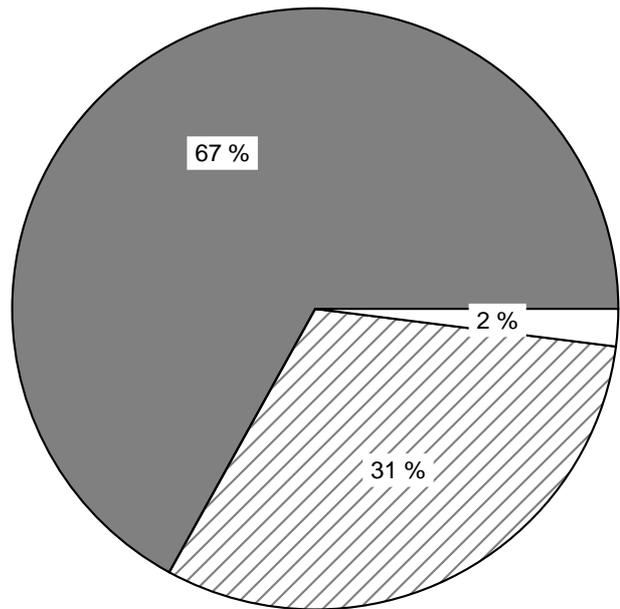
## Financial Statement

### Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- ▩ government capital grants
- ▧ other capital income

### Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school consultant.