



## PRINCIPAL'S END OF YEAR REPORT 2015

2015 started with an enrolment of 105 students, in 6 classes from Prep to Year 6. An odd feel was through the school with the absence of the Year 7 classes. Even today we mistakenly say Year 7 instead of Year 6. We started the year with 68 families. During the year we farewelled the Kelly-Knowles, MacCambridge, Thompson and Scarlett families and welcomed the Stone, Kirkman, Murphy-Way, Moore and Hockey families to end with 69 families. At the beginning of the year we welcomed Miss Kate Watson to our staff as Mrs Cristaudo took leave. In July, Mrs Jo Johnston joined us as Beth began her maternity leave. It has been a year of celebration with the birth of three babies, Will Haley, Sam Calleja and Isabella Vaclavik.

Our first Parents & Friends Meeting was held on February 16th. Projects for 2015 were discussed and Office Bearers for the year were elected.

Special thanks to our Parents & Friends Executive for 2015.

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ○ President               | Melissa Leonardi                 |
| ○ Vice president          | Pricilla Wilcox                  |
| ○ Treasurer               | Blaise Cini                      |
| ○ Secretary               | Moara Crowley                    |
| ○ Raffle co-ordinator     | Michelle Mann                    |
| ○ Grants co-ordinator     | Sheryl Cavanagh                  |
| ○ Tuckshop Convenor       | Tanya Pensini & Melissa Leonardi |
| ○ Grounds and Maintenance | Paul Taylor & Anthony Calleja    |

The role of a P&F is "to provide a forum to assist the education of our children and to support the school in any way possible". St Rita's P&F goes over and above this duty. This includes the traditional role of fundraising but it is also about building and keeping the school community together - in meetings and through functions where parents can interact seek information about the school's running, contribute, socialize and provide support for each other.

Your involvement, dedication and support allows us to afford our students the high quality of resources they have available. Many thanks to all who have worked in any way. We all thank you for your generous spirit. This year it has been pleasing to see the workload spread amongst different parents, and the amount of support they have received to co-ordinate the different functions.

Battery collection has been a little slow this year with the Stephensen family's association with the school ending in 2014. Paul Calleja and Duncan Plumb have co-ordinated the collection this year but have found it difficult with their own work commitments. I am told from Anne and Les (who still keep their eye out for us) that there are quite a few to be collected so if anyone would like to volunteer please see me. The battery collection is an easy way to raise much needed funds. The collection continues and I urge everyone if you have batteries to drop them at the Calleja's farm just past the DPI station. We are no longer using the Buchanan farm on Stockton Rd due to the Panama restrictions. I would like to thank Craig and Jade as well as Gavin for their help in this fundraiser over the years.

Although Fr Kerry has not been able to attend all of our meetings, we appreciate how busy he is now having to take on the responsibility of St. Rita's Babinda as well and I thank him for his involvement and commitment to our school, and his hands on approach. The children enjoy his regular visits for liturgies, masses, reconciliation and class visits.

St. Rita's has continued to grow in 2015. We are excited about the approval by BGA committee for the refurbishment of the toilet block and an extension to administration space incorporating a new staff room and meeting room, as well as document storage space.

#### **COMPLETED PROJECTS - 2015**

- New laptops
- E-minerva and Dynamics, SRS, BI tool system expansion
- Re-design Prep shed
- Relocation of gates in big hall for better access to oval
- Shade/outdoor classroom area off big hall
- Sporting schools grant
- Approval of new building
- Futsal goals
- New cabinetry in Music and Prep rooms

#### **SOME PROJECTS ARE STILL IN THE PIPELINE**

- playground upgrade
- fence in front of western carpark
- water cooler (part of BGA project)
- interactive board in music room to accommodate for classes during building project
- new laptop trolley

Thank you to Anthony and Paul for continuing to carry out maintenance issues for me. Once again I have only had to ask and the jobs have been completed.

To Les Cavanagh who has each week put the school newsletter onto the school website thank you.

Thank you to the wonderful ladies who have run a very profitable tuckshop this year, even though tuckshop has only equated over the year to one a fortnight. I know the service is truly appreciated by the parents. I ask anyone who would seriously like to take on the co-ordinating role in 2016 to come and talk to me.

To all the parents in general who have given only a small piece of their time and energy to help out around the school, from Under 8's day, reading, cooking, sports, fete, wrapping gifts and prizes, swimming, camps and excursions. Thank you. It is because of your commitment we are able to offer our children a significantly broader range of curriculum experiences.

Homework club has run successfully again in 2015. Working parents have found this service invaluable. It has also helped parents who were having difficulty getting their children to do homework. Parents must remember to sign their children in either in the morning or at the beginning of the week. This service has also been beneficial with gaining some of our new enrolments.

Mr Rossi's commitment to sport, and his generously giving of his own time to run sporting clubs of an afternoon once again throughout the year, has been well accepted by the children. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and their skill at a variety of sport has improved. Even more rewarding is that there are children from Prep to Year 6 undertaking the activities. The decision to move to the Innisfail District Sporting Association has proven very successful with the children thoroughly loving being involved in Friday town sport. We even had an Age champion (Naveah Galea) at the district sport day and we came runners up in the tug-of-war. Just goes to prove you do not have to go to a big school to succeed. The senior students were once again involved in the North Queensland Futsal Championships and our children held their own against the big schools in Cairns. Four of our students went on to compete at the Queensland championships, Jessica and Luke Magnanini, Braden Venables and Mikayla Camuglia. Mikayla was selected to join the U'12 Australian girls team to compete in Barcelona. This is the second time a girl from St Rita's has had this opportunity.

Jessica Magnanini completed in the Peninsula Touch and Netball teams and Anna-Louise Celledoni was selected as a shadow player in the Peninsula Softball team.

To my wonderful staff the students at St Rita's certainly benefit from the extra mile you go. The children have benefitted once again from having the 6 classes and I thank Catholic Education Cairns for their commitment to small schools however in 2016 we will return to 5 classes. If numbers pick up we may be back to six in 2017. Class structures for 2016 will be slightly different from 2015 with the introduction of another multi-age class with the Year Three class being split into the two multi-

age groups and a large Year Five/Six class. These decision were not made lightly. Classes will be as follow:

Prep	Miss Lauren Watkins
Year One	Miss Rachel White
Year Two/Three	Mrs Beth Hayley and Mrs Donna Curzon
Year Three/Four	Mrs Aileen Bufe and Mrs Andrea Devaney
Year Five/Six	Mr Shane Rossi will be released each Tuesday to do PE and I will be going into the class. Mrs Alicia Magnanini will also be helping out as well as teaching Year Four maths.

I would like to thank Denise for stepping into the role of APRE again in 2015. Denise will be continuing in the position next year, with Peta expecting her second child. Denise in her performing art role has brought a wealth of knowledge to the position and I thank her for her dedication and the wonderful job she does. Once again she has accomplished great things with the children in Performing Arts lessons. They entertained patrons at Mother's Day Morning Tea, lead actions at the Catholic Education Week Mass, as well as shortly at our annual Christmas concert.

Donna will continue her role as Learning Support Teach and in 2016 will also be undertaking the position of Curriculum Support Teacher. Donna has helped children with areas of learning difficulties throughout the year. Many hours have gone in to tailoring lessons to aid children improve their learning. Her efforts ensure that the children in the school who need that extra bit of support to aide in their learning receive all the help they can, assisted by our school officers. She has also liaised with various outside agencies to help her in her role.

I would also like to thank the ancillary staff, Santina, Jenni, Sandy, Maria, Jo, Grandma Beth, Judy and Lisa for their tireless work behind the scenes to help with the effective running of administration, the library and classrooms. Your efforts are gratefully appreciated.

Following the release of the 2015 NAPLAN results, plans have been put in place for intervention in the new year. On completing the Naplan analysis day with Donna, Rebecca Harris, Curriculum Officer CES and myself our children have compared favourably with those schools across the diocese and state. One area of concern even though we fared well in comparison to other schools, is spelling and this is to be addressed in the new year

This year we sadly say goodbye to our ten Year 6 students. I have to commend the year 6 students for stepping up into the role of leaders of our school following Year 7 being transferred to high school. From all reports although daunting this time last year, the Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life. 10 wonderful children will shortly walk through the gates of St. Rita's as students for the last time. Some of these children have been with us for 7 years some have joined us on the way.

To our Year 6 students -

- Billy Lamperd
- Braden Venables
- Isaac Darveniza
- Lily Darveniza
- Imogen Stanley
- Mikayla Camuglia
- Jessica Magnanini
- Karla Calleja
- Bree Jensen
- Anna-Louise Celledoni

From the original group of 11 who began Prep in 2009 together with Miss Johnson and Lisa Grima. 7 remain. Jaiden left at the end of Prep, Imogen left at the end of Prep and rejoined us in Year Two. Bree joined us in Year One, Billy left at the end of Year One and rejoined us in Year Three, Carie left for Cairns during Year Two, Kaisie C joined us from Mena Creek, in Year Two, Chloe left during Year 3, Jessica joined the group from Mourilyan in Year Four, Kacey and Kaisie left at the end of Year Four. Storm joined the group in 2014 and left in 2015.

I am deeply honoured and saddened to farewell them from the school. Over the years I have watched them grow into the wonderful children they have become, in partnership with the teachers who have nurtured them over the years. I wish them every success in the future.

As well as farewelling the Year Six and Seven students, sadly we have to say goodbye to families. Some have had a long association with St Rita's. This year we farewell from our school, five families who conclude their association with St Rita's. Marc and Michelle Darveniza, (15 years), Michael and Milva Camuglia. (11 years) Anthony and Lina Calleja (8 years), Graheme Celledoni and Margaret Cameron (7 years) Stewart and Cathy Lamperd (9 years) I would like to thank you all for your tireless commitment to our school. You have all played a large part over the years with fetes, tuckshop, lawn mowing, maintenance, school camps, carpet cleaning, walkathons.

We are also saying farewell to the Kirkman family. Connor and Jorja have only been with us this year but settled in quickly. They are venturing to Townsville to see more of dad due to his work commitments.

Each and everyone of you I am sure have many stories to tell about your time at St. Rita's. We thank you for being a valued part of our school community. Your footprints will be forever embedded in the history of our school. Do not be strangers.

Please attempt to join one of the many Christmas celebrations that are offered in all parishes wherever you may be at that time of the season. It is good to remind

the children of the true meaning of Christmas and the person who was the ultimate gift to us.

***Christmas Mass Times***

**Christmas Eve - Thursday, 24 December**

Innisfail ~ Vigil 6.30pm (family mass)  
Midnight Mass (Christmas Carols 11.30pm)

**Christmas Day - Friday, 25 December**

South Johnstone ~ 7am  
Innisfail ~ 9.00am

Once again I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for all your support of me during 2015. I look forward to working with you and your children in 2016. We will have to endure some interruptions to routine with the building project in Terms 2 and 3 but the end product will be worth it.

I hope you all have a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

**A REMINDER THAT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY, 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2016.**

Please take the time to glance over the 2015 Year in Review that is a comprehensive list of school activities. New parents to the school are amazed at the vast range of activities accomplished by such a small school.

God bless

Vicki Conomo  
(Principal, 2015)