



2015

# Annual Report

St Columba's Primary School, Berrigan

## CONTACT DETAILS:

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### The School

Berrigan is one of four towns within the Berrigan Shire. We have 2 primary schools which feed into Finley High School for the student's secondary education. The main employers within the town are the Berrigan Shire Council, Local Hospital and Aged Care Facility.

The farming community which surrounds the town conduct cropping and rearing of livestock. The town has a very active community which despite several drought years is able to support several sporting clubs and numerous other recreational activities.

### Catholic Identity

St Columba's, as a Catholic School, strives to encourage people who, being self-directed and optimistic, will take a role in renewing both the church and society. During 2015 the staff of the school engaged in a spirituality day to explore the theme Belonging and science based religion teaching concepts with Sr. Carmel and John Goonan.

### A Message from key School Bodies

St. Columba's School Council meets once a month to discuss what has been happening in the School with the Principal, Parish Priest and School Executive.

Parents are invited to these meetings which gives them an opportunity to hear first hand about their child/children's education and fundraising ideas.

### Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

The school monitors 'Trend' Data from this testing each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year. The school annually completes an analysis of NAPLAN data and uses this to formulate an action plan to guide the improvement of student learning outcomes.

The school is focused on improving the growth of children from year 3 to year 5 over the next few years.

### Professional Learning

Teachers have undertaken Professional Learning to be meet the needs of today's students by spending time unpacking and coming to a deep understanding of the Australian Curriculum. The K-2 staff have had a great deal of professional development on education in the early years and behavior management. Staff also had training in compliance areas such as Bullying in the Workplace, First Aid and CPR.

### Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in the following categories:

- A) having teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines, or
- B) having a bachelor degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lacking formal teacher education qualifications.

A	B	TOTAL
3	0	3

### Workforce Composition

The workforce our School includes two full time teachers, one .7 teacher, clerical assistant 20 hours per week and 4 hours cleaner.

### Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school.

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	89%
Year 1	80%
Year 2	84%
Year 3	87%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	88%

## Student Non-Attendance

If our School feels that the absence has not been appropriate i.e. truancy, the school at this time will make an appointment for the parent/carer to meet with the Principal to put procedures in place for the student to be able to meet legislative requirements in their attendance at school.

## Enrolment Policy

Applications for enrolment are encouraged at any time and forms are available from the school office to commence the enrolment process for your child. We use the Diocesan Enrolment Policy. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at [www.csoww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.csoww.catholic.edu.au) for full details please contact the school.

## Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
9	13	0	0	22

Classes: 2 (1 x K/1/2/3 & 1 x 4/5/6)

## School Policies

### Student Welfare

When a child is enrolled at St Columba's Primary School, Berrigan, we undertake the total care of the student:

- The spiritual
- The emotional
- The social
- The physical, and
- The academic

The term Pastoral Care is used to describe an attitude and a process, and it is based upon the belief in the dignity of the person. In a school, it is expressed through:

- The development of quality relationships
- The provision of satisfying learning experiences
- The establishment of an effective network
- The provision of a stable environment where learning can occur
- The development of self-discipline and growing into responsible members of the community

The staff aim to support, assist and consult with parents and advise them of their child's progress and attainment in the above areas. It is part of the staff's duty to endeavour to address any area of need that appear during the child's schooling.

The school follows the CSO policy which is available at [www.csoww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.csoww.catholic.edu.au)

### Discipline

In a Catholic school we aim at promoting self discipline in all children. We have developed a discipline policy which covers all aspects of behaviour at school. Parents are kept well informed of any disciplinary problems with their child. As per Diocesan policy, corporal punishment is not permitted. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at [www.csoww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.csoww.catholic.edu.au)

### Complaints and Grievances

#### **Classroom or Playground Concern -**

Please discuss with

1. Class teacher or teacher on duty
2. The Principal

#### **School Policy -** Please discuss with

1. The Principal
2. School Council or Parish Priest.

If a dissatisfaction remains – Contact the Catholic Schools Office, where your concerns will be heard, then the Principal's account will be obtained and an attempt made at resolving the matter to the satisfaction of all parties. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at

[www.csoww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.csoww.catholic.edu.au)

If the issue is important enough for you to follow it up, please make an appointment with teacher/Principal so they can ensure you have their full attention.

Issues taken to the School Council need to be in writing so that all members have the benefit of the same information. Issues taken to the School Council are considered confidential, but, as all families are members, it may be necessary to hold a special confidential meeting of the Executive of the School Council. Speak to a member of the School Council Executive, and they will make the arrangements.

If you would like to be more involved in the decisions made, participation in the School Council would be a way to achieve this.

### Anti-Bullying

Students and staff have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Bullying is taken seriously and is not acceptable in any form. The school follows the CSO policy which is available at [www.csoww.catholic.edu.au](http://www.csoww.catholic.edu.au)

### Changes to School Policies

During the 2015 school year St. Columba's successfully completed Registration and reviewed and updated all school policies as part of this process.

### **Improvement Targets**

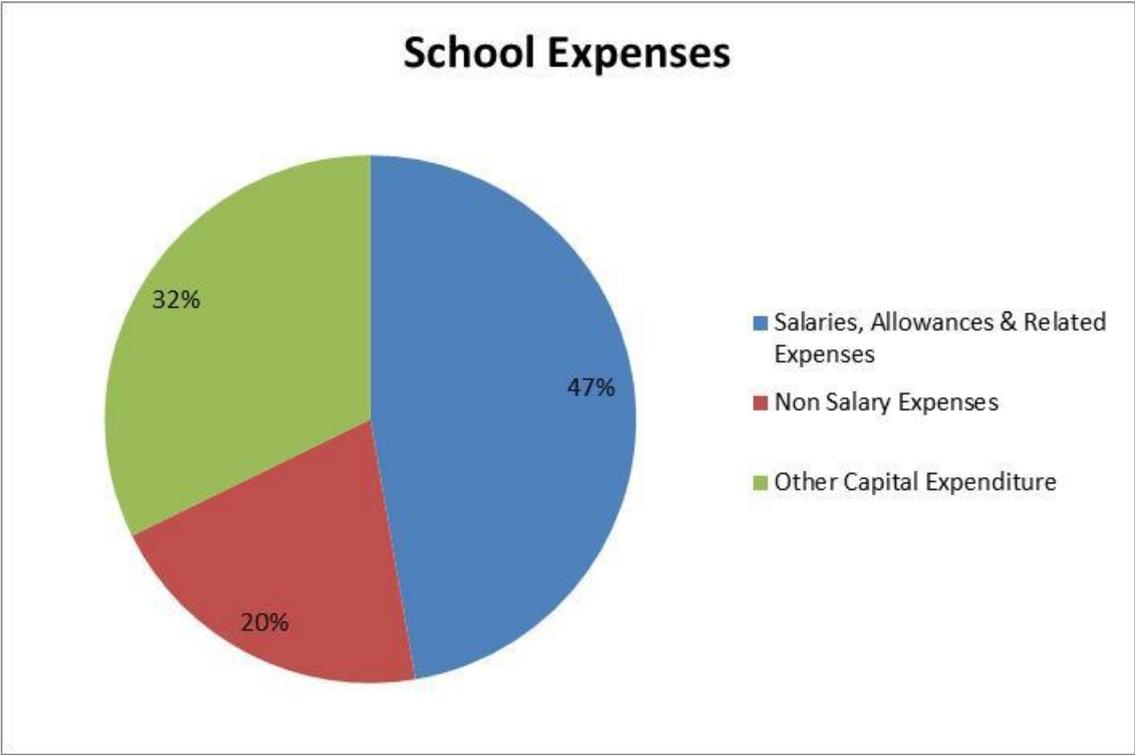
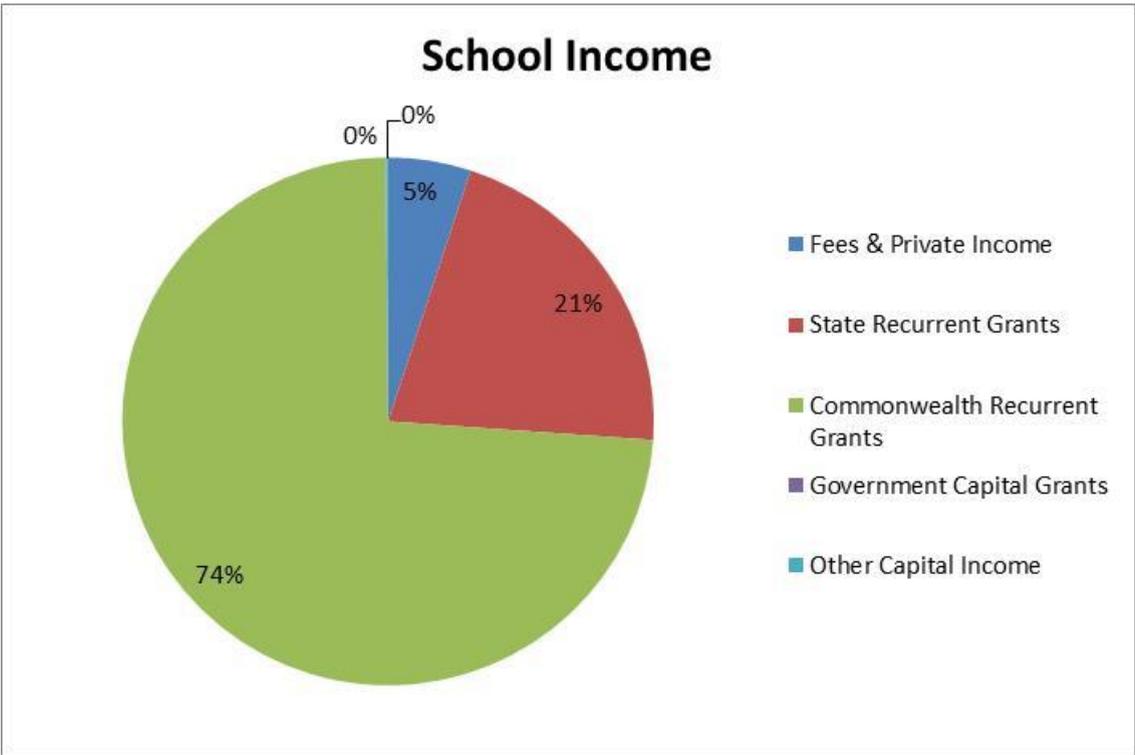
The main priorities of the School Improvement Plan focused on the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum for English and Mathematics leading to improved English and Mathematics learning outcomes. This translated into an action research plan with a focus on improving student spelling capabilities which will continue into 2016.

### **Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

As part of the strand, Self and Relationships in PD/H/PE, students continue to learn respect for themselves and others as well as their responsibility to become good citizens. Our students have also had opportunities to engage with the Making Jesus Real Initiative which contributes to a positive school environment.

### **Financial Statement Summary**

See next page.



**About This Report**

This report was put together by the Principal together with the Staff of St. Columba’s.