

**HOLY NAME PRIMARY SCHOOL,
FORSTER**

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2008



School Code: 1399

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Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

It is with both pride and satisfaction that I present to you the Annual Report 2008 for Holy Name Primary School Forster.

Holy Name School is a superb Catholic primary school built within the beautiful Great Lakes, one of the five primary schools within the Manning Region of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. As a community we are very proud of the reputation that our school has across the entire district, a reputation that it has held for many years.

Holy Name School is a vibrant community, centred on Jesus Christ, and focussed on the needs of the children in our care. The future lives of our children, their ability to meet all challenges with competence and confidence, is a task of immense importance that is at the heart of what we, staff, parish and parents, tackle together. While we must continue to strive to improve all aspects of the education we provide, we are justifiably proud of the quality of the school environment at Holy Name School.

What a year! Each year I feel like we have come a few steps further in our efforts to improve our school. I love this school and I know that we do an excellent job in preparing children for their future lives. This preparation is a many faceted one and involves academic, social, emotional, spiritual and physical growth; in other words, 'education of the whole child'. The processes of education have become quite intricate and the professional and personal demands this places on teachers is quite awesome. We have a genuinely committed staff who give so much to their vocation. I am extremely proud of them.

The year was also marked by many positive happenings. 2008 saw continued improvements to our buildings and grounds. This process has brought about superb improvements to the facilities that we currently enjoy. For those of you that have been here over five years you would know how desperate this situation was. Our main project this year was to install four water tanks that now service our two toilet blocks thanks to a Community Water Grant from the Federal Government. This grant ensured both environmental and financial savings and the children learn much about the benefits of saving water. The primary playground received a make-over with new artificial turf adjacent to the walkways to the hall and a great new fitness track and play equipment. Works were undertaken to improve drainage around the school. Our children and teachers know how blessed they are to have such superb teaching and learning facilities.

This year the staff focussed their professional development on improving teaching and learning in literacy. Now that the 'Ants in the Apple' spelling, language and reading program has been successfully

implemented we concentrated on the explicit teaching of the skills of comprehension across all classes K -6. We also focussed our P.D. on life-long learning – how teachers learn, how students learn and this learning focussed on the 21st Century classroom. Our professional development continues to support our whole school aim of improving the academic performance of our students.

Changes in leadership throughout the year have also brought about improved skills and a broader perspective in leadership at the school. Due to Greg Haire's {AP} continued role as Acting Principal in the diocese Elizabeth Teasey remained as Acting AP and Susan Hannigan remained as the Acting REC. Brooke Schumann remained as Primary Co-ordinator but added the role of Learning Support Teacher four days per week. Our school executive is a strong team, effective within a shared leadership model and actively committed to bringing about positive improvements across all facets of school life.

2008 was, once again, a magnificent year for sport for children at Holy Name School. Within the school we focussed on healthy eating and increased physical activity. Quite a myriad of activities fell within this broader commitment and support our aim for healthier children and families. In addition to this we had a fantastic representative year. At regional carnivals we won most regional champions, a sea of maroon and gold filled Manning representative teams and record numbers of children moved on to Diocesan, Polding and State levels in a broad number of sports. This is a great reflection on our school and the individuals involved. Stingrays were our overall champion sports house.

The support of the school by the wider community has, once again, been a real highlight of 2008. Father Kevin as well as Greg Byrne, Sharron Fowle and the parish give active support to our school. The support of the Parents and Friends Association this year has been positive, committed and has brought about superb changes across our school. Thankyou in particular to Cheryl Bendeich, past President; Kristie Banham, new President; and to the parents who consistently support meetings each month. Parents are an essential and welcome part of our daily life at Holy Name School and support teachers in a myriad of ways. The involvement of many local organisations in school life gives the children a real experience of being a part of a community.

Finally, may I thank every member of this community for their support throughout 2008. When this support is real and tangible every one of us, especially our children, wins. I commend this school's Annual Report to you.

Mark Mowbray
Principal

P and F

The P and F have had another great year. Continuing to alternate between day and evenings this year has been popular allowing more parents to attend meetings. Also

thank you to Mark Mowbray and the staff for their continual support.

Thank you to all who helped at the Bunnings and Council Election BBQs, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Christmas Stalls and a huge thanks to Annette Davis for organising these fundraising events. A big thank you goes to Sharron Brown who has been our fete co-ordinator for the past 4 years. Thank you to all stall co-ordinators and to everyone who volunteered their time to help to and on the day. Holy Name School fete continues to be the major fund raiser for our school and it has been an ongoing success for over a quarter of a century. It is a wonderful event in our region, always busy and bustling, it enables our school community to come together in a fantastic way.

Fundraising continues to play a major role in our P&F with the fete, more Bunning's BBQs, cake stalls, Mothers day and Fathers Day and Christmas stall all planned for the year ahead.

This summer saw the new girls school uniform introduced. It looks fantastic and is so much more practical. Thank you to the uniform committee.

The P and F donated \$27,000 to the school to purchase Smart Boards and Laptops. These have now been installed across the stages and are an amazing teaching and learning tool.

Thank you to Wendy and Kerry in the office for all your help and support. You are both wonderful! Cheryl Koch spent hours going through old minutes to put together a P and F Policy Resolution Register which is now complete and a great resource for the P and F. Thanks Cheryl.

Congratulations and thank you to the outgoing committee: Cheryl Bendeich - President; Annette Davis - Fundraising; Sue Ryan - Secretary; Janine Hokin - Treasurer; Kristy Ragno - Vice President; Julie Jackson - Canteen Treasurer and Jo King - School Banking. Their commitment and dedication to their roles and to the school has been invaluable to the ongoing success of the P and F.

The new committee for 2009 is: Kristie Banham – President; Kristy Ragno - Vice President; Sue Ryan – Secretary; Suzette Mead – Treasurer; Julie Jackson - Canteen Treasurer; Megan Fahey - Fundraising and Jo King - School Banking.

In 2009 our school will celebrate a Golden Jubilee - 50 years of Catholic Education in Forster/Tuncurry and the P and F look forward to helping the school and the Parish plan and celebrate such a phenomenal achievement.

We look forward to an amazing year.

Kristie Banham
President

Student Leaders/SRC

We are very pleased to be students at Holy Name School, Forster. We learn much at our school in all Key Learning Areas. The staff is very caring, hardworking, understanding and they make school enjoyable. We love Rock and Water and have great opportunities in sport. We are the best at Regional Carnivals and lots of children compete at higher levels. Holy Name School is a very special place for us to learn about God and gospel values. Our school's motto "Concern for Others", is very important to us and we try to live it out every day. The Year Six students are elected by their peers to form a leadership team. This happens twice a year which allows many of our Year Six students to have the opportunity to be leader in an official capacity. The leaders attend the "National Young Leaders Day" with 8000 other students in N.S.W. and listen to promotional speakers who encourage student leaders to work as a team, listen to others and believe they can make a difference. Elected students from Years 3 – 6 form an SRC which meets with the Assistant Principal to organise fundraising days which include Mission Day, Milkshake Day and a Mid Year Disco. This gives the students across Stage 2 and 3 an opportunity to develop positive organisational and leadership skills. Student Leadership is encouraged at Holy Name School and there are many opportunities for the students to speak in the community and represent the school. These include the Anzac Day Town March, Remembrance Day and Anzac Ceremonies at the school and school excursions to Sydney and Canberra. We love our school and know we will move onto High School well prepared.

School Captains 2008

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

Before launching into our report on the activities of 2008 that pertain to the religious dimension of school life I would like to pay tribute to the people who brought about the Parish Primary School that is Holy Name School Foster.

Initially may I acknowledge the Worrimi Nation, traditional owners of the land on which our school was built.

We should also acknowledge the Sisters of St Joseph who arrived in our Parish in 1959 to take up teaching. Initially this was in the Church Hall. The 'new' Holy Name School was staffed entirely by nuns and their contribution to Catholic Education and to the Forster / Tuncurry community to this day has been magnificent.

Over the years the staff of our school has changed from entirely religious to entirely lay staff. However the Catholic nature of our school has remained at the core of school life. I pay tribute to the current staff for this extension of their own faith commitment.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

Holy Name School has a positive connectedness with the Parish and there is a great deal of communication between the Parish Priest, Principal, Sacramental Team, REC, teachers and parents as well as the wider community to ensure that we are reaching out and evangelising their needs and developing community. The school has had an active and vibrant involvement in Liturgical Celebrations each Wednesday at 12.30 pm in the school hall. Some liturgies and Parish / School gatherings include Investiture of School Leaders, Pancake Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Anzac Day, Camp Elim "A Liturgy By The Lake", Holy Week, Mother's Day, NAIDOC Week, Grandparent's Day and Father's Day. Stage Three children often share a healing Mass with the sick and elderly in the community and then serve them morning tea. The children perform songs and drama at Christmas time for the Unity Church and local nursing homes and hostels in Forster. These outreach activities are very encouraging for the young and the elderly and they portray the Catholic Value of service to others, and the school motto 'Concern For Others'. The REC liaises with the Parish Priest and the Sacramental team to ensure effective involvement of parents and children in the Sacramental program. The Sacramental team consists of Pastoral Associates, State SRE, Teachers and the REC. The school has been actively involved in raising money for Catholic Mission for many years and was instrumental in initiating the Regional Mission Masses in the Manning. The students raise monies each year of approximately \$1500 for Catholic Mission. Mission Day activities and returned Project Compassion boxes for Caritas during Holy Week. There is a strong, open relationship between the Parish Priest, Father Kevin Corrigan and the school community. Father Kevin is dedicated to continue to foster positive relationships between the Parish and School community. He participates in Staff prayer each Wednesday morning and visits the children informally on the playground and more formally during class time. Father Kevin makes himself available to celebrate Liturgies for our Holy Name community and displays a genuine interest in the children's faith development. He encourages both the staff and the children to make connections between the Gospel readings and our everyday lives. Father Kevin is evangelistic in his mission to give young families opportunities to come together in school and parish gatherings. The Seasons of Growth Programme is coordinated by the Parish and offered to students within our school to help deal with grief in their lives. This is of great benefit to the students who participate and we are grateful to the Parish for their support in this area. Our Pastoral Care Worker leads Seasons for Growth and is a positive support to the students / teachers / parents of our school.

Teaching of Religion

Holy Name School implements the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus. Each class has a structured lesson each day that develops the knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith. The syllabus is outcome based and

the content is set out for stage teaching. The classroom teaching at Holy Name encourages students to find meaning and excitement in learning about the story, experiences and teachings of the Catholic Christian Tradition within the religious and cultural diversity of Australian Society. The children are immersed through scripture, music, Liturgy, drama, concerts (eg Richard Cootes) to enable the children to know, understand and integrate Gospel values such as compassion, forgiveness, hope and justice in their daily lives. The religious education co-ordinator prepares term calendars, rosters and liturgy timetables for an organised and effective program for teachers, Parish Priest and Pastoral Associates. The REC encourages the staff to use new resources and to develop meaningful lessons that have sequence effective assessment tasks and curriculum differentiation. The REC also purchases relevant resources that will enhance RE lessons. Class visits and the checking of students' books and teacher's programmes is an on-going effort by the REC. The staff are very dedicated when presenting Liturgies, Masses and celebrations and are great role models for the children in their care and they live out the vision statement of our school. The teachers are to be commended on their effective teaching strategies and creative Liturgies in RE. The staff are looking forward to the inclusion of the Chapel into our school hall in the near future. This will be a great asset for the staff and children in our Holy Name community.

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

The school has recently been involved in the annual camp for the whole school. This camp is organised by the REC and supported by the Principal and classroom teachers. It is a time for the children to be involved socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically through the varied activities organised for the week. The children participated in Retreat sessions created by the REC for each grade. Themes are Leadership; Friendship; Choices and Celebrating Me. At the conclusion of the camp 'A Liturgy By The Lake' led by Father Kevin was held with parents, parishioners and the whole school participating in the Mass with the theme 'Jesus is Our Friend'. The staff at Holy Name are encouraged to attend the retreats offered by the CSO. The Principal has led many retreats for the staff, which focussed on spirituality and personal faith reflection, to deepen the awareness of oneself, to believe in oneself and to find peace and happiness in the career choice that we have made. This year the staff of Holy Name were invited to participate in an overnight retreat with the theme 'Making Space for the Spirit' with the aim to connect socially, emotionally, spiritually and professionally. A Mass was celebrated by Father Kevin during the evening with staff then sharing a meal together. With the support of the Parish Sacramental Team all children participating in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist take part in 'retreat days' prior to Eucharist and Confirmation. Home groups led by parents are a great support in the Parish based program.

Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)

Holy Name School is known for its ability to raise money and the support of the P and F is fantastic. The children last year raised more than \$1500 for Caritas on Mission Day. The school is also involved in 'Vinnie's Day', 'World Day of Prayer for Peace' and 'National Sorry Day'.

Our Catholic school is proud of its motto 'Concern for Others'. Our behaviour management policy is based on building positive relationships. It focuses on the basic rights of all in our community – the right to feel safe, to right to learn and to teach and the right to be treated with respect.

Within our school vision statement we state that 'Holy Name School is a Parish-based community of life-long learners fostering a positive, challenging child-centred environment founded on gospel values. The children are nurtured to become responsible, discerning thinkers displaying Concern for Others'.

The most prominent community activity relative to the promotion of respect and responsibility was our Values Forum. This well attended forum focussed on the traditions and values espoused by our school and brought a common purpose to values education.

Policies

Enrolment Policy

Holy Name School follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy *Enrolment (January 2003)*. The Policy has been devised to accommodate, as far as is possible, the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. In situations where enrolments have to be restricted because of limitations on capacity, preference may need to be given to children of Catholic families, as defined in the Policy. Implementation of the Policy is via our local school Enrolment Committee which has discretionary authority in keeping with Diocesan guidelines. Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website (cf end of Report). Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Student Welfare

Staff and students at Holy Name aim to create a positive environment by taking every opportunity to affirm and encourage each other. Staff shows appreciation for children's efforts to follow school rules, to recognise the rights of others and to take responsibility for their actions. They acknowledge, through verbal, non-verbal and practical means, the efforts of the children. Children therefore learn the skill of showing due recognition for the endeavours and accomplishments of others. These and other aspects relating to student welfare are included

in the school's Behaviour Management Policy. There were no changes to this policy in 2008. Copies are available from the school office.

Discipline

The school's Behaviour Management Policy was developed with teachers, parents and children in 2000. It outlines the discipline procedures for both classroom and playground behaviour. The policy is based on rights, rules and responsibilities. We believe that respectful and trusting relationships in a positive school environment are the basis of a successful Behaviour Management Policy. Within such a school context, children learn to make good choices and to take responsibility for their actions. Copies of the policy are available from the school office.

Complaints and Grievances

Holy Name School has adopted the CSO Complaints Management Policy. This policy outlines the steps to be followed when a complaint or grievance has been received from a parent, student or member of staff. It stresses the importance of procedural fairness provisions in addressing the complaint. This policy has now been finalised by the CSO in consultation with schools. A copy of the policy can be obtained from the school or from the Catholic Schools Office.

Student Achievements

Academic Achievements

In 2008 Holy Name School continued to focus on improving the academic achievement of students. We implemented a tracking process to assist in the identification of individual students needs and analysed testing results and teaching practice to plan effective Professional Development to assist staff in catering for the diverse needs of students.

Students continued to access the University based competitions in Maths, Spelling, Writing, Computer and Science. Students received high distinctions in Science and Maths and Distinctions and Credits in all other competitions.

In 2008 the 3 classes in Stage 3 participated in the Tournament of the Minds competition. The students and teachers enthusiastically researched the challenges presented to them and thoroughly enjoyed the extension of learning that was provided through their involvement in this competition.

Students participated in the Rotary Science and Engineering Challenge. This fabulous day organized for groups of students in Stage 3 provided the opportunity to gain insight into future areas of interest and how to work together to solve problems.

Many students entered into writing competitions for MidCoast Water,- Great Lakes Council and with "Write Stuff". Some students were published and received awards for their efforts. This year one of our Year 6

students won the National Political Cartooning Competition, 'Between The Lines' run by the National Museum. A strong Year 6 Debating team progressed through to Diocesan Level once again – a very high standard of debating was demonstrated.

Professional Development opportunities for staff continued to focus on the Ants in the Apple Spelling and Reading program as well as on the teaching and assessment of comprehension skills. Lexia Learning was trialled at the school and a decision made to begin purchasing this program for Holy Name School was made. This program meets the individual needs of students in Literacy and in developing the capacity of students to think about and solve problems.

Cultural Achievements

World Youth Day was a highlight of our calendar in 2008. Our Parish community hosted a group of pilgrims from Miami, Florida and Germany. We ensured their stay included a scenic tour of the local area and Aboriginal sites of significance. Members of our Parish accompanied the pilgrims to Sydney for World Youth Day.

In 2008 Holy Name School were fortunate to host the Siyahamba Dramatic Arts Company from Sydney to produce a whole school play titled 'The Other Side of Stone Island'. Johan and Weisie Bester worked with a core group of students as the main cast and with every Stage group over a 4-day period. Students and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the 3 performances over the following weekend.

The school band performed at many local functions and visited Nursing Homes to share the fruits of their work. They completed successfully at the Manning Eisteddfod, receiving a highly commendable and we are extremely proud of their hard work and obvious talent. This year class groups continued to entertain church groups with choral singing and poetry recital. Authors and illustrators visited Stage groups in the Library, sparking interest from talented student writers and artists.

The three major excursions for the year allowed students from the school to experience both the natural and physical worlds.

Just prior to Easter the Primary students enjoyed an evening camping by the Wallis Lake at Camp Elim. Reflective discussions led by staff on the topics of Friendship, Leadership, Choices and Celebrating Me helped our students to become responsible and discerning members of society.

Year 5 travelled to Sydney in Term 3 to gain a practical experience of life in our capital city. Particular attention was paid to popular icons and the cultural diversity present.

In Term 4 Year 6 spent a week in Canberra and visited a sheep farm on their way home. The students worked

really hard all week to visit places such as both Parliament Houses, Questacon, The Deep Space Communication Centre, The Exhibition Centre, the Indonesian Embassy, The National Art Gallery and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Sporting Achievements

Students from Holy Name School had the opportunity to participate in and represent the school in a range of Summer and Winter Sports Trials as well as the larger fields of Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics.

In 2008 the school was represented by boys and girls at Polding and State level in Cross Country and to Polding level in Swimming.

All students enjoyed the Booti Booti Bush Walk which for 20 years has been a challenging bush and beach walk for all students.

Our Senior Rugby League Football team participated in the local competition and became the Group 3 Champions. They represented Group 3 in the All Schools State Knockout in Sydney.

Performance in Statewide Tests

NAPLAN Program 2008 - Year 3						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	Forster	18.5%	3.7%	27.8%	20.4%	5.6%
	National Pt	17.7%	15.6%	19.2%	17.2%	12.4%
Band 5	Forster	31.5%	33.3%	5.6%	40.7%	25.9%
	National Pt	21.8%	21.9%	21.3%	27.4%	21.1%
Band 4	Forster	14.8%	40.7%	27.8%	27.8%	37.0%
	National Pt	23.0%	25.9%	23.4%	28.7%	27.9%
Band 3	Forster	20.4%	11.1%	18.5%	7.4%	25.9%
	National Pt	17.7%	19.0%	17.3%	15.6%	23.0%
Band 2	Forster	13.0%	9.3%	16.7%	3.7%	3.7%
	National Pt	12.0%	10.1%	10.6%	6.5%	10.8%
Band 1	Forster	1.9%	1.9%	3.7%	0.0%	1.9%
	National Pt	6.1%	5.8%	6.5%	2.9%	3.3%

NAPLAN Program 2008 - Year 5						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	Forster	5.1%	7.7%	7.7%	2.6%	0.0%
	National Pt	9.3%	7.6%	13.4%	8.3%	6.6%
Band 7	Forster	12.8%	10.3%	10.3%	12.8%	10.3%
	National Pt	18.1%	18.2%	19.9%	17.9%	14.0%
Band 6	Forster	7.7%	30.8%	15.4%	35.9%	15.4%
	National Pt	26.1%	28.2%	26.4%	29.3%	25.7%
Band 5	Forster	48.7%	25.6%	33.3%	35.9%	38.5%
	National Pt	23.9%	24.9%	21.3%	25.3%	28.9%
Band 4	Forster	10.3%	15.4%	20.5%	10.3%	17.9%
	National Pt	13.5%	12.8%	11.0%	11.8%	17.4%
Band 3	Forster	15.4%	10.3%	12.8%	2.6%	15.4%
	National Pt	7.5%	6.7%	6.5%	5.9%	5.9%

Other Highlights for 2008

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Staff

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications & Experience	Number of Staff
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	17
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications	0
III. Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	0
IV. Staff with Post Graduate Qualifications, ie at Graduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorate level <i>(optional)</i>	1

Professional Learning Undertaken

Professional Development at school level focussed on literacy with the continuation of the "Ants in the Apple" program and incorporation of the 'Making Connections Program'. The staff also held a wonderful retreat focussing on growth and change. At a regional level we focussed on after school in-servicing in music, emergency care and CPR. Members of the executive participated in leadership framework activities within the diocese.

Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school 96%.

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2007 to 2008 was 93%.

Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2008

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
Kinder	38
Year 1	42
Year 2	55
Year 3	57
Year 4	35
Year 5	38
Year 6	37
TOTAL	291

Roll Class	Number of Students
KM	19
KW	19
1G	21
1M	21
2P	26
2/3M	26
3H	30
3/4E	27
4T	27
5/6G	26
5/6E	24
5/6L	25

Student Attendance (Primary)

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2008 was 94%.

School Priorities

Achievement of School Priorities

2008 included a continued focus on improving the teaching of literacy in our school. The Ants in The Apple Spelling and Reading program was consolidated and is now a strength in our teaching across K – 6. We developed a new Scope and Sequence in the sub-skills of Comprehension. The purchase of the 'Making Connections' resource gave teachers and students the tools to allow children to develop a deeper understanding of text and an ability to respond appropriately to it. Professional Development ensured that it was supported through the initial implementation phase of its introduction to the embedding of it in the school's English Policy. The staff are aware of the continued development of the Guided Reading and Writing programs operating already within classrooms.

Count Me In Too (CMIT) as a professional development package and support for teachers in understanding the development of early maths skills will be revisited by interested members of staff as part of the ongoing support for some of the more recent initiatives of our school. Results from SENA Testing will be used to plan meaningful experiences matched to the stage of learning of individual students. The staff joined other teachers in the Manning Region to work with Brian Tickle to consider best practice in teaching and learning in the area of numeracy. The day was a wonderful success.

The Rock and Water program continues to reinforce the schools Behaviour Management Strategy through up-skilling students in self awareness and management of behaviour. It provides students with practical skills to deal with difficult situations and develops their understanding of issues such as bullying. Open discussions about bullies and the impact of bullying continues to build confidence in our students to stand strong when required or to let other situations wash over them.

Regional Smartboard meetings were well attended by members of our staff keen to develop their skills in the inclusion of this technology in the class lessons. This area of developing teaching and learning for the 21st Century classroom lead to the development of a belief statement about learning at Holy Name School. Our P and F have committed almost \$30,000 towards the initial purchase of smartboards and laptops to support this direction. The current school Library Program was reviewed with the idea of updating skills and content to include some of these new technological teaching strategies into the scope and sequence of its program.

Facilities

The Primary Playground was a major focus of plant development in 2008. A fantastic new fitness track and play equipment were added to the playground, artificial turf was laid along the walkways to the hall and we finally were able to address many of the drainage problems around the school plant.

As a result of being successful in our application for a Community Water Grant we installed four new water tanks that now service both of our toilet blocks. We also converted all of our cisterns to dual-flush cisterns. The rewards to our environment in water savings are a wonderful product of these works.

We continue to enjoy the new library and computer lab with 17 computers installed onto our own network. The school hall is used on a daily basis by classes, parents and community groups. We have a Special Needs Room and a Koori Room.

The school is most fortunate to be located in close proximity to the Parish Church, Aquatic Centre, Tennis Courts, playing fields, Surf Clubs, beaches and lakes and After-School Care. The CBD is also within walking distance from the school. This extends the range of local excursions and sporting activities available to the school.

Community Satisfaction

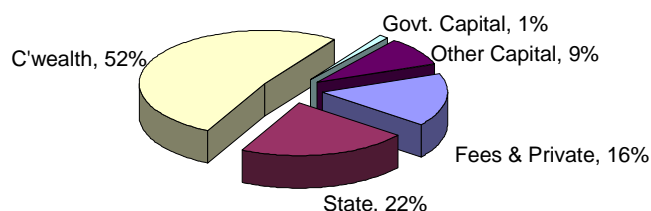
The results from our annual survey of the school community expressed a high level of satisfaction with our school from parents, teachers and students. All agree that Holy Name School has a very clear Catholic identity and are happy with all aspects of teaching and learning including professional development, availability of resources and the overall effective administration and communication procedures evident within the school. Comments from each group were collated and shared at public meetings and were utilised in the development of our strategic priorities for 2009.

The school encourages parental and community involvement and provides many opportunities for this to occur. Liturgies, assemblies and all other school functions are well attended. Many parents and parishioners also support individual class programs such as reading and Count Me In too.

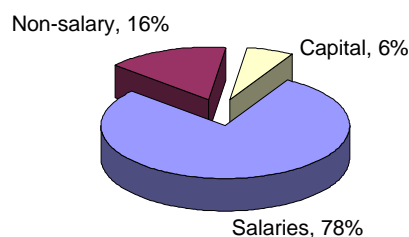
Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for Holy Name Primary School, Forster for the school year ending 31 January 2009 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.

Recurrent & Capital Income



Recurrent & Capital Expenditure



Concluding Statement

The staff of Holy Name School looks back on 2008 as a year that brought about immense rewards for our children across all facets of school life. This is due to the dedication and professionalism of the staff and the solid partnership that exists across the community of staff, parents, parish and wider community. I extend my praise to each of you.

My special thanks also to the members of the Executive Team, Elizabeth Teasey, Susan Hannigan and Brooke Schumann who assisted me in the completion of this report and in all other areas of school leadership through a really great year for our school.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

Mr Mark Mowbray
Principal
Holy Name Primary School
41 Lake Street
FORSTER NSW 2428
Phone: (02) 6554-6504

For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy
please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>