



# 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



# **Star of the Sea**

## **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Meeting held: Monday 22 May 2023  
at 7.00pm in the Stella Maris Building

1. **Present:** Damian Weeks, Kelly Manera, Nathan Foulis, Katherine Andrushenko, Brad Dunstan, Emma Marsden, Kopano Shepheard and Vivian Andrews
2. **Apologies:** Dave Slovenic, Kirsty McCulloch, Liz Sarris and Karyn Burlow
3. **Welcome: Damian Weeks**
  - Welcomed everyone to the AGM
  - Welcome to our Country
  - Opening Prayer
4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes** - Previous minutes from the 2022 AGM were taken as read and accepted.
5. **Presentations for reports**
  - Damian presented the AGM reports
6. **Call for questions on the Published Reports**
  - There were no questions
7. **Thanks to retiring members – Damian**
  - Mark Hayes retired
8. **Election of Board members**
  - Damian announced our new board member Amy Diggins.
  - Damian welcomed her to the School Board and we will meet her at our next Board meeting and positions on the Board will be assigned then as well.
9. **Business Arising/Questions**
  - Nil
10. **Damian thanked everyone for their attendance**
11. **AGM closed at 7.25pm**

2023 was a year of many new beginnings for our Parish and school. We welcomed Father Manu to the Henley Beach Parish and Domenique Laurendi to the role of APRIM at Star of the Sea.

Our school community has always prided itself on being connected to our church and the strong connections and partnership we have established. During 2023 we continued to strengthen these connections and ensured that we continued to work together in partnership with the church for the benefit of our school families, parish members and wider community.

### **Justice Leaders**

This Year we introduced a new leadership initiative for our students. Students in Year 6 were invited to apply for the role of Justice Leader. 10 enthusiastic students applied for the role and were all accepted to take on this wonderful position in our school. As Justice Leaders, these students work closely with the APRIM where they are bringing a student voice into prayer and liturgical celebrations in our school. These students have already been very busy supporting teachers and students in our Lent and Holy Week celebrations and running the Easter Tuesday liturgy for the whole school.

### **Children's Mass**

As a school we have continued to support the church by inviting our Year level students and families to participate in the ministries at the Sunday Children's masses. These masses have been well attended by our families and it is wonderful to see many of our students involved in these ministries.

### **Playgroup**

Our staff members have continued to run the playgroup in the church hall. The facilitators of the play group are always mindful of relating their program to events happening in the school and parish as a way of keeping all members of the community connected together.

### **Sacramental Program**

As always, the Sacramental Program continues to be a thriving and engaging experience for all the students involved. Our APRIM, together with Sr Helen Armstrong the Sacramental coordinator for the Henley Beach parish, work very closely to ensure all the students and their families have a meaningful Sacramental journey. In 2023 there were over 75 students involved in the program. This will continue this year with a similar number of students committed to the program. This program involves the families and students in participating in Catechesis classes, a retreat day, and the teaching of the program. This year the sacrament of Reconciliation was moved from Year 3 to Year 4. In this new model, the students now receive all three sacraments (Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) in the same year.

### **Outreach and fundraising**

In 2023 we had a strong focus on reaching out to those in need and supporting parish outreach projects. We invited Terry Kluzak, a member of the parish and the coordinator of Vinnies for our local area, to come and speak to our SRC members. His presentation gave our students a better understanding of the importance of the work that Vinnies does for our community and how we can support them in their work. This inspired our SRC's to organise a Winter Dignity Drive where we completely restocked the Vinnie's bunker and filled a Vinnies truck with donated goods. We also donated \$5,000.00 to Vinnies from money raised during our drive.

We look forward to keeping these connections strong and to continuing to work together for the benefit of all our community.

We're excited to welcome in 2024 with a new building that contains additional classrooms to better accommodate all students at Star of the Sea. This new building was a key project for the school and the board in 2023, and we thank all students, teachers and families for your patience during all the times of disruption.

In addition to the build, the last 12 months has seen the school progress and complete several initiatives including resurfacing the school oval, leadership appointments, events and developing the school's strategic plan.

With regard to the school oval, it was a big topic of discussion. We had to ensure that the surface we chose would last as we cannot afford to keep resurfacing the oval year on year. Whilst it was decided that grass was the best option, we are not ruling out artificial turf as a future consideration.

The board also assisted Principal Damian and Father Manu hire the school's new Deputy Principal Annette Diassinias who has been a great addition to the leadership team, and we recognise and thank Kelly Manera and Gemma D'Angelo for stepping into the acting deputy role whilst the recruitment process took place.

The board would also like to recognise Damian for his efforts since he commenced with Star of the Sea as it's only recently that he has had a fulltime Leadership team.

We look forward to 2024 being another big year for Star of the Sea, and the board will continue to work towards ensuring the school has all the resources and facilities it requires to make it the best learning environment for all students.

Regards

Dave Slovinec

The start of 2023 saw the beginning of our biggest building project in the history of our school, a 9.3 million dollar development, rising three storeys and capturing large amounts of space in the air. Some minor works began as we left for the 2022 Christmas holidays but things ramped up in the second week of January when this happened.



By the time students returned to school there was nothing left of the old building. There were big changes for all of our administration staff as the front office was moved into the library taking up about a third of the space.

Less visual was the change to the school day, where we began running two schools on the one site for the year. With the loss of green courts to the building project, split lunch and recess times were used to maximise for our students.

We welcomed our new Parish Priest Father Manu Kumbidiyamackal. Father Manu joins us from the Para Hills/Modbury Parish where he has been for ten years. On our return to school our Leadership Team met with Father Manu to discuss how our school and parish work together in partnership.

There were changes to our School Leadership team for 2023. We welcomed back Kelly Manera as our Acting Deputy Principal, Kelly had a long history with our school and returned after a three year stint working on the other side of town. With the retirement of our long term APRIM Stella Foley, stepping into a shared Acting APRIM role were Domenique Laurendi and Sheena Pattinson. Domenique later won the substantive role as our APRIM. Karyn Burlow joined our school as the Finance Manager after the retirement of Jane Leonard.

By term 2 our building started going up in the air!

We held a **Staff Retreat Day** called "Journeying to the Heart and Mind". It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know new staff members, connecting with each other, reflecting and praying together. It has been a long time since we have all gathered together as a whole school staff community and it was wonderful to have 70 staff attend.



We farewelled, long time Deputy Principal Matt Perry who won the substantive position of Principal at Christ the King, Warradale.

As we moved into term 3 our building began to take shape and we held our first staff tour, visiting the staff room!



Annette Diassinias was appointed as our substantive Deputy Principal but was unable to join us until the start of 2024. We welcomed Gemma D'Angelo as Acting Deputy who would remain in this role until the end of the year. Kelly Manera moved to the role of Assistant Principal Learning and Wellbeing.

Our Whole School Assembly for term 3 was on our sustainability focus and our Eco Warriors talked to us about the importance of caring for our environment. At Star of the Sea, our Eco Warriors are a group of dedicated Year 6 students who give up some of their time every Friday afternoon to help look after our school environment. They help with sorting our rubbish, cleaning and caring for our school spaces and working in our school garden.

The Eco Warriors explained that recently some wonderful volunteers from KESAB visited our school to work with them. Together they collected and audited the rubbish that our school created in one single day. This came to a total of 117 litres of rubbish! We learnt that a lot of what we are currently putting in the red landfill bins can actually be put in the food scrap bins, or the recycling bins to cut down on the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

Term 4 began with our "Principal/Deputy/APRIM for a day" being the first students to tour our new building.

As usual, the end of the year brought some staff changes with Eva Lake and Laura Pedron resigning and appointed to permanent positions were Kelly Stevens, Tamara Golic, Jess Stewart, Adam Francis and Katrina Frangiosa.

The building, almost finished would be available for the Year 1 & 3 classes to move into after Christmas.



Damian Weeks

Principal

As always, the school is maintained and kept in great condition by Michael Burgan with the use of external contractors to provide work as required. The committee would like to sincerely thank Michael for his continued hard work around the school, ensuring that the school is well maintained, and the finances provided for maintenance and improvements are well utilised.

The previous 12 months had a focus on the major capital works to the school. During this period, Michael provided extensive support to the building contractors to ensure that the major works that have been completed ran as smooth as possible. This also assisted in ensuring that the building was handed back to the school according to the project timeline. A large amount of time had been consumed from a Grounds and Maintenance perspective with site readiness before, during and upon completion of the classroom builds.

Replacement of the turf on the school lawn was undertaken during the end of year break. Although the expectation remains that there will be periods where the grass will struggle to maintain its current condition, the committee continues to explore alternatives to ensure that the school can provide a year-round, safe and attractive playing surface for the children to utilise. A holistic approach to the lawn area will be maintained to ensure that the most appropriate solution is identified. With the return-to-use of the basketball courts upon completion of the construction, this provides some relief to the lawn from the increased foot traffic and allow us to better assess the options moving forward.

Recent work has been completed on the re-fencing of the large boundary fence around the school lawn area. This has been improved on the previous structure and wired with larger gauge wire to provide further safety, strength and longevity. The wire had deteriorated over time due to the environmental conditions and the general play activities on the lawn area.

The imaginative play space vertical garden has been rejuvenated with fresh succulents and other durable varieties. Cuttings taken from existing plants were utilised, and together with the assistance from staff members, the plantar boxes were cleaned and replenished back to a near new state. As this was performed by staff members during their own time, it came at a very small cost to the school and the time donated was very much appreciated.

Other tasks performed as below:

- General school maintenance.
- New basketball backboards and ring to Seaview Road car park area.
- Painting of toilet cubicle and walls.
- Removal old mechanical air system and installation of new clear air system.
- New box gutter and bulkhead to classroom on level 2 MacKillop building
- New carpentry and roof on MacKillop building to meet with new building.
- Replacement of existing windows and glazing in new atrium and MacKillop hallways
- New air conditioner installation in library.
- Garden maintenance along Marlborough Street fence, pruning of fruit trees along Military Road, and heavy pruning of garden beds in the imaginative play space.
- Replacement of boundary fence in the imaginative play space.
- Removal of the casuarina tree within court compound area.
- Removal of the small footbridge at the western entrance.

Brad Dunstan

The Marine Discovery Centre (MDC) is pleased to present its Annual General Meeting (AGM) report for the year 2023. The accomplishments outlined herein reflect a year of remarkable progress, propelled by strategic partnerships, community engagement, and the unwavering dedication of our team.

### **Visitors and Events**

In 2023, the MDC experienced unprecedented levels of engagement, welcoming a total of 9,995 visitors, comprising 8,175 students and 1,822 adults. This influx included representatives from 115 schools, spanning the educational spectrum from DECD, Catholic, and Independent institutions to homeschool groups, universities, and TAFE organisations.

The MDC actively participated in 34 public events, including notable occasions such as regional tours to Port Augusta, the MDC relaunch event, Community Open Days, Nature Festival events, and collaborations with community entities like Conservation Volunteers SA, Australian Association of Environmental Education, Tennyson Dunes Group, EMS, AUSMAP, Friends of Gulf St Vincent and World Environment Day at the Botanical Gardens. Notably, our presence at major events such as Science Alive and the Royal Adelaide Show facilitated interactions with diverse audiences, amounting to significant outreach.

Feedback from our school visitors underscores the effectiveness of our efforts, with an overwhelming 98% expressing intent to return and recommending the Centre to others. Additionally, our commitment to environmental stewardship was evidenced by the execution of 142 beach clean-ups, reinforcing our dedication to coastal conservation.

### **Partnerships and Funding**

The financial backbone of the MDC in 2023 was fortified by a total funding injection of \$312,765, emblematic of the faith vested in our mission by esteemed partners and benefactors.

#### *Key contributions included:*

\$142,000 from Green Adelaide, earmarked for the production of educational series episodes and operational support.

\$100,000 from the Minister for Education, Training, and Skills, facilitating critical staffing and educational initiatives targeted at underserved communities.

\$21,200 from CESA, representing ongoing institutional support.

\$20,000 from Green Adelaide, designated for the pilot episode of Porci's Ocean Patrol.

\$9,000 from SA Water, was allocated for educational resources for both MDC and SA Water websites.

\$8,000 from Community West Bank, supporting weekend Community Days at the MDC.

\$5,000 each from RAA and Inspiring SA, for digital signage and Kurna educational video, respectively.

\$2,595 from the City of Charles Sturt (Henley Ward Discretionary Fund), directed towards digital signage.

\$91,094.57 Income derived from Centre visits and incursions (excluding outstanding invoices)

\$5,632.55 from merchandise sales



## **Staff, Patrons & Volunteers**

In 2023, the Marine Discovery Centre expanded its team with the addition of Marine Scientist Jessica Leopold, reinforcing educational outreach and aquarium support. We were honoured to welcome Dr Zoe Doubleday and John Schutz as esteemed Patrons, joining Chris Daniels and Karl Telfer in providing invaluable operational support and expertise. Our dedicated volunteers contributed a total of 1,501 hours, comprising 24 individuals, 5 University of Adelaide interns, and 11 high school Work Experience students, representing a significant labour contribution valued at \$63,642.40 based on the current hourly rate established by Volunteering SA/NT.

## **Education and Resources**

### **Porci's Ocean Patrol**

A new YouTube channel and website was established for the Porci's Ocean Patrol series, a captivating exploration of South Australian marine life, conservation, and Aboriginal culture building on the current resources that the Marine Discovery Centre provide.

Porci's Ocean Patrol features Porci, along with fellow Ocean Patrollers Georgie and Karno, as they engage young viewers in fun and educational adventures. Each episode showcases local marine creatures, coastal facts, and interactive games and quizzes, fostering curiosity and inspiring action to protect our marine environment. Through engaging content and viewer question segments, children are empowered to become advocates for marine sustainability, promoting awareness and action within their communities. Complemented by educational resources developed by Kids Media aligned with the Australian curriculum, Porci's Ocean Patrol offers a dynamic platform for learning and discovery, free for teachers and students to access.

In 2023 there were 92,405 views of Porci's Ocean Patrol YouTube channel with a further 63,433 views of Porci content via the Marine Discovery Centre YouTube channel.

### **Marine Studies**

Led by Georgie Kenning, a qualified marine scientist, our marine studies program continues to enrich the educational experience of Star of the Sea students. Each student at Star of the Sea receives a dedicated five-week block of marine lessons on Fridays. These lessons cover various marine science and geography topics tailored to different year levels, aligning with both ACARA and UNESCO's Ocean Literacy principles. Students eagerly anticipate their visits to the Marine Discovery Centre, where they observe aquarium animals being fed and engage with real marine specimens as part of their learning experience. The resources and hands-on learning opportunities provided to Star of the Sea students are unparalleled in South Australia, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the marine ecosystem.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Marine Biologists, Jessica Leopold and Georgie Kenning, for their exceptional work in developing educational resources and ensuring that every visitor leaves the centre with a deeper understanding of our marine environment. Karno Martin, our Cultural Educator, who provides our visitors with a real understanding about Aboriginal Culture and its connection to Sea Country and remains a favourite among visitors of all ages.

I extend my appreciation to Michael Burgan for his diligent management of maintenance issues, Ben Stewart for his handling of IT requirements, and Karyn Burlow for her invaluable financial and business

support. Amy Diggin's contributions at the Board level and assistance with recruitment have been a welcomed support.

Special thanks are also due to our esteemed Patrons, Chris Daniels, Karl Telfer, Dr. Zoe Doubleday, and John Schutz, for their wealth of knowledge and unwavering support, which has significantly contributed to the continued growth of the MDC.

Lastly, I am deeply grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers and community partners, whose commitment and hard work are essential to the smooth operation of the centre. Without their invaluable contributions, our mission would not be possible.

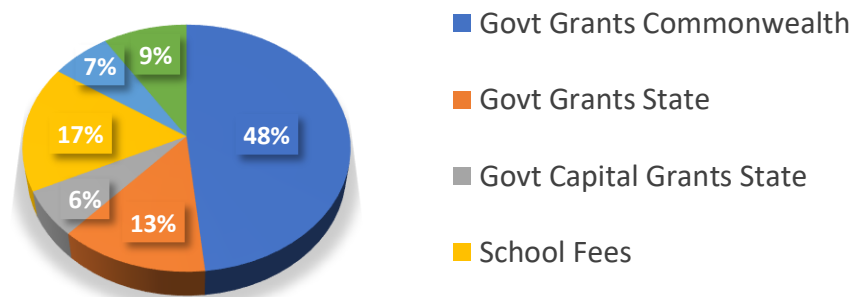
Carmen Bishop  
Director

Star of the Sea School continues to operate under sound financial position due to careful and considered budgeting and planning to ensure that funds are expended to support and facilitate learning and infrastructure.

Student enrolment numbers for 2023 were 548 students as reported at the August Commonwealth Census date compared to 552.80 at the same time in 2022.

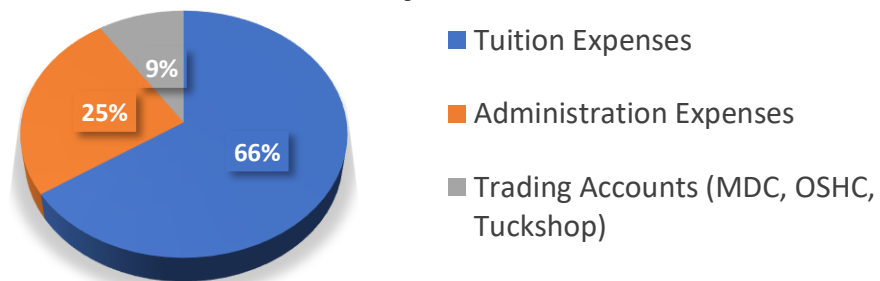
Student numbers directly impacts the level of State and Commonwealth Government funding received every year and represents the largest portion of Revenue/Income received by the school, as illustrated by the graph below.

## 2023 Income



School expenditure continues to be closely tracked with emphasis on maintaining adequate reserves for future development without compromising the children’s education or commitment to the community. The graph below summarises the areas of expenditure.

## 2023 Expenses



Stage 2A and 2B building works continued in 2023, which once completed will be a multi-level building housing the school entry, administration offices, classrooms and multipurpose spaces for staff and students. The project is due for completion in April/May 2024 at an anticipated construction cost of \$8M and is funded with a capital loan, school funds held in reserve and a State Government Capital Grant.

Other items of notable capital expenditure for 2023 included the purchase of student and staff devices.

**Other trading activities:**

**Marine Discovery Centre (MDC)**

The MDC made a surplus of \$65,896 in 2023 compared to a lost of \$96,694.87 in 2022 due to a grant from the State Government, other miscellaneous grants, and increased revenue from centre visits.

This result is a credit to Carmen Bishop, MDC Partnerships and Marketing Manager and her amazing team.

### **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)**

OSHC recorded a surplus of \$48,297 in 2023 which was attributable to higher attendance numbers and lower than expected salary costs due to the Assistant Director vacancy for the majority of the year. In 2022 we reported a deficit of \$40,709 so it was pleasing to see a return to surplus to offset against utility, maintenance and administration charges that are not directly charged to the service but are absorbed by the school.

### **Tuckshop**

The Tuckshop recorded a nominal surplus of \$862 in 2023 compared to a loss \$502 in 2022 so both years results are pleasing because our expectation is that Tuckshop operates at break-even point. The viability of our Tuckshop is dependent on the support from our community to keep prices affordable, so we thank Dee Taggert and her team of volunteers for their amazing efforts in 2023.

### **Parent & Friends**

Our dedicated and tirelessly working team of Parent & Friends volunteers generated a surplus of \$33,902 from the various fundraising events and activities they organised for our community during 2023. These funds have been allocated the purchase of a new pie warmer for the Tuckshop, new basketball rings as well as a contribution towards the oval resurfacing that occurred early 2024.

### **Overall result**

The school reported a cashflow deficit of \$937,212 which was a result of the building project payments that were from school reserves. We had budgeted for a \$2.66M cashflow deficit so the variance in actual deficit to budgeted was due largely to increased Government Recurrent funding and the receipt of the Capital Grant in 2023 which had been expected to be received in 2024.

Supporting copies of the audited 'Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income' which reflects income and expenses and the 'Statement of Cashflows' which reflects the cashflow position are included with this summary.

Karyn Burlow  
Finance Manager

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Commonwealth Government grant funding	5,173,990	4,741,420
South Australian Government grant funding	1,434,283	1,457,610
Student fees	1,776,048	1,802,650
Capital grants	656,480	-
Other income	<u>1,651,510</u>	<u>1,137,741</u>
<b>Income (excluding interest income)</b>	<u>10,692,311</u>	<u>9,139,421</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee benefits expense	6,415,115	5,865,384
Maintenance expenses	175,129	207,605
Levies	353,709	371,906
Depreciation	631,117	573,721
Other expenses - tuition	489,894	578,942
Other expenses - administration	<u>557,206</u>	<u>396,636</u>
<b>Total Expenses (excluding interest expense)</b>	<u>8,622,170</u>	<u>7,994,194</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>2,070,141</u>	<u>1,145,227</u>
Interest income	9,408	2,141
Interest expense	<u>78,007</u>	<u>65,512</u>
<b>Net Finance Costs</b>	<u>(68,599)</u>	<u>(63,371)</u>
Total surplus/(deficit)	2,001,542	1,081,856
Other comprehensive income for the period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total surplus/(deficit) and other comprehensive income	<u>2,001,542</u>	<u>1,081,856</u>

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Cashflows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total surplus/(loss) for the year	2,001,542	1,081,856
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
(Increase)/decrease trade receivables	(166,400)	3,829
(Increase)/decrease long service leave receivable from LSL fund	129,429	(121,687)
(Increase)/decrease inventories and other assets	(7,044)	-
Depreciation	631,117	573,721
Profit on asset sale	(12,774)	-
Loss on asset sale	-	-
Capital grants	(656,480)	-
Increase/(decrease) income in advance	(53,082)	46,550
Increase/(decrease) trade payables	(285,283)	202,579
Increase/(decrease) other payables	289,207	101,294
Increase/(decrease) accruals/provisions	(48,181)	208,800
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,821,511</b>	<b>2,096,942</b>
<b>Cashflows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase property, plant and equipment	(7,455,254)	(974,906)
Proceeds from sale of equipment	12,774	-
Capital grants received	800,000	-
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(6,642,480)</b>	<b>(974,906)</b>
<b>Cashflows from Financing Activities</b>		
Net Loan (repayments)/drawdowns	3,883,757	(310,185)
<b>Net Cash used in Financing Activities</b>	<b>3,883,757</b>	<b>(310,185)</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(937,212)</b>	<b>811,851</b>
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - Opening</b>	<b>4,122,672</b>	<b>3,310,821</b>
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - Closing</b>	<b>3,185,460</b>	<b>4,122,672</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(937,212)</b>	<b>811,851</b>

2023 was a successful year for the Parents & Friends Committee (P&F). Our team of volunteers are passionate about creating as many social opportunities and fundraising events as possible for our community and 2023 saw us reach new heights!

We shifted our strategy as a committee and lean into a concept of partnering with local businesses in our community and driving sponsorship more as a mechanism to support our events. This enabled us to see an overwhelming investment for 2023 from over 15 sponsors throughout the year, totalling \$15,000 in sponsorship. With a shift in partnering local businesses this also saw us change the landscape on how we need to brand not only our committee but the businesses who are supporting us. We lifted our social media presence and produced a monthly newsletter to support our community with updates and provide an avenue to give insight into the businesses who were supporting us.

From an events perspective our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls were a huge success, with over 1500 gifts packaged up and purchased at both events, equalling a combined amount of \$6000 raised. Due to the success of these events, they will return this year and we are excited as ever to see the children's faces light up as they walk into the Stella Maris Building and see tables full of gifts for them to purchase for their loved ones.

Our Star Quiz night proved successful for a second year in a row, we did change the dial on how we run this event and brought in an external company to run the Quiz Night and we used their technology capability to bring in more buzz and speed to the evening. The Quiz Night saw us have a sponsor for each round, this supported us in funding the Quiz Company to run the night. We also had some local businesses join us and create stalls to provide some fun between rounds. A big thanks to Nazareth High for allowing us to use their hall for free to host the event. But more importantly a big thank you to our community, who yet again turned up, dressed up and supported us to raise just over \$3000.00.

We run a Gala Ball as a biannual event, and last year it was a Gala Year! A prestigious event, that was held at Adelaide Oval and was brought to our community by our platinum sponsor Coast Brows Hair Tanning. A lot of work goes into the gala, and we were very fortunate to have had over 50 items donated by our community to support our Auction on the night. Our ticket sales for the event, were lower than expected with just under 100 tickets purchased to the event. Feedback from our community who attended the event was overwhelming positive, we made a shift to run it as a cocktail event with multiple food stalls supplying different cuisines, DJ Josh had the dance floor grooving and Shanelle Franklin and Nancy Timpano hosted the event.

Proud is an understatement of how I felt when we closed out 2023, the P&F Committee went above and beyond to invest their time, passion, and effort into making each event unique, successful and a memorable experience for our community.

The P&F Committee raised \$44,485.31.... An outstanding amount!

We invested in upgrading the basketball rings and backboards near the MDC building, a new pie warmer for our tuckshop and of course making our oval green again by supporting the funding for the grass that was laid over the Christmas holidays.

2024 has kicked off and it is fair to say we are full steam ahead! I am excited to be the President again for a second year, and to also see some new faces join our committee.

We have a few new things on the agenda to try this year, the first was our Easter Raffle in term one. Yet again our community came together to donate items for us to raffle off. We had over 30 prizes and raised over \$1000 in raffle ticket sales!

June 22 will see us host a parent's night out! This event will have no fundraising elements to it, just a night out to bring our community together for fun and cheer. Please save the date in your diary, we will start to advertise this event in term 2.

Our leadership group this year on the P&F consists of:

Emma Marsden – President

Jade Pounendis – Vice President

Belinda Bird – Treasurer

Cassandra Nixon – Secretary

We also have 7 dedicated committee members. We all volunteer our time for one reason and that is to ensure that we change the lives of our children for generations to come by giving back as much as we can to improve the school facilities. 2024 will see us run 10 events, Ladies Night, Lads Night, Donut Day, School Disco, Parents Night Out, Mothers & Fathers Stall, Colour Run & Quiz Night.

I love my role on the P&F Committee and getting to know our community and the SOTS staff better over the past year, has been a highlight, my goal remains true of ensuring our committee fosters great community relationships that will last a lifetime and bring joy and fun to our children, families & friends when they attend a P&F event. The P&F is just as much about friend raising as it is fundraising, and we are in for a successful 2024.

Emma Marsden

P&F President



## COMPLIANCE REPORT 2023

***This report is a requirement of the Commonwealth Government as outlined in the Schools Assistance Act 2009.***

### **Contextual Information**

Star of the Sea is an R-7 co-educational Parish school. The Parish, "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", is run by the MSC order. The school was established in 1913. Originally founded by the Sisters of Mercy as a secondary school for girls, it became a primary school campus when Siena was established. As well as the influence of the Mercy Sisters, the MSC Priests have pastorally attended to the needs of Star of the Sea for over 100 years concluding their work at the end of 2022. At the start of 2023 we welcomed Father Manu Kumbidiyamackal as parish priest of Henley Beach Parish. Father Manu is a Missionary of St Francis de Sales.

Star of the Sea is a beach school; it is literally across the road from the beach. As such, the beach becomes an additional facility to be used for study, recreation and fitness activities. The school enjoys an excursion centre on site called the Marine Discovery Centre. This is available to Star of the Sea students on Mondays and Tuesdays and to all other schools for the rest of the week. Together with the Director of the MDC, the Principal is directly responsible for nurturing, developing and administering this unique South Australian icon.

Star of the Sea enjoys a very strong parental support. There are over 450 parents and grandparents who have a Catholic police clearance and regularly volunteer within the school.

At Star of the Sea, we seek to challenge students to aim for the highest possible level of achievement in all areas of school life: academic, spiritual, cultural and sporting. We hope our students will question and search, explore and discover as they become self-motivated learners who will view with critical eyes the society in which they live. We believe children learn best in a caring, accepting environment. We believe that when children are encouraged and supported, they will experience success. Our direction is clear. We are aware of the need to be constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students, staff and parents. We make a commitment to provide a safe and caring environment with an open approach to decision making.

### **Our Vision for Learning**

***At Star of the Sea we want to guide our learners to be self-managed, innovative and critical thinkers who have a strong sense of who they are and their responsibility in the world. We value the skills necessary to build meaningful relationships and to be connected to learning.***

***We encourage our learners to question, search, explore and discover so they actively contribute to a more just, peaceful and forgiving society.***

***On this we base our school motto:***

***'Open Hearts - Open Minds'***

In partnership with the community and our unique environment, we flourish in a culture of learning. Our school values success and relationships that are based on trust, respect and cooperation. We aim to offer a broad range of curriculum to assist our students to grow and develop their potential. Student learning is the core to all policies, procedures and practices. At Star of the Sea the Key Learning Areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Italian, Science, Technologies, The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, provide our students with a broad range of knowledge, skills and dispositions that will prepare them for the dynamic society in which they live and will work.

Specialist teachers provide Physical Education, Music, Italian, Art and Science. We also service the students through a well-resourced library, situated in the centre of our school.

The school's Inclusive Education program caters for children with learning needs, offering intervention programs in literacy and numeracy, LAP (Learning Assistance Program) and a Coordination Program.

The school employs a School Counsellor, and we have a number of other programs that cater for inclusive education principles designed to support student emotional and social well-being. The school also provides an extensive extra-curricular program in Music and Sports. ICT is strongly supported, and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards, Sound Field Systems, and laptop computers, Vivis, iPads and several banks of laptops and iPads are available for anywhere, anytime learning.

At Star of the Sea we offer Before School, After School, and Vacation Care programs, and we have a very active and committed Parent Community Committee which coordinates friend-raising and fundraising activities for the school. Our school is a safe educationa

l environment with a strong focus on well-being and nurturing independence, resilience and self-belief. We celebrate and delight in the learning achievements and successes of every child.

School Type	Primary R-7
School Sector	Catholic - Non Government
SES	105
Total Enrolments	548
% Indigenous Enrolments	<1
% Students with disabilities	22%

## 2023 Staffing

5 Male FTE Teachers, 10 Female FTE Teachers & 27 Part-time Teachers (female) for a total of 28.75 FTE.

1 Male Education Support Officers, 16 Female Education Support Officers for a total of 13.6 FTE

### Teacher Standards & Qualifications

Diplomas	4	10%
Bachelors	24	96%
Graduate Certificates	4	24%
Masters	2	4%
Other Graduate Certificates	4	16%

### Enrolments by Year Level

	Boys	Girls	Total
<b>Reception</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>546</b>

## Student Attendance by Year Level

Year Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Reception	93.4	89.2	92.1	93.0
Year 1	94.0	89.8	93.0	92.7
Year 2	93.6	90.4	91.4	89.5
.5Year 3	94.2	91.1	90.0	93.8
Year 4	92.2	89.0	88.2	88.4
Year 5	92.2	90.2	90.0	90.8
Year 6	92.5	90.0	90.3	92.8
<b>Averages</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>91.6</b>

## NAPLAN Results

2023 was another year of excellent results for our Year 3 & 5 students. Our Year 5 students were above the National, State and CESA averages in all areas of testing, while our Year 3 students were significantly above all averages. Congratulations to all our students who sat these tests and for their excellent results.

Credit too must go to our teaching staff who work very hard to adjust their teaching based on the data that the school collects throughout the year on student learning.

## Management of Student Non-Attendance

The school requests that parents advise if students will be absent for any reason. This can be done in person via phone, the School App, email or by leaving a message on the answering machine.

For longer term absences, the school requests that parents advise, in writing, the length and details of extended absence, signed by the Principal.

Unsatisfactory reasons for absence are referred to the Principal who will follow up with families as required.

<b>State Government Grant</b>	\$1,434,283
<b>Commonwealth Government Grant</b>	\$5,173,989
<b>School Fees (inclusive of levies)</b>	\$1,598,111
<b>Other Income (private sources)</b>	\$683,912

## **Professional Development**

In 2023 Star of the School spent approximately \$40,000 on professional development. Staff Professional Learning remains an important priority within the school with members of the staff engaged in a variety of activities throughout the year.

2023 the focus for the school was SEQTA, Clarity and Literacy and the adoption of evidenced based practices from R-2. For Year 3-6 it was an introduction to this work.

As well as the above Professional Learning which the staff undertook, the whole school staff also participated in a number of activities which occurred during Pupil Free Days and during afternoon Staff Meetings.

## **Value Added Programs at Star of the Sea School**

Star of the Sea School offers many educational experiences throughout the year

including:

- Our Catholic culture
- Star of the Sea School supports the parish based, Sacramental Programs
- We continue to foster close connections with our Parish through leadership attending Parish Team meetings, Pastoral Council and Sacramental Team meetings.
- Many Social Justice Initiatives involved the students in: Caritas Fundraising, St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals and Project Compassion.
- Each term classes prepare and celebrate a Liturgy to which families are invited.
- Whole school Masses/Liturgies occur throughout the year to mark special feast days and events in the Church Calendar.
- Students from Reception to Year 6 are involved in sustainability projects such as ECO Worriers, to deepen their awareness and understanding of the Christian responsibility to be “stewards” of creation.
- Daily class prayer and staff prayer are valued at Star of the Sea.
- Year 6 students participate in a Retreat Day each year.
- School incursions and excursions—many are varied
- Marine Studies facilitated by a Marine Biologist provides Marine lessons every three weeks including a Beach Trial each term
- Student Representative Council meets fortnightly focussing on providing an avenue for student voice.
- School Music bands and ensembles are a bi-product of an extremely successful instrumental and choir program.
- The school offers a comprehensive sports extracurricular program.
- School and Parish Playgroup continued to flourish and grew to meet the needs of school and parish families.
- Years 5 & 6 participated in school camps.
- Premier’s Reading Challenge
- All classes valued the benefits gained from their experiences with Buddy classes.

- Lunch clubs

Star of the Sea also ran the Little Stars a transition program in Terms 3 and 4. This programme caters for children beginning school the following year with approx. 80 children attending for two hours each week.

### **Sports Program**

The Sports Program at Star of the Sea is extensive and offers many experiences for our students. Opportunities exist for participation in District carnivals and Catholic carnivals. A wide range of sports are offered in our After School Sports Program including basketball, cricket, football and netball teams. Our athletics and swimming teams all performed well throughout the year.

## **Satisfaction Survey 2023 - Feedback**

The Living, Learning, Leading survey is a Catholic Education SA initiative, across all of our Catholic Schools, to gather community perceptions of their School's performance. All students (Year 2-6), parents and staff are given the opportunity to complete the survey.

The survey asks questions in four broad areas:

- Catholic Identity - The extent to which people feel that their experience of Catholic education at school is meaningful.
- Learning and Wellbeing – The extent to students' experience learning support, student voice, reflection and autonomy.
- Resourcing – infrastructure and safety.
- Community – a welcoming and inclusive school that works in partnership.

The highlights of the 2023 survey included:

### **Students (Year 2-4)**

I learn that Jesus and God are important in my school.

At school I learn that Bible stories are important.

My teachers believe that I can succeed.

I have a choice about the way that I learn in class.

I have a go before asking others for help.

I feel welcome at the school.

The classrooms are welcoming places to learn.

### **Students (Year 5-6)**

At school, I am encouraged to care for the environment.

I have opportunities to ask questions in religious education lessons.

My teachers want me to do my best.

I can work with teachers to make changes that help me to learn better.

I take responsibility for my learning.  
I am proud to be part of this school.  
There is someone at school who can help me if I have a problem with technology.

### **Parents**

The education at the school encourages my child/ren to develop their faith and spirituality.  
The teachers communicate with my child/ren respectfully.  
In general my children enjoy going to school  
My child/ren are expected to take responsibility for their learning  
My families culture and background are respected  
Communication between the school and my family is sufficient.  
My child/ren feel safe at school.  
The school's facilities and grounds provide a stimulating and welcoming environment.

### **Staff**

Significant liturgical events are prioritised throughout the year  
Students are encouraged to care for the environment.  
I effectively adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of my students.  
Students collaborate with teachers and leaders to bring about changes in the school.  
Students develop insights into their ability to succeed.  
The school has a strong partnership with families.  
Staff are welcoming to parents and caregivers.  
The school's policies, structures, and practices are consistent with Catholic social teaching.  
improving the facilities and infrastructure is a priority at this school.

The Areas that groups feel we could work on in the future:

### **Students (Year 2 – 4)**

- Masses, Liturgies and Prayer – making them engaging and enjoyable for children
- More time to share ideas
- Providing interesting lessons for children
- Helping children become more organised
- Building kindness amongst all students
- Providing “good” equipment on the playground

### **Students (Year 5-6)**

My teachers give me work that makes me problem-solve and think creatively.  
Helping children to see how and why their learning is important to their live  
To continue to work on meaningful Masses and liturgies  
Helping children build their organisation and time management skills  
Building kindness amongst all students  
Maintaining a neat and tidy school

### **Parents**

More topics in religious education lessons that make my child/ren think about their own life and how they live.  
More engagement in student self assessment  
A greater focus at school, my child/ren learn skills that will prepare them for the future.

## Staff

Promoting dialogue about Catholic Identity in a way that is meaningful within our contemporary culture

Students are involved in a greater range of social justice activities.

More time is made for teachers to reflect on and improve their professional practices.

Increased student agency

Students track and measure their learning growth.

