



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNDABERG

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Newsletter Term Three Week 9

9 September 2025

## Principal's Pen – Monica White

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Child Protection Week. An annual event to promote the importance of protecting every child in every community. This year's theme builds on the message **"Every Conversation Matters"** with a call to action: **"Shifting Conversation to Action."**

This year's theme highlights that while open discussions are crucial, words alone are not enough: we must turn dialogue into meaningful action. While conversations can raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and spark new ideas, real change happens when we take steps to create safer environments for children that prevent them from harm.

This year, we are focusing on moving beyond conversations to concrete actions that prevent harm and instead, focussing on strengthening support systems, and empowering communities to actively protect children.



By shifting from conversation to action, we can ensure that every child not only feels heard but also experiences real safety, care, and protection. One of the actions we regularly teach children in school is the 5 trusted adults hand.

Within our school we have a number of Student Protection contacts, who are promoted as an option for one of the 5 trusted adults. They are:



Monica White



Laura Campbell



Julie Chaplin



Sonya Dexter



Kellie Clancy



Lynette Camilleri-Blemings

This week all of our Student Protection contacts are attending the Diocesan Student Protection Conference to provide updated education to support us in this important role.

I encourage you to have a conversation with your child about who their 5 trusted adults are.

Kindest regards,

*Monica White*

## From the APRE – Laura Campbell

Greetings to Our Families,

### Celebrating Fatherhood:

#### [A Reflection on Father's Day, St Joseph, and God Our Father](#)

I hope Father's Day was a time filled with love, gratitude, and joy as we honoured the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who make such a difference in our lives. At the heart of our Catholic faith, this celebration also gave us a chance to reflect on the example of St Joseph - the ultimate role model for fatherhood - and the infinite love of God, our Heavenly Father.

Fatherhood is a sacred vocation—one that reflects the love, strength, and guidance of God the Father. In Scripture, St Joseph stands as a quiet yet powerful example of what it means to be a father: faithful, protective, and deeply trusting in God's plan.

Just as St Joseph cared for Jesus and Mary with humility and courage, fathers today are called to be present, nurturing, and strong in faith. As the earthly father of Jesus, St Joseph was a man of action - protecting his family, guiding them with care, and trusting in God's plan. His quiet, humble strength is a beautiful reminder of the role fathers play in shaping their children's lives and hearts. Whether you're a biological father, stepfather, grandfather, or spiritual father, your role is vital in shaping hearts and lives.

In our families today, we see so many fathers and father figures living out those same qualities, often in ways that go unnoticed. Whether it's a kind word, a helping hand, or simply being there when needed, these everyday moments of love and support make a world of difference.

#### Tips for Fathers: Inspired by St Joseph

- **Be Present:** Your time and attention are some of the greatest gifts you can give. Even small moments matter.
- **Lead with Faith:** Let your children see your trust in God through prayer, kindness, and integrity.
- **Listen with Patience:** Create space for your children to share their thoughts and feelings without judgment.
- **Encourage with Love:** Speak words that build up, affirm, and inspire.
- **Model Forgiveness:** Show your children how to forgive and seek forgiveness—this teaches humility and grace.

Father's Day also invites us to reflect on God, our Heavenly Father, who loves us unconditionally and guides us with patience and mercy. His example reminds us to strive for kindness, forgiveness, and generosity in our relationships with one another.

Through God's love, we see what it means to create a home where children feel valued, safe, and cherished—a goal we can all work towards in our families.



### *A Special Prayer for Our Fathers*

*Let's take a moment to lift up all the fathers and father figures in our lives:*

*Loving God, We thank You for the gift of fathers and father figures. Bless them with strength, patience, and wisdom as they lead their families with love. May they be inspired by St Joseph's example to protect, nurture, and guide with faith and humility. For those who find this time difficult, surround them with Your comfort and care. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord.*

*Amen.*

May St Joseph continue to be a model of strength and compassion, and may God the Father bless all who guide and nurture with love.

### **A Big Thank You!**

To all the dads, grandfathers, and father figures in our school community: thank you for everything you do! Your love, hard work, and dedication do not go unnoticed, and we are so grateful for the positive impact you make every day.

Let's continue to celebrate and cherish these special relationships, not just on Father's Day, but every day. Together, let's spread the joy and love of family as we walk in the footsteps of St Joseph and the embrace of God, our Heavenly Father.

### **Why do we have saints?**

In the New Testament, all Christians were called saints. This name showed that when people were baptised and became Christians, they came close to God and so were holy. Their faith in Christ made them God's family.

Being called a saint did not mean that they had led remarkable lives or had been very pious. They were saints because God had called them and had made them holy. They were members of Christ's body, Christ's brothers and sisters, and children of God.

The lives of these holy people were so attractive that they drew many people to faith. People saw their Christian faith as real and attractive in their lives, and they confirmed their belief that God was close to them and working in the community.

### **The place of saints**

It is helpful to have people in our lives, both dead and living, near and close, in whom we see the kind of faith and life that God invites us to share. We may also find it helpful to have as part of our lives saints to whom we can talk, and whom we can bring into our prayers. They give us a rich, living sense of the Church. We see the Church as more than a collection of individuals. It is a community of people spread through time as well as space, who are never lost from memory simply because they live in another continent and another century.

Saints keep our eyes fixed on what matters in life. They show us that what matters is what God can do in our lives. They invite us as a community to make evident the attractiveness and power of Christ in our lives and world, and to be what we are – saints.

(<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/>)

### St Carlo Acutis

On Sunday a new saint was canonised into the family of Christ. St Carlo Acutis was a young person who dedicated a lot of time to spreading the message of the Gospel by creating an extensive website which documented all the miracles attributed to the Eucharist. He was only 15 years old when he died from leukemia.

After a long period to determine his genuine devotion to God and miracles performed in his name, he is now the Catholic Church's first millennial saint and patron of the internet.




St. Carlo Acutis was beatified in 2009 and canonised on September 7, 2020. (Getty Images/Don)

### 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Commemorative Garden Paver

This week a flyer has been attached to the newsletter asking for members of our school community to purchase an engraved paver.

These pavers will be used to create a new pathway in a garden on the school grounds.

We would love to have as many pavers as possible purchased by both past and present families or staff as a great way to commemorate this special occasion.

 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BUNDABERG  
22 Barden St Bundaberg Qld 4670  
PHONE: 07 4315 4771  
AMB 01 526 550 187 / 905

**Celebrating 150 Years of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

**Share in a little piece of history by purchasing a paver.**  
We are creating a pathway for a new garden to be laid along the Woodlawn St side of the school. The pathway will be made with the pavers purchased by you with your children's or family names on them.  
We would love to have both past and present community members to contribute to this pathway.

**OLIVIA GOMEZ-NEIRA**

**The cost of \$25.00 PROVIDES YOU WITH A PERSONALISED ENGRAVED PAVER TO BE PLACED IN THE GARDEN IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT.**

**FORMS AND PAYMENTS RETURNED BY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026**

**ENGRAVING DETAILS – MAX 17 CHARACTERS PER LINE**  
Please print clearly using A5L CAPITAL LETTERS. Max 3 lines per paver.  
Each box represents a character (letter, number, punctuation mark or space). No hard drawings.

L1  
L2  
L3

**CONTACT DETAILS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Name	Phone	\$25.00 each
		\$

**Payments:**

1. By EFTPOS at the School Office
2. By card over the phone – school number: 4151 4771 during school hours
3. Cash at the School Office during school hours

www.stjosephs.qld.edu.au BRICK PAVING

*Have a blessed week*  
*Laura Campbell*

## Curriculum Corner – Emma Robinson

### Open Classrooms

**Join Us Tuesday 16 September, 3:15–4:30 pm**

We are pleased to invite all families to our upcoming Open Classrooms event. This is an opportunity to step into your child's learning environment and observe the daily work that shapes their educational experience.

#### Strengthening Home–School Partnerships

Open Classrooms provide a relaxed setting for students, their families and teachers to connect. You can build rapport with staff, share valuable insights about your child, and gain a clearer understanding of classroom routines and expectations. When educators and families collaborate, students feel more supported, confident, and motivated.

#### Observing Student Progress

By touring the classroom, you'll see firsthand the work, projects, displays, and learning resources your child engages with each day. This direct insight into their work highlights both achievements and areas for development. Armed with this information, you can reinforce learning at home in focused and meaningful ways.

#### Boosting Participation and Achievement

Knowing that family members will visit often inspires students to take greater pride in their work and conduct.

Open Classrooms offer an authentic audience for presentations and projects, increasing student engagement. This heightened sense of accountability and purpose frequently leads to improved participation in lessons and stronger academic outcomes.

#### Tips for Making the Most of Your Visit

- Plan to arrive anytime between 3:15 and 4:30 pm.
- Invite your child to guide you through their work and explain key concepts.
- Feel free to discuss your child's day-to-day school experiences with their teacher.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE** - To review your child's academic progress in detail, we ask that you please arrange a private meeting.

We look forward to seeing you and working together to support your child's success!

### **Opti-MINDS Champions!**

The **Opti-MINDS Creative Sustainability Challenge** is an inclusive team event that empowers participants to **THINK, CREATE, and COMMUNICATE**. It's a vibrant celebration of creative problem-solving, inspiring a passion for learning and giving students the opportunity to showcase their skills in an exciting and public way.

#### About the Challenge

Teams work together on a **Long-Term Challenge** without outside assistance, exploring possibilities, experimenting with ideas, and developing innovative solutions. On Challenge Day, they present their work to a panel of trained judges within strict parameters — from limited materials to a 10-minute time limit — and also take on an **unseen Spontaneous Challenge**, testing their quick thinking, creativity, and teamwork.





### Our 2025 Success

This year, St Joseph's entered **two teams** — a **Media Communication Team** and a **Science Engineering Team** — and we are thrilled to announce that **both teams won their divisions!** 🎉

Our students demonstrated:

- A creative, “can-do” attitude
- Adaptability, flexibility, and innovative thinking
- Complex problem-solving and reflective learning
- Strong communication and collaboration skills
- A spirit of exploration, investigation, and a love of learning



### Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to **Mrs Merefield** and **Mrs Camilleri-Blemings** for generously giving their time and resources to support our teams. Your dedication made this achievement possible.

Congratulations to our incredible Opti-MINDS champions — you've made St Joseph's proud!

**Have a happy Wednesday!**

**~ Emma Robinson**

*Assistant Principal of Curriculum*

## Catholic Parish of Bundaberg



[Click here for the latest issue of the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg Newsletter](#)

## P & F Forum Group

**Last lunch order for the term:**



## Outside School Hours Care

# St Joseph's Bundaberg OSHC

Week One				
MON 22 September 2025	TUES 23 September 2025	WED 24 September 2025	THURS 25 September 2025	FRI 26 September 2025
<b>Puzzles</b> Complete different kinds of puzzles, from jigsaw puzzles to code crackers and crossword puzzles.	<b>Library</b> Let's visit the library and explore what digital technology they have available.	<b>Despicable ME 4</b> Today we will walk to the Moncrieff to watch Despicable Me 4.	<b>Lake Ellen</b> We will travel to Lake Ellen to explore the waterways and play at the park.	<b>Badge Making</b> Draw and colour a design to turn into a wearable badge.
				
\$63 + \$5 incursion fee	\$63	\$63 + \$10 excursion fee	\$63 + \$5 excursion fee	\$63 + \$15 incursion fee
Week Two				
MON 29 September 2025	TUES 30 September 2025	WED 1 October 2025	THURS 2 October 2025	FRI 3 October 2025
<b>Milkshakes and Cake Pops</b> Make some yummy treats for afternoon tea.	<b>Wheels Day</b> Bring your scooter or skates for a day of fun. Helmets are a must and padding recommended.	<b>Black Belt Warrior</b> Learn some basic martial art skills with Black Belt Warrior.	<b>Tinaberries</b> Travel to Tinaberries to pick some strawberries and enjoy a freshly made ice cream.	<b>Clay Sculptures</b> Create a gnome and toadstool using polymer clay.
				
\$63 + \$10 incursions fee	\$63	\$63 \$25 incursion fee	\$63 + \$25 excursion fee	\$63 + \$10 incursion fee

Open these school holidays

Monday to Friday  
8am-6pm



Scan to enrol online or  
call 0477 465 679

## Mathematics Competition

### St Joseph's Shines at Bundaberg Mathematics Competition



Last week, St Joseph's proudly sent two teams to represent our school at the Bundaberg Mathematics Competition, hosted by Avoca State School. Our students competed in both team challenges and a fast-paced Maths Relay in pairs, showcasing not only their mathematical skills but also their outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship.

The students' behaviour throughout the day was impeccable, earning praise from organisers and teachers alike. They tackled complex problems—some that even challenged the attending teachers—with enthusiasm and determination.

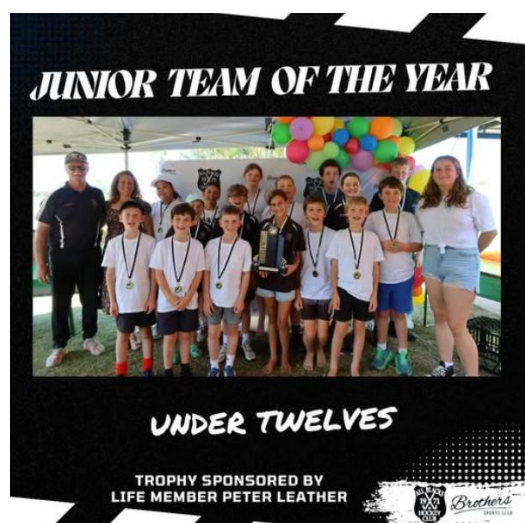
Both St Joseph's teams performed admirably...One team achieved a remarkable second place overall, securing an individual medal in recognition of their efforts. This result continues our school's success in the competition and highlights the wonderful learning taking place in our Mathematics lessons.

Congratulations to all the students involved—you represented St Joseph's with pride and excellence!

Angela Robinson  
Year 5 Teacher



## Congratulations



Huge congratulations to Lucas, Logan H, and Thomas W! Their Under-12 hockey team not only won the Premiership but was also named Junior Team of the Year by the Brother's All Blacks Hockey Club. What an incredible achievement

## Term Three Calendar 2025

### Term Three 2025

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
9	8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	13/14 Sept
	Child Protection Week Parent Teacher Meetings					
	Enrichment				Year 2 Prayer Assembly	
10	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	20/21 Sept
	Parent Teacher Meetings					
	Enrichment				Prep Prayer Assembly	
		Open Classrooms			Term 3 Ends	

## Out and About



**the waves softball club**  
Waves Softball are recruiting new players (both young and old) to our sport and are offering an opportunity to join our Home Run Heroes Program.  
This six-week program is ideal for kids aged 5-12 who would like to give softball a go.

Delivered by qualified coaches, each session includes:

- ✓ Fun and inclusive skill-based activities
- ✓ Modified games of T-Ball and Softball
- ✓ A great introduction to T-Ball and Junior Softball pathways

**Program Dates (Wednesdays):**

- 17 September
- 24 September
- 1 October
- 8 October
- 15 October
- 22 October

**Time:** 4:15 pm – 5:45 pm

**Venue:** The Waves Sports Complex, Thabeban Street, Bundaberg

**Cost:** \$60 for all 6 sessions

**Equipment:** All equipment will be provided

**Contact:** David Field E: [wavessoftball@outlook.com](mailto:wavessoftball@outlook.com)

Further information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TheWavesSoftball>

### CORAL COAST SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### JOINT CLUB SIGN-ON

#### Saturday 13th September 2025

**Venue: Bundaberg Softball Grounds,**  
**22 Clayton Road, Thabeban.**

**Juniors: 9am – 11am**  
**Seniors: 11am – 1pm**

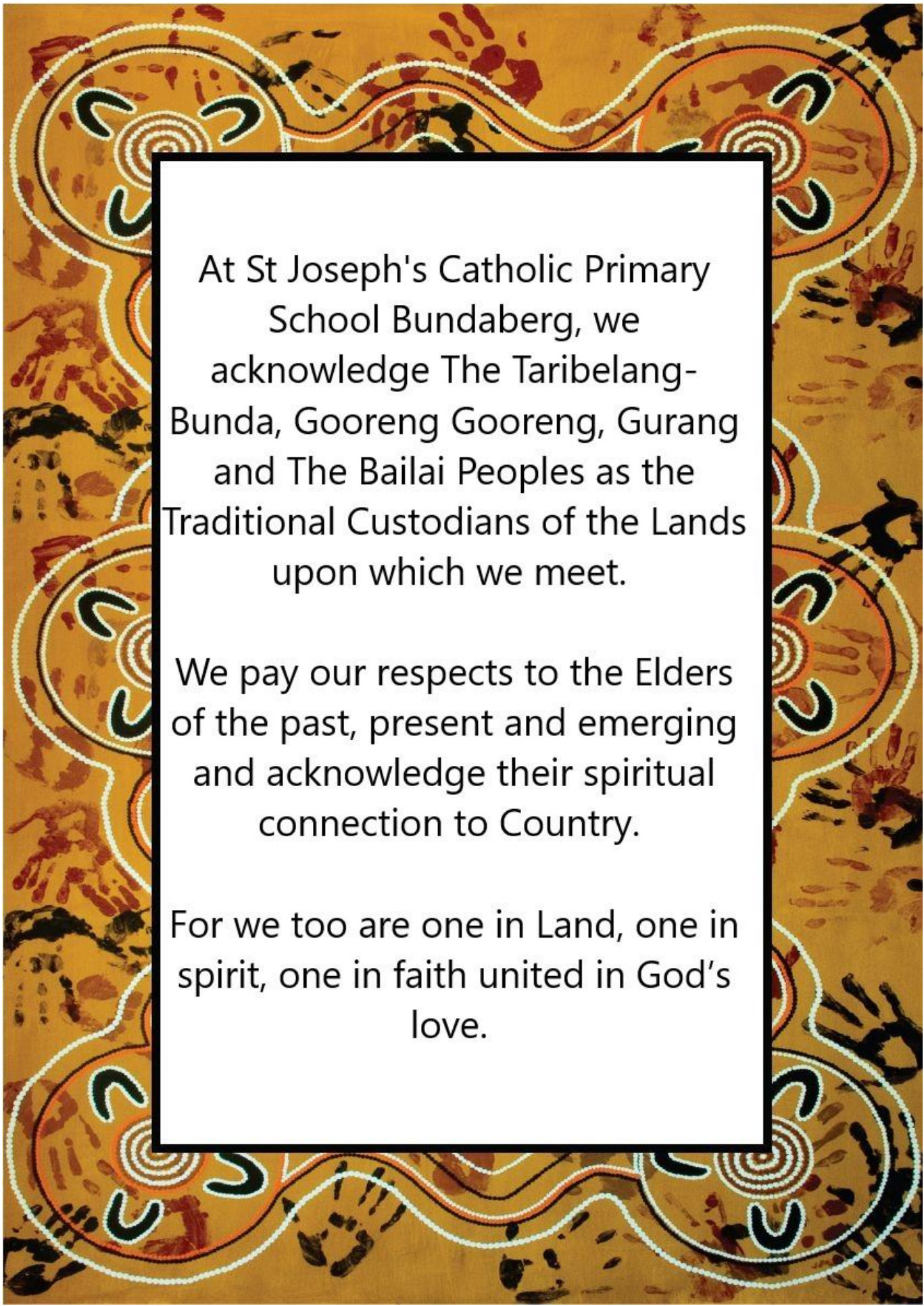
**All clubs will be in attendance and full details will be available.**

**Mixed Divisions: T Ball, U12, U14 & U16 Softball**  
**Ladies Softball & Men's Softball**

**SPECIAL NOTE: All games are played in Bundaberg with the season due to commence on 11th October through to 13th December 2025**  
**Games resume 31st January with Grand Finals scheduled for 21st March 2026**

**Proudly sponsored by:**





At St Joseph's Catholic Primary  
School Bundaberg, we  
acknowledge The Taribelang-  
Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang  
and The Bailai Peoples as the  
Traditional Custodians of the Lands  
upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders  
of the past, present and emerging  
and acknowledge their spiritual  
connection to Country.

For we too are one in Land, one in  
spirit, one in faith united in God's  
love.