

St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa

School newsletter

No 1, April, 2015



Construction underway

After years of consultation, planning and approvals, construction of the new Catholic primary school at Weipa has commenced.

Bishop of Cairns, James Foley, turned the first sod and blessed the school site at a small ceremony in Weipa on Wednesday 15 April.

The \$6.15 million project will be built by Bryant Constructions which was awarded the contract after a competitive tendering process involving a number of Far North Queensland builders.

The school's first stage is expected to be completed by the end of October in time for the first intake of students in Term 1, 2016.

At the sod turning and blessing on 15 April, (left to right), Cairns Catholic Education Services Executive Director Bill Dixon, Weipa Town Authority Chair Ian McNamara, Bishop James Foley and builder Max Bryant.

Photo courtesy Western Cape Bulletin.

Name for the school

The name for the new school is St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa. As is common practice the school has taken the name of the Weipa Parish – St Joseph's. The particular patronal name of the school and parish is that of St Joseph the Worker. In the Christian tradition Joseph is the spouse of Mary and the step father of Jesus. Joseph is the patron saint of workers, a patronage that has strong relevance for the Weipa community.

Other values associated with Joseph relate to his support for Mary and his role in nurturing, supporting and

educating Jesus through his childhood. Joseph is a kind, honourable and responsible member of the Holy Family, values which will be strongly associated with the school.

Recruitment for Principal

Recruitment is under way for a foundation Principal for the school. It is hoped the Principal will be appointed by the end of Term 2 this year and operating a temporary office for enrolment enquiries some time in Term 3.

Design for a 21st Century school

St Joseph's reflects best practice in contemporary school design. All classrooms have internal access to a shared resources/library area providing students with a variety of learning settings. The school has been designed for air conditioned operations in all four terms. There will be a large covered play area for protected play in both hot and wet weather.

Following a positive and supportive consultation with



Rio Tinto Alcan, there will also be a sports field big enough to accommodate a number of junior sports. Other local sporting groups may be able to use this oval, by agreement.

Steering group

A local steering group in Weipa has been established to guide and assist in the establishment of the school. The group consists of community members Kath Newman, Bill Garnaut, Donna Machan, Louise Pearce, Narelle Potter and Christine McInnes. Catholic Education members on the steering group are Luke Brown (replacing Gerard Kearney in term 2), Andrew McKenzie and Mark Stallman.

The group is already active in coordinating local advice on communication and information and the development of uniform and school logo options.

School colours and logo

Early design work has commenced on a logo for the new school but it will feature three colours – the blue of the sea and the dry season sky, the green of the wet season and the golden orange of the Weipa sunset, a colour which also acknowledges the colour of bauxite.

School uniform

A small group has been looking at options for school uniforms. Considerations have involved a distinctive style, affordability, materials that wear well, and can be sustained within a small school.

Items considered include a uni-sex buttoned shirt and polo sports shirt, shorts or skirt, possibly a dress, a bucket hat, and shoes and socks, with possibly 'crocs' or sandals for the wet season.

Discussions will soon commence with uniform suppliers with a view to refining and costing the options.

Enrolment enquiries

Families interested in registering an enrolment enquiry can do so by accessing the Cairns Catholic Education website www.cns.catholic.edu.au, following the home page link and filling in the on-line form, or by ringing CES Cairns on **07 4050 9700**. St Joseph's will have its own contact details later in the year.

St Joseph's Parish School – at a glance

- Located next to the Catholic Church in Boundary Road, Weipa
- Opening with Prep to Year 3 in 2016 (first stage)
- Second stage will complete the school as a Prep to Year 6 primary school
- Expected to be a single stream school – one class for each year level
- When complete the school will have places for about 180 students
- Will enrol students from the Weipa and Napranum communities
- Enrolment policy gives priority to practising Catholics. Not exclusively for Catholics but for all who embrace the values of a Catholic Education
- Enrolment options include provisions for families in necessitous circumstances

Contact

Website: www.cns.catholic.edu.au

Phone: **07 4050 9700**
(ask to speak to Andrew McKenzie or Luke Brown)

Email: office.weipa@cns.catholic.edu.au



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