



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

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St Michael's Newsletter Term 3 Week 8 8 September 2025

## 2025 Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope



### Happy Birthday, Mary, Mother of Jesus

On Monday, students gathered to celebrate Mary's birthday. We sang prayers to Mary and gave thanks for her incredible gift of being Jesus' mother. We also thanked Mary for the inspiration she gives us when we have difficult times. We shared a beautiful birthday cake!

*We respect and embrace the  
Wiradjuri people of this region  
as the traditional custodians  
and cultural knowledge  
holders  
of this land*

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Christmas Art -  
Bathurst Friday 12  
September**

**P&F BBQ at Markets  
Saturday 13 September**

**PUPIL FREE DAY  
Friday 19 September**

**End of Term  
Friday 26 September**

**First Day Term 4  
Monday 13 October**

**Save the Date:  
End of Year  
Celebration, Year 6  
Farewell and Christmas  
Mass  
Friday 5 December**

**Loreto Sydney  
Excursion Monday and  
Tuesday 15/12 and  
16/12**

**LIVING • LOVING • LEARNING**



## Principal News

**Wow, Mates Day was the best day of the year, again!!** On Friday we had 26 dads, granddads and special male family connections at our Mates Day, Father's Day annual "build a project" day. The morning started early with Ben Sweeney arriving with a ute packed to the hilt with tools and packs of cut up planter boxes. Many thanks to Ben, Ben Phillips and Cam Toohey for cutting all the boxes out on that horrid Saturday! Whilst Mates is about welcoming our dads and special males role models in to our school to have a great day with our students, it really represents some of essences of what makes St Michael's so special. We really are a community, caring for each other, supporting each other, celebrating with each other and creating powerful bonds together. Thank you to all for creating such a special occasion.

### Aboriginal Mural - Well underway!

You may have noticed that a beautiful Aboriginal Mural is taking form on the bus bay corner of our main school building. Sandon Gibbs-O'Neill, a well know Aboriginal artist who owns Burruguu Art Studio, worked on the mural for three days last week, and will be back for a few days this week. Sandon ran art and cultural workshops with all our students last term, to gather their ideas and find out about Dunedoo through their eyes. Sandon will publish the story of our mural when it is finished and I will share it with you. We are very grateful to the CEDB who provide CEDB Cultural Grants for important projects like this. The grant was for \$8000.

### Kindergarten 2026

Last week, Mrs Brennan and I interviewed parents and students in preparation for our Kindergarten class for 2026. We are delighted to have lots of students and some new families too! If you have an interest in knowing more about St Michael's and would like to have a look around our school, or to find out more about enrolments in any year level, please contact the office. We would love to show you around!

### Professional Development

Last week, I attended the CEDB principal's retreat in Mudgee. It was not a "relaxing" type retreat, but a rewarding learning experiences. Mr Phil Glendenning was the facilitator for both days. He is the director of the Edmund Rice Centre and president of the Refugee Council of Australia. Phil spoke about his long career of global work, working with peace keeping forces, advocating in war zones, refugee advocacy, supporting those in need. Our Catholic mission and our Josephite mission align very closely with caring for the poor and most vulnerable, and helping those in need.

### Executive Review

Thank you to all those parents and teachers who assisted in the process of my executive review. Review and reflection are important steps for evaluating performance and processes, and most importantly, for setting goals for improvement.

### Parish Connections

The September roster for Masses is out! It is fantastic to see so many of our students really fulfilling their commitment to being a Junior Joey and increasing their responsibility to our parish. They are our future parish leaders. Thank you to Mrs Foran for being the underlying support person in this mentor role.

### Congratulations to All Hallows for your fantastic production!

All Hallows in Gulgong invited all students from Sacred Heart and St Michael's to attend their production of, "The Amazing Race". Wow, what an experience!! Thank you so much for inviting our students. They were astounded, as were our teachers. Your sharing will really help us too!

### Family Prayer

Happy Birthday Mary! Because it's Mary's birthday, please pray the Hail Mary as a family every day this week.

*Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

### P&F BBQ Town Markets Saturday 13/9

Please contact the office if you can volunteer or donate goods.

### St Michael's Strategic Improvement Plan

Please contact the office if you can help us for 90 minutes on 19/9 to plan our future! We are your school and we need your ideas and help!



**This Fortnight  
Christmas Art - Bathurst**  
Friday 12 September

**P&F BBQ at Markets**  
Saturday 13 September

**PUPIL FREE DAY**  
Friday 19 September

**Claim the dates:**  
**P&F BBQ & Halloween**  
**Barefoot Bowls**  
Friday 31 October



**Years K/1/2:**  
Eli, Micah, Annabelle, Jake  
& Merie  
**Years 3/4:**  
Digby, Madison, Yoesph,  
Nash, Neako, Stella,  
Sebastian, Charlie D and Jack  
**Years 5/6:**  
Marley, Elodie, Gus,  
George, Heath & Naomi



# Well done students, parents and teachers

## Mates Day

Put down your hammers and drills, Mates Day is done and literally dusted for another year! What a fantastic day!! All our fathers, grandfathers and special people worked like champions to support every child to construct a planter box. It was a simple but perfect design, with small feet and handles. Many student personalised their design and I'm sure I spotted a bookshelf and a trailer to hook up with last year's truck! Huge thank you to all our wonderful fathers and other helpers. Congratulations to Ben for running his first Mates Day as our P&F president, to other P&F members who helped prepare, and to all our teachers and staff who supported in many different ways. And we can't let the day pass without mentioning the superb soccer games that occurred at recess and lunch time. Some of the hidden talents are out there now, wonderful to see!





# Well done students, parents and teachers





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## REC News

Today we celebrated the feast day of the nativity of Mary, our Mother, or in the student's words - Mary's birthday.

Kinder and Year 1 very reverently led us in singing the prayer 'The Hail Mary', and we sang 'Happy Birthday to Mary'.

Does your child know the 'Hail Mary'?

It is one of the prayers that each child should know by heart by Year 3.

Here is a link to help you to pray along with your child

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K98p1qnznw>

Hope you enjoy this special time with your child.

Monica Foran  
REC

## Teacher Aide Appreciation Day

Last week we celebrated Teacher Aide Appreciation Day. And wow do we appreciate our fantastic Learning Support Officers here at St Michael's. They support all our students and teachers at all levels of learning. St Michael's is the place it is because of them. Thank you!!



*Inspired by the example set by St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, St Michael's Catholic School aims to foster a love of learning, allowing all children to reach their full potential through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.*



## PREVIEW PERFORMANCE DONT MISS OUT!

Following the incredible success of the August Residency Camps, we are in awe of the boundless creativity, dedication and hard work your students have shown. We cannot wait to share what they've created with you and your communities.

Tickets are still available for the special Preview Performance of **RIVERSONG 2025: Skysong** on **Saturday 27 September** at **4pm** at the **Dubbo Regional Theatre**.

## Aussie of the Week Term 3 Week 5 Sophie

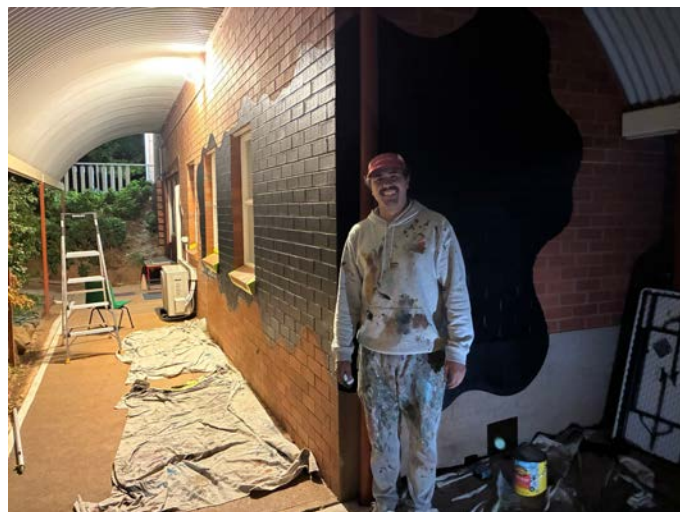


What a little ray of sunshine this bubbly personality is!! Sophie tries hard to bring a smile to everyone around her everyday! Soph is always the first to offer a kind word to others and she often can be found encouraging others in both the playground and classroom. She has been on fire with her writing and reading and the stars are all sparkling in her direction. You are a truly happy little person and one that make St Michaels a better place everyday. Thanks for the smiles and twinkle Sophie!



# Well done students, parents and teachers

Aboriginal Mural - taking form!!



## Dunedoo Liturgy Rosters SEPTEMBER, 2025 10.00am.

If NOT Available on your ROSTERED day, please organise a swap and tell the Welcomer.

	7 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	14 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER	21 <sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER	28 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER
<b>Commentator</b>	Anne O'Leary	Monica Foran	Beth Smith	Sr Margaret
<b>Readers</b>	Peta Brennan Beth Smith	Christine O'Leary Donna Lane	Judy Gibson Marley	Monica Foran John Portelli
<b>Preparation of Gifts</b>	John & Connie Portelli	Sandra Hamilton Walter	Anthony Sullivan Marley	Anne O'Leary Lexie
<b>Prepare Morning Tea</b>	////////	//////////	////////	Monica Foran Sr Margaret
<b>Sacristan</b>	Sr Margaret Lexie	Monica Foran Charlie	Judy Gibson Elodie	Sr Margaret Stella
<b>Collection</b>	Mez Deutscher Charlie	John Portelli Judy Gibson	Shaun Coe Warren Yeo	Michael Court Greg Sullivan
<b>Music</b>	Peta Brennan	Monica Foran	Judy Gibson	Sr Margaret
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Lexie Annie	Katie Stella Darlington	Mia Coe Nash Toohey	Elodie James Walter Sweeney
<b>Welcomer</b>	Mez Deutscher Digby	Beth Smith Katie	Monica Foran Elodie	Sr Margaret Stefan
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Sr Margaret	Judy Gibson	Jacque Coe	Sr Margaret
<b>Money Counters</b>	Michael Court Volunteer	Mary Pigram Judy Gibson	Donna Lane Shaun Coe	Michael Court Volunteer





### Supporting Children Experiencing School Refusal



School refusal can be stressful for both children and parents. For some primary-aged children, mornings bring worry, tears, or even stomach aches when it's time to leave for school. Experts such as the *Raising Children Network* and psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg remind us that early, gentle support makes a big difference.

One practical way families can help is by **focusing on organised, calm mornings**. When children feel rushed, or sense parent stress, their own anxiety can increase.

Being on time and having predictable routines, like laying out clothes the night before, preparing lunches early, and leaving a buffer for travel, takes the pressure off everyone. This gives parents space to be present, to listen, and to reassure their child, rather than racing against the clock. *(Of course, this is easier said than done—but even small adjustments can help.)*

#### Tips for parents:

- Prepare as much as possible the night before.
- Keep mornings calm and consistent, even if challenges arise.
- Stay positive and encourage small steps toward attending school.
- Reach out early to teachers or the school counsellor if worries persist.

#### Tips for educators:

- Greet children warmly to make the transition smoother.
- Offer a “soft landing” at school, such as a helper role or quiet activity.
- Communicate openly with families so routines are consistent.

*References: Raising Children Network ([raisingchildren.net.au](http://raisingchildren.net.au)); Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, Child & Adolescent Psychologist.*



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

When students attend school consistently, they have more **opportunities** to develop and maintain **positive friendships**.

**EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS**



# Social media changes are coming

From 10 December, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account.

## What you need to know

- The age restrictions are likely to apply to **Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok** and **YouTube**, among other platforms.
- **Online gaming and standalone messaging apps** are among the types of services that will not be included.
- Children under 16 will still be able to see publicly available social media content that doesn't require logging into an account.

Find out more at  
**eSafety.gov.au**



**eSafety.gov.au**





# MENDOORAN CARP MUSTER

GONE  
FISHING  
DAY  
19TH OCT  
2025



## SUNDAY OCTOBER 19

CAST A LINE & CARE FOR OUR RIVERS

CASH & PRIZE POOL UP FOR GRABS!

Community News

### O. L. MILLING PARK

DUNEDOO, NSW

## Made 'n' Grown



3 RIVERS REGION  
PRODUCE AND ARTISAN



## Spring Market

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13

8.30 - 12.30

### CAR BOOT SALE



Made n' Grown Market

Saturday  
September 13

8.30 to 12.30

O. L. Milling Park  
Dunedoo

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SITE

\$15

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