

SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SHS SCHOOL PRODUCTION THE SHAPE OF 50 YEARS

A weekend of celebrations at Sacred Heart School marked fifty years of Josephine education here in Corryong. From the first sod of dirt that was turned in 1963 until the present day, Sacred Heart has been a centre of learning within a caring environment.



The weekend kicked off with the matinee performance of the school production, The Shape of Fifty Years, a journey through the last five decades with Dr Who and Saint Mary MacKillop. Senior students brought out extra seats at the Memorial Hall to accommodate the large crowd.



The grand finale on Friday night engaged the large crowd in the performance. Who could forget the guest appearance of Big Bird, Scooby Doo and Superman as Mary is introduced to a television and Dr Who gets into the swing of the music of the decade.



A focus on emerging technologies defined the learning experience of students in the new millennium, leaving the audience speculating about what might be on the horizon. The play finished where it had begun, in the school playground.

The Jubilee Choir, directed by Caz Pitman sang snippets of familiar songs, supporting the transition between the decades. The finely tuned harmonies were impressive and left audiences wanting more.



After a short intermission, Yr 5/6 students performed some Japanese taiko drumming in an act called Taikorryong. The thunder of the drums echoed through the hall. The Student Choir then performed Shalom Chvrem in rounds.

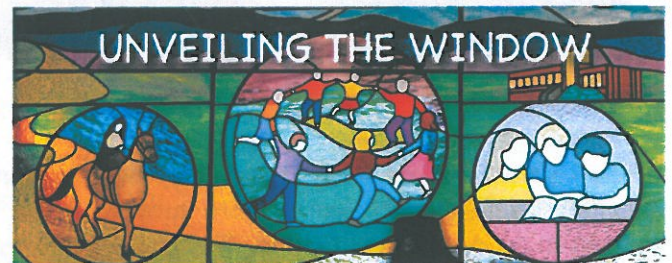


A highlight of the evening was the staff performance. Dressed as crayons, staff were caught up in youth worker Errol Obran's attempts to mediate an escalating conflict amongst the crayons, all vying for attention.

The production ended with the entire staff and student body combining in song on stage with the Jubilee Choir. The joy on the children's faces spoke volumes about their pride in themselves and their school.

OPENING OF THE ART EXHIBITION

On Saturday the Art Exhibition was opened by Mayor Mary Fraser who remarked on the scope and quality of the exhibition. Greeted in the front foyer by images from Monet's garden, visitors wandered through the corridors and library viewing an extraordinary range of images. Congratulations to art teacher Chantal McAree for her coordination of the exhibition and for all of her work with students over a number of years.



At midday Corryong's Sr Pat and visiting Sister Josephine Dubiel rsj, the Regional Josephite leader of Victoria and Tasmania, unveiled the Jubilee window. The image designed by Sr Therese Quinn and breathed to life by lead light artist Russell Matthews, depicts St Mary of the Cross MacKillop riding down through the snow capped mountains on horseback where she encounters a circle of children playing and the school in the distance with children sharing a book. The large crowd gasped in delight as the curtain was pulled away revealing the colourful window.



Perfect weather encouraged the crowd to join in the luncheon in the gardens surrounding Sacred Heart Church. There was much speculation about where an old time capsule had been buried years before. By late afternoon a new time capsule was buried beneath a plaque inviting the class of 2038 to reveal its contents.



After Mass the P&F provided supper for the children and teachers ran Bluearth games with torches in the growing dark. Adults gathered in the Lacey Centre, for supper and to share stories about the school. Speakers included Sr Marianne Zeinstra, the first full time lay teacher at the school who later became a Sister of St Joseph. She recalled the strong sense of community in the town. Fr Frank Jones echoed her words. Mr Jack Hallinan, an original parent of the school spoke of the way the community gathered to build the school in the early days. Ms Phil Billington, Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst, reminded us of Catholic Education's role in ensuring a quality education is provided for all students, no matter where they live.



Mrs Anne Bryceson and Mrs Mary Smith were presented with flowers and honoured for their long service at the school by previous principal Mr Dennis Kelly.

The strong sense of community, a deep respect and gratitude for the Sisters of St Joseph and the palpable hope for the future defined the celebrations.

"In the Sacred Heart I leave you," St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

The Jubilee Mass was a wonderful celebration of community as friends and families old and new gathered together with grateful hearts to rejoice in our story. Students filled the church with our school song, "O Sacred Heart".

