

## ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Good evening staff, parents and friends of our Orana community.

On behalf of the Advisory Council thank you for joining us tonight as we reflect on what has been a truly memorable school year.

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#### **A Year of Faith, Learning and Community**

This year has been a year defined by a deep commitment to our Catholic identity, vibrant learning and community service.

From Term 1, our community gathered in prayer - through House Masses, liturgies and the Senior Community Mass - to ground our year in faith and gratitude.

Our sacramental program remained a cornerstone of school life. With students preparing for and celebrating **Reconciliation, First Holy Communion**, and **Confirmation**, supported by staff, families, parish catechists, and Father John.

Special thanks to Father John, for your dedicated and heartfelt pastoral care , and for creating a place where our students have felt inspired to pray, reflect, and deepen their faith.

This year was rich with learning and innovation - from Lighthouse Maths and the Berry Street Education Model to the Kids' iPad Conference, Make a Move concerts, academic challenges, Science Week, Book Week and the many exciting excursions and incursions.

Throughout the year, Orana celebrated the joy and richness of our multicultural community. With activities such as **Harmony Week, Cultural Sharing Week and Multicultural Morning Teas**.

Our school continued to live by our motto — *To Give is to Receive* — through many generous acts of service and kindness— including the **Orana Food Service** which saw hundreds of wholesome meals prepared and delivered to people experiencing homelessness in our city.

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#### **Catholic Performing Arts Festival**

2025 was yet another remarkable year for the Arts at Orana. Every time our students take the stage, something truly magical unfolds – and this is a reflection of not only their talent and passion, but also the unwavering dedication, vision and mentorship of Ms Draper.

At this year's Catholic Performing Arts Festival, Orana achieved:

- **110 entries**
- **Eight groups** reached the shield playoffs
- A number of **Outstanding and Excellence Awards**
- & The prestigious **Zenith Excellence Award**, recognised the exceptional talent and dedication of Ms Draper and tutors

## **Sport**

Sport brought much energy, excitement and unity to 2025. Students proudly represented Orana in:

- House & Interschool Swimming Carnivals
- Lightning Carnivals
- The Interschool Cross Country at Sheldrake Park
- & our Athletics Carnival, which saw the introduction of the **inclusive wheelchair relay**

At every opportunity our students demonstrated sportsmanship, determination and teamwork – and as always the big smiles on their little faces said it all – they loved every minute of it.

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## **A Thriving, Growing Community**

This year, Orana welcomed new families each term, finishing the year with 457 enrolments across all year levels. Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten numbers also remain robust, with ongoing interviews for 2026 and 2027 - reflecting the trust families place in our school .

This year we also welcomed new staff, celebrated returning team members and honoured retiring colleagues.

Special milestones included: **Kathryn Alp's 30 years of service** to Catholic Education WA & the retirement of **Louise Dixon** and **Maureen Rizzo**.

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## **Building for the Future**

2025 saw significant improvements to our facilities, including:

- The long-awaited completion of the new basketball courts, a five-year project brought to life through persistence and partnership
- Multiple maintenance upgrades from painting and pressure cleaning to new bag hooks in K-2
- New split-system air-conditioning installed in junior wet areas
- Electrical upgrades
- Refreshed wet areas and classroom spaces
- Shade-sail planning and fencing upgrades
- Gardening and maintenance improvements across the grounds
- Ongoing planning for future capital developments, including junior toilet renovations and possible relocation of Pre-Kindy spaces
- Library continued its transformation into a vibrant, child-centred hub. Planning for new library furniture for 2026 is underway, ensuring this much-loved space continues to inspire imagination and belonging.

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### **Farewell to Year 6s and Principal Dee Johnston**

This year marks the end of a significant chapter for Orana as we prepare to farewell not only our gorgeous year 6's – but also our much loved principal – Dee.

Dee has been so much more than a principal. She has been a protector of our school's beautiful culture, a steady guide through change, and an advocate for every child and family. Her leadership has ensured that Orana remains not just a school, but a community grounded in faith, generosity and belonging.

Thank you Dee for nurturing our children, supporting our staff, honouring our traditions and strengthening our future. Your legacy will continue to live in the classrooms, in the playground, and in the hearts of everyone fortunate enough to be part of this wonderful school.

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### **A Personal Goodbye**

On a personal note. With my son graduating from Yr 6 this year – 2025 will also mark the end of my own journey at Orana - a journey that began more than 30 years ago when I arrived as a Year 2 student. To have later returned as a parent, and to watch both my children grow and flourish here, has been such privilege.

It is heartwarming to know that despite the decades that have passed, the essence of Orana remains unchanged.

Though my chapter comes to a close...and my four years on the Advisory Council comes to an end.. Orana will always be part of my story, and I'm truly grateful for the many memories and moments that have shaped my life and my family's.

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### **Closing Acknowledgements**

To our leadership team, staff, Fr John and my fellow Advisory Council members - thank you for your steadfast commitment to our school.

To our P&F and volunteers - thank you for keeping community at the heart of everything we do and for creating events this year which have been engaging and fun for all.

To our beautiful students (who aren't here but we'll thank them anyway) thank you for filling the classrooms and playground with smiles, laughter and kindness.

To our families - thank you for trusting Orana with your children's learning and wellbeing.

And to Orana, thank you for a wonderful year - and for all the years before it.

May this beautiful school continue to shine for generations and generations to come.

Carmelle Wilkinson  
Advisory Council Chair