



Week 9, Term 4 2023

Welcome to Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Ngawait people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



## Religious Identity and Mission



*(Painting by Jeanne Gordon)*

Advent bursts violet and beautiful

Like the jacaranda tree  
on the very brink  
of an Australian summer.  
It is a tree of contradictions,  
like this southern season  
of the Church's year:  
green-leafed in winter,  
autumn gold in spring,

blossoming from bare trunk  
to welcome in November.  
A myriad trumpets cluster  
for short fanfares  
before it lays a purple carpet  
to greet its king  
who is not yet – but coming

## From the Principal



As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is both an honour and a privilege to reflect upon the remarkable journey we have undertaken together in the past twelve months. Our school community, much like the life of St Joseph, has been a testament to resilience, faith, and the transformative power of love.

In contemplating the story of St Joseph, we find a source of inspiration that resonates deeply with our own experiences and aspirations. St Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, was a man of quiet strength and unwavering devotion. His life was marked by humility, trust, and a steadfast commitment to his role in the divine plan.

Similarly, our school community has navigated the challenges and triumphs of the past year with a spirit reminiscent of St Joseph's resilience. It is a testament to the deep bonds that connect us, forming a mosaic of shared values and a commitment to nurturing the potential within each member of our school family.

Just as St Joseph provided a stable and loving home for the Holy Family, our school community continues to be a place where students find a secure and supportive environment to grow and flourish. Our dedicated educators, staff, and parents have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing atmosphere where every child is valued, encouraged, and inspired to reach their highest potential.

The challenges we encountered along the way have only served to strengthen our resolve and deepen our appreciation for the bonds that unite us. Like St Joseph, who faced the unknown with trust and humility, we too have approached the past year with a shared faith in our ability to overcome obstacles and emerge stronger on the other side.

As we look back on the academic achievements, sporting accomplishments, artistic endeavours, and community outreach initiatives that have enriched our school, we are reminded of the myriad ways in which each member of our community contributes to the vibrant tapestry of St Joseph's School Barmera. The dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of parents and guardians form the foundation upon which our educational mission stands.

In the spirit of St Joseph's compassion and generosity, our school community has also embraced opportunities to extend a helping hand to those in need. Whether through charitable initiatives, community service projects, or acts of kindness within our own school family, we have embodied the values of love and selflessness that St Joseph exemplified in his role as a guardian and provider.

As we turn our gaze towards the future, let us carry the lessons of St Joseph with us. Let us approach the coming year with the same sense of trust, humility, and dedication that characterised his life. Just as St Joseph embraced his role as a guide and protector, let us continue to guide and nurture the young minds entrusted to our care, helping them discover their unique gifts and talents.

May the new year be a canvas upon which we paint the colours of hope, resilience, and achievement. Together, as a united and compassionate community, we can create an environment where every individual is empowered to thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Let us aspire to be beacons of light, illuminating the path for one another and inspiring those around us to reach for the stars.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to each member of the St Joseph's School Barmera community for your unwavering support, dedication, and love. As we celebrate the achievements of the past year and look forward to the possibilities of the future, may the spirit of St Joseph guide us, and may the bonds that connect us continue to grow stronger.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and fulfilling new year filled with blessings, growth, and shared successes.



Nanda de Winter

## Staffing Update

It is always with a mix of emotions that we bid farewell to valued members of our St Joseph's School Barmera staff. Heidi Schwartzkopff, Emily Westley and Riley Haigh, our much loved teachers and esteemed colleagues, will embark on a new chapter in their journey, and while we are sad to see them go, we celebrate the impact they have had on our school.

During their time here, they brought a wealth of knowledge, dedication, and a spirit of collaboration that enriched our school community. Their unwavering commitment to our students and their passion for education have left an indelible mark on both colleagues and students alike. We express our deepest gratitude for the positive energy, creativity, and expertise they brought to St Joseph's School Barmera.

It is with great excitement that we extend a warm welcome to Rachael Symens, a vibrant addition to our support staff team. Rachael is a well-known community member, recognised for her boundless energy and creative spirit. Her passion for community engagement makes her an invaluable asset to our school. We are fortunate to have Rachael bring her enthusiasm and innovative ideas to enhance the support services we provide for our students.

## Exciting News to Share

Mrs Jaylee Gropler, a cherished member of our school family, is expecting her first child in 2024. Join us in celebrating this joyous moment as we eagerly await the newest addition to her family. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to her and Brendan. Let's surround Jaylee with love and support during this special time, anticipating the arrival of a future Little Joey!

## School Captains 2024

We are thrilled to announce the 2024 School Captains, who will lead our student body with distinction and enthusiasm. The selection process was rigorous, beginning with a written application phase where candidates articulated their vision for fostering unity, and positive change within our school community.

Following the initial phase, candidates participated in interviews, showcasing their leadership potential, communication skills, and dedication to our school's values and Catholic ethos. The interviewing panel was deeply impressed by the passion and commitment displayed by each candidate.

After careful consideration, we are delighted to introduce the 2024 School Captains: Jackson Ivanovic and Lainie Morrell and Vice School Captains, Hayley Golding and Dilshaan Singh.



Congratulations! We have full confidence that all 4 selected student leaders will lead by example and contribute significantly to the continued growth and success of our school community. Thank you to all the students who participated in the process, embodying the spirit of leadership and service.

A huge thank you to parishioners Mrs Josie Spriggs and Mr John Beech for leading the interview panel.



## Uniform Review

More exciting news! We're thrilled to announce that the uniform review proposal has been approved. This decision marks a positive step forward in enhancing the overall student experience and equal the school uniform to the demands of contemporary education with an inclusive uniform and uniform policy that accounts for diversity. The new uniform will not only reflect our commitment to excellence but also enhances the schools Catholic Identity and provides a sense of unity and pride within our school community. Thank you for your input and support throughout this process. Details about the implementation of the new uniform will be communicated during term 1 of 2024 with the new all-season uniform most likely being available from Term 2, 2024. Get ready for a fresh and stylish chapter in the history of St. Joseph's School Barmera!

## Parent Satisfaction Survey

Your feedback is invaluable! Our Parent Satisfaction Survey is a brief questionnaire designed to gauge your thoughts on various aspects of our school. Your responses will aid us in understanding your experiences, identifying strengths, and pinpointing areas for improvement. We highly value your insights to enhance our school community. Your participation ensures that we continue providing the best possible education for your child. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts. Together, we can make St Joseph's School Barmera an even more nurturing and thriving environment. Thank you for your time and continued partnership in shaping the future of our school. All responses are confidential. Please follow the link below to complete the 5-minute survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2GHQS8J>

## Holiday Office Hours

Our front office will be open in December 18- December 22, 2023 and January 22- January 25, 2024.

## End of Year Activities













PRESENTED BY THE BARMERA CLUB

NEW YEAR'S EVE

# NIYKE



# 2023 *Celebration*

SUN 31ST DECEMBER

**BARMERA CLUB**

FEATURING

**MCKENZIE FROM 8:30PM**

**WITH DJ NAGES**

TICKETS: \$25 PRE-EVENT | \$30 ON THE DOOR

[BARMERACLUB.COM.AU](http://BARMERACLUB.COM.AU)





**SUMMER**  
School Holiday Guide  
2023-24

**AVAILABLE NOW!**  
Scan the QR code to find out  
how to download or collect  
a printed copy of the guide

**Berri Barmera**  
COUNCIL

The banner features a vibrant illustration of a summer scene. On the left, children are playing in a swimming pool under a smiling sun and colorful bunting. On the right, a red campervan is parked on a grassy field with children sitting nearby, one playing a guitar. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.



# SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!



COME AND ENJOY WATER, SAND AND SUN THESE  
SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT THE  
**BARMERA LIBRARY**

**TUE  
JAN 2  
2:00PM**

**Fish  
O'Lantern**

**FRI  
JAN 5  
2:00PM  
& 3:00PM**

**Robot Coding  
with  
Edison Bots**

**TUE  
JAN 9  
2:00PM**

**Sand Art  
Creatures**

**WED  
JAN 10  
2:00PM**

**CJS Puppet  
Show**

**FRI  
JAN 12  
2:00PM**

**Free Lego  
Play**

**TUE  
JAN 16  
2:00PM**

**Underwater  
De-light**

**WED  
JAN 17  
2:00PM**

**Woodworking  
with  
Barmera Men's  
Shed**

**FRI  
JAN 19  
2:00PM  
& 3:00PM**

**Rolling Robots  
with Sphero's**

**TUE  
JAN 23  
2:00PM**

**Light  
Catcher**

**THU  
JAN 25  
10:30AM**

**Beach Party  
Water, Sand  
& Sun**

**Bookings are essential for all activities.**

Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

For more information and to book please call

**Barmera Library: 08 8588 2872**



# Berri Barmera Library CJ's Puppets



**Come along and enjoy the laughter of CJ's Puppets**

**January Wednesday 10**

**Berri Library**

**10am**

**Barmera Library**

**2pm**

**Bookings are required**

**For bookings and more information please**

**Phone Berri 8595 2666 or Barmera 8588 2872**



**MISTLETOE MAGIC  
AT BARMERA LIBRARY  
19 DECEMBER  
AT 2PM**

Bookings Required 8588 2872

**DECORATING CHRISTMAS TREATS**





**Berri Barmera**  
COUNCIL



*You're invited!*

# *Elves Magical Workshop*

*with Tanika from Clover & Rose*

Make your own :

Reindeer food

Snowman soup

Paint your own Christmas ornament

Write a letter to Santa



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December 16 11:00am - 2:00pm

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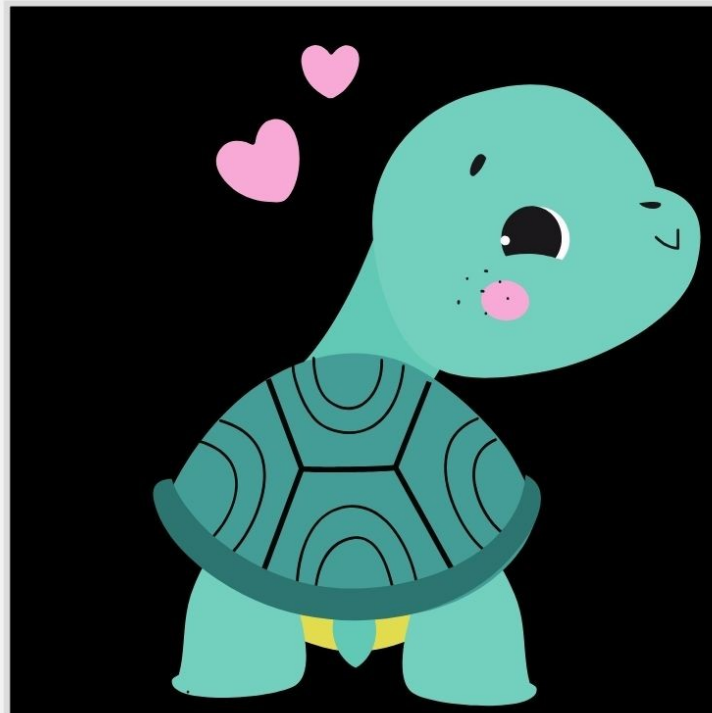
**\$10 per person**

Berri Visitor Information Centre  
24 Riverview Drive, Berri

For more information please call  
08 8582 5511



# Missing Turtle



Bonney

The Short Neck Turtle



For a chance to win a prize, get your entry form from the Berri Visitor Information Centre and see how many Bonney's you can find hidden in store

**Competition starts 16 December 2023**

**Entries close 31 January 2024, winner will be contacted shortly after**



**BARMERA LIBRARY**



**Xmas  
Lego  
21 December  
2pm**



**BOOKINGS REQUIRED 8588 2872**

**Berri Barmera**

COUNCIL

Building a better community

**BERRI BARMERA**

LIBRARY SERVICE



Collect your entry form from:

Barmera or Berri Visitor Information Centre  
Berri and Barmera Libraries

Between 16 December 2023 and 28 January 2024

Follow the clues and return your entry for your chance to win a Toyworld gift card.

Winning entry will be drawn on the 31 January 2024



