

# Celebrate the Past—Build The Future.

Issue 4

1st July 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Opening and Blessing Ceremony Friday 28th May
- Memories of St Monica's book available
- News Gems—old photos uncovered
- Past Pupils Day

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## OPENING AND BLESSING CEREMONY

On Friday 28 May, a special ceremony was held at St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta to officially open and bless their new multi-purpose learning centre.

The learning spaces were blessed by the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP and officially opened by State Member for Parramatta, Tanya Gadiel MP, representing the New South Wales and Australian Governments and executive director of schools, Greg Whitby.

Special guests including Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Cr Paul Garrard, former parish priest Fr Brian Rooney, representatives from the Catholic Education Office, architects Thomson Adsett and builders Equiset Constructions, joined St Monica's students, staff, parents and parish priest Fr Fernando Montano for the ceremony.

The extensive building works included the construction of the multi-purpose learning centre which provides flexible open-plan learning spaces for all stage groups in the one space with, a kitchen and a library, as well as a new administration block and after school care centre on the ground floor.

Principal Michael Hopley wel-



*Bishop Anthony Fisher blesses the new learning spaces with Greg Whitby, Michael Hopley, Tanya Gadiel and Fr Fernando Montano*

comed families and guests to St Monica's and said the new learning centre was a place of collaboration and inspiration.

'Collaboration is the cornerstone of our school. Our community collaborates to provide the best education for our students,' said Michael. 'Thank you to the Commonwealth and State governments. The Building the Education Revolution is an inspiring term for what has resulted in an inspiring space,' he said.

'Thank you to the Bishop and Diocese of Parramatta who recognised the vitality of this parish and community as we work together in evangelisation for mission of the church.'

In his homily,

Bishop Anthony spoke about the value of Catholic schools and the opportunities they provide to students.

'I was happy to tell a Senate Hearing on the Building the Education Revolution last week, how proud we were for the value we have obtained in our building projects by working with our local communities.'

'A Catholic school is a place where you can develop your skills and knowledge, a place where you can develop virtues of good citizens and learn how to fulfil your responsibilities as a member of the community,' said Bishop Anthony. 'Most of all it is a place where you can meet Jesus, grow in his friendship and learn to live and love like he did.'

*Continued on Page 2...*



*L-R: Fr Fernando Montano, Bishop Anthony Fisher, Greg Whitby, The Hon. Tanya Gadiel, Cr Paul Garrard, Fr Brian Rooney and Michael Hopley*

BLESSING AND OPENING (CONTINUED)

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Greg Whitby, who was a former student of St Monica's, spoke to the students about how much the school had changed since he was young.

'I have a very special connection to St Monica's as it was also my primary school,' said Greg. 'A lot has changed since I attended primary school. The emergence of computers, digital cameras and mobile phones means the world has become smaller and yet the community of St Monica's continues to grow and flourish,' he said.

'These wonderful facilities are very important to our Catholic learning communities as they provide an environment for a special kind of education; one that is relevant, engaging, student-centred and collaborative, and most of all Christ-centred,' said Greg. 'These new buildings will

serve you and the future generations of learners well.'

Tanya Gadiel spoke of the benefits the Building the Education Revolution would deliver to current students and future generations.

'This new development really has an enormous wow factor,' said Tanya. 'I didn't go to a school like this when I was young and I'm sure your parents didn't either,' she said. 'What you have is really spectacular and you are very lucky to be able to learn in a place like this.' 'The provision of infrastructure will benefit our children and our children's children and will witness first hand the benefit of the Building the Education Revolution,' said Ms Gadiel.

Construction of the general learning areas, the administration offices and student amenities were funded by \$3.3 million in contributions from

the Catholic community, \$1.19 million in Commonwealth Capital Grants and nearly \$400,000 from the parish. The NSW Government also assisted with loan servicing through the Interest Subsidy Scheme.

The multi-purpose centre was funded by \$2 million of Commonwealth Capital Grants funding under the Building the Education Revolution's Primary Schools for the 21st Century program. The Diocese of Parramatta would like to thank the Australian and New South Wales Governments for their support.

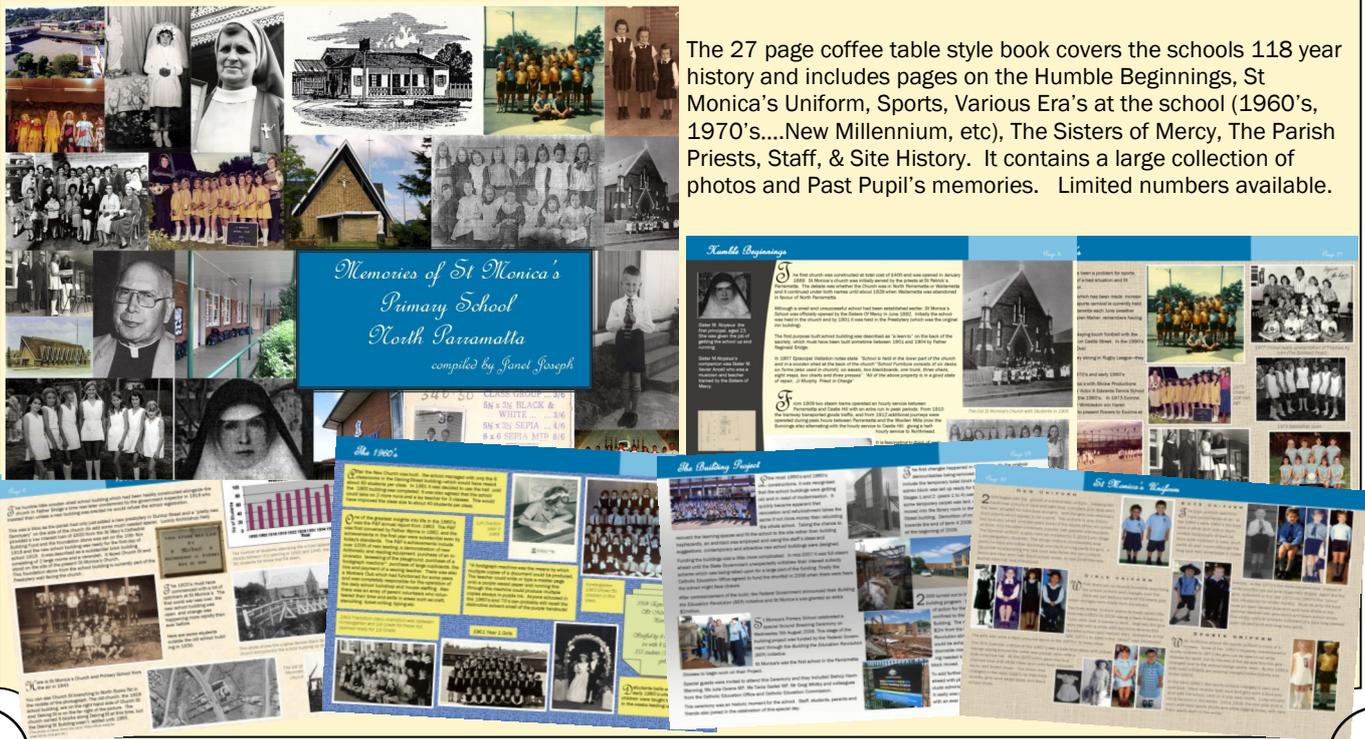
Taken from: www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au/news---events/latest-news/latest-news.aspx/st-monica-s-officially-opens-new-multi-purpose-learning-centre

Buy a copy of the book today!

DID YOU MISS THE OPENING? ST MONICA'S SCHOOL BOOK AVAILABLE

If you were unable to attend the open day celebrations don't worry we've compiled a book about the history of the school! At only \$15 (plus \$5 postage and handling anywhere in Australia) you can have your trip down memory lane delivered. If you'd

prefer you can pick up a copy from the school office—enter via Daking St. The school office is opening Monday to Friday 8.30am til 4pm and you can pay by cash, cheque or Credit Card. Otherwise write a short note (address on the back page).



The 27 page coffee table style book covers the schools 118 year history and includes pages on the Humble Beginnings, St Monica's Uniform, Sports, Various Era's at the school (1960's, 1970's....New Millennium, etc), The Sisters of Mercy, The Parish Priests, Staff, & Site History. It contains a large collection of photos and Past Pupil's memories. Limited numbers available.

NEW GEMS

During the open day we had quite a few people who brought their photos down—which was just fabulous!

Toni Fisher (Antoinette Tabone) brought down not only a 1961 (yr 2) or 1962 (yr 3) girls but also a photo of her mum at the school in 1930—see below.



This one matches the boys photo from the same year previously provided by the Koen family.

Gabrielle Valentine (Gabrielle Koen)

brought down 3 photos from her class—1952 (Kindergarten) and 1955 (yr 3) complete with as many names as she



could remember! Gabrielle also provided the 1955 Girls First Communion Photo which is the earliest we now have in the First Communion collection



Of course it's never too late to dig out your old photos—digging them old will allow us to electronically copy them so we can preserve for the future and share them with classmates who never had photos or has lost or mislaid them.

PAST PUPILS DAY



Everyone who attended the Past Pupils Day on Saturday 2th May said they had a great time. Some groups were able to reconnect with friends they hadn't seen for 40 or 50 years and they enjoyed revisiting past memories and seeing the display of old photographs.

Those who attended the Celebrate the Past day in Sept 2008 were blown away by the

transformation of the school. Many had remarked that the old school buildings from 1955 and 1965 were in a time warp and hadn't changed at all. Now they were amazed by the fantastic state of the art Learning Centre. It has certainly put St Monica's back on the map and is one of the most modern and forward thinking schools in the area if not the country. Many hundreds of teachers and people working in education have come to view the school since the kids moved in after the Summer holidays in January.

Unfortunately many of those who attended the Past Pupils Day didn't sign the visitors book or sign up for the association so we have no record of the numbers attending but estimates are about 300 over the 10 til 3pm period.

The Koen family (shown top right) were there in numbers—they had a family reunion of 8 of the 11 of them who attended St Monica's in the 1950's and 1960's. Their father and uncles also attended St Monica's in the 1930's. Many thanks also to Steve Koen for the photos he took on the day. If you have any photos or stories from the day let us know.



Thanks also to Debbie Dereg and Carlene Miller who provided many display items for the day.

Our sympathies also go out to the Millers and Mallen Families on the sad passing of Dianne Mallen (nee Millers) earlier in the year. Dianne was a great supporter of the past pupils association and she was sadly missed.

*Enid Davis (nee Follini) was again able to attend our day as our oldest Past Pupil— Enid attended the school in the 1930's. Enid delighted all who spoke to her on the day.*



SOMETHING TO  
CONTRIBUTE?

ST MONICA'S PAST  
PUPILS  
ASSOCIATION

C/- St Monica's Primary School  
10 Daking Street  
North Parramatta  
NSW 2151

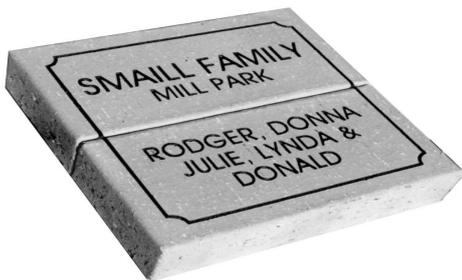
Phone: 02 9630 8995  
Fax: 02 9683 4984  
E-mail: [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au)

**Join us on Facebook too— St Monica's  
Primary North Parramatta Past Pupils  
Association**

The St Monica's Primary Past Pupils Association aims to Celebrate the school's past by recording, preserving and displaying the school's, Parish's and Local area's history. It hopes to Build the Future by supporting the school and parish community. It provides opportunities for reunion, celebration and support.

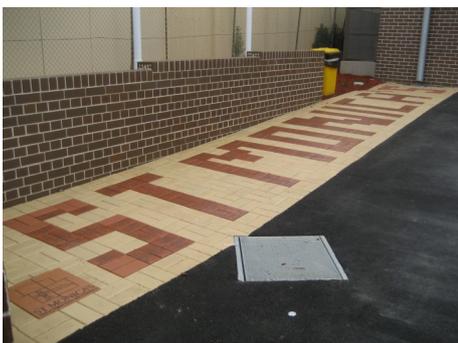
Register today and we'll help find some of your classmates, and probably some old photos too!

PAVERS  
AVAILABLE  
AGAIN!



At the 2008 open day we were offering engraved pavers for sale. These pavers have now been laid at St Monica's and are a fabulous record of students/families attendance at the school. The pavers were laid as part of the playground landscaping in 2 colours to spell out "St Monica's".

After seeing them laid we were flooded by people wanting to buy one so we have opening up the sale again. Single Pavers can hold 3 lines of text (up to 32 characters ) and cost just



\$25, and double pavers can hold up to 6 lines of text (up to 64 characters) and cost \$50.

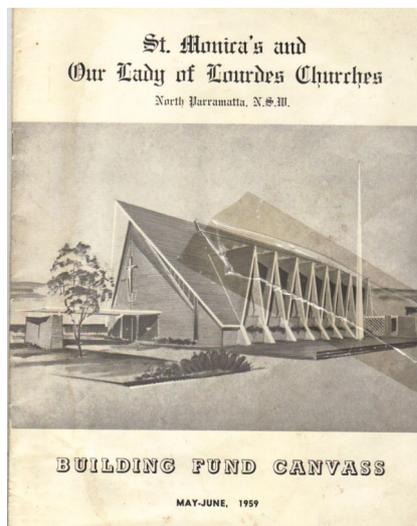
You could also buy a paver as a memorial to a friend or loved one, to celebrate the birth of a baby, for a wedding, an anniversary , or just to share your favourite quote!

Please have your forms in by **20th July 2010**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO THE CHURCH

The new St Monica's church turns 50 years old this November! Many of our past pupils attended the school before the new church was build and opened in November 1960.

Hopefully the parish will do something to mark the special occasion so watch this space and we'll let you know.



JOIN THE CWL

Here in the North Parramatta parish, The Catholic Women's League meets once a month on a weekday morning, for the purpose of praying together, friendship, socialising and discussions. If you are interested in joining the Catholic Women's League or popping along to learn more about what they do, please contact Marie Carney on 9630 2801.

DO WE HAVE  
YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS?

If you receive this newsletter by snail mail, it means we don't have your current email address. If you don't have email that's fine but if you do, adding your email to our database will lower our costs and administration.

Thanks

Email us on [smppa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smppa@optusnet.com.au)