



2023

Annual Report



**ST ALBERT'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
LOXTON

13 Geraldton Street Loxton | info@stalbert.catholic.edu.au

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School Board Members 2023



Fr Hau Le	President
Jacky Swanson	Principal
Alison Uren	Teacher Representative
Lynley Seaman	Chairperson
Lauren Lynch	Treasurer/Finance
Sarah Mitchell	Secretary
Charmaine Hicks	Parent Representative
Anna Cozens	Parent Representative
Jeremy Vowles	Parent Representative

Thank you to our departing School Board member:

Lynely Seaman

Your time and commitment to the School Board and to the school community has been greatly appreciated.

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PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Prayer for AGM 2023

Lord, we gather, we gather with hope, enthusiasm and questions.
We gather with knowledge that we are carriers of a vision, carriers of a dream.
We are carriers of Jesus' dream, that all are loved and accepted as persons of
immeasurable value.

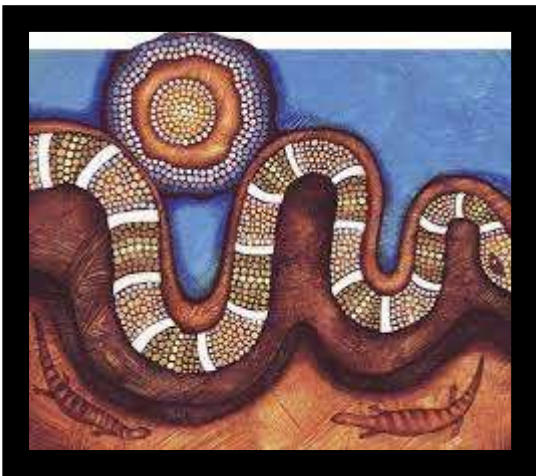
We believe we are bearers of life, entrusted with the
responsibility and privilege of carrying a new vision for the families in our care.

God of creation, God of dreams,
Our prayer is that we stay close to you as our source of life, love and dreaming of
what is possible.

Be with us on our continued journey.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

AMEN



Acknowledgment of Country

*We acknowledge our local indigenous people as
the traditional custodians of the land and
pay our respects to the Elders past, present
and future for they hold the memories, the
traditions, the culture and hopes of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*

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Chairperson's Report 2023

Thank you to all school Board members, staff and volunteers at St Albert's for their support over 2023. It was another busy year for the St Albert's community, and we should all be very proud of the achievements and progress we have made.

A highlight for the year for me personally, was the final plan development and sign off on a new playground for the students of St Albert's. Many years and iterations in the making, I believe we will soon have the dynamic, interactive and inclusive areas of play that we were hoping for, both at the site of the current playground, and alongside the oval. Thank you to the many parents, staff and students who have had input into this plan over the years.

As a community we have also invested time and money into adding new trees and plants to areas of the school. As the saying goes, we should "plant trees under whose shade we do not expect to sit," so I am excited that future students will benefit from the efforts of the staff, parents and students of 2023. A great legacy.

Thank you to Jacky for her leadership in getting these projects happening, and engaging with a wide variety of resources and personnel to better the already amazing education we provide here at St Albert's.

Thank you as always to the amazing staff and volunteers who are always working above and beyond for the better of our children. Our school has again enjoyed great success in the performing arts and sporting arenas. Our children also participated in enriching camps and excursions that are so valuable to their overall learning. I also acknowledge our collaboration with OLOR to enable the Year 6 students to attend a truly memorable camp to Kangaroo Island. I hope we can continue to develop our connections with the other Catholic schools in the Riverland to leverage these amazing experiences and opportunities that would otherwise not be possible.

As my time on the school board ends, I wish to acknowledge the supportive, inclusive culture we have amongst our board members and staff. It has been a rewarding and uplifting experience to be among others who have the best interests of our school community at heart. Your positivity and willingness to help and contribute has been inspiring.

I wish the future school board all the best and encourage other parents to consider joining and sharing their expertise.

Lynley Seaman

Lynely Seaman
Chair of the Board 2023

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Principal' Report 2023

It gives me great pleasure to present the School Board Annual General Meeting Principal's Report for the 2023 school year. This report is one that is built from a deep sense of pride and gratitude for all that has been accomplished in 2023 and for the vibrant community that defines our school.

As the leader of this faith-filled community, I am deeply honoured. I recognize and appreciate the trust that families place in our staff. Together, we strive to create an environment where each student can nurture their love for learning. Moreover, we endeavour to foster a sense of belonging for every student and their family.

Our school is not just a place of learning; it is a vibrant hub where young minds blossom, friendships flourish, and dreams take flight. Throughout the year, our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and enthusiastic students have worked tirelessly to create an environment that fosters growth, curiosity, and a love for learning.

As I reflect on the past year's accomplishments, I am astounded by what we have all achieved in such a short space of time.

- **Curriculum Innovations:** From STEAM programs such as Makers Empire, the development and implementation of structured literacy and maths intervention programs, the implementation of a new wellbeing program, to personalised learning pathways, we've empowered our students.
- **Community Engagement:** Our infamous Auction with A Difference event, fundraising for the year 6 camp, special event mornings and liturgies, Catholic Education week, Sports Day, parent gardening days, all fostered connections and enriched our school culture.
- **Infrastructure Enhancements:** Upgraded classroom furniture, the re-arranging of learning spaces, the creation of extra specialised learning spaces and continuous improvement of green spaces enhance our students' daily experiences.

Catholic Identity & Formation

The Commissioning Mass for all staff in 2023 took place at St. Francis of Assisi College, bringing together staff members from all Catholic schools in the Riverland. Events like these further strengthen the bond among the five schools.

In the heart of our school lies a vibrant Catholic identity, one that is deeply intertwined with our commitment to social justice. Throughout the past year, our school community has embodied the spirit of generosity, supporting a tapestry of initiatives that have touched lives both within and beyond our school walls.

Our journey of compassion has been marked by memorable initiatives such as Project Compassion and the entrepreneurial flair of our Year 6 Market Day, which supported the vital work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Our casual clothes days and refreshing ice block sales have not only brought smiles but also much-needed funds for various charities and the Vinnies Christmas appeal. Over the year we raised Caritas \$665.00 for charity.

The leadership and enthusiasm of our Student Representative Council (SRC) were instrumental in weaving these events into the fabric of every year level.

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Our outreach extended into the community, where the melodious voices of our choir uplifted spirits at the CWL and the Loxton Christmas Carol event. The Breakfast Club, a beacon of nourishment and warmth, served nearly 800 breakfasts, thanks to the dedication of our parent volunteers, Peg and Sarah, and the generous support of Foodbank.

Prayer and Mass remain the cornerstones of our faith and identity. Each class joined the parish for a weekday Mass each term, fostering a sense of unity and reflection. The Year 6 graduation Mass was a poignant moment to honour their journey at St Albert's and express gratitude for the year's blessings.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Sharona Edwards for her inspirational leadership in Catholic Identity throughout 2023. Under her guidance, we celebrated a record number of baptisms and a beautifully orchestrated retreat day for Confirmation candidates. Her ability to make Mass a meaningful experience for all was a true highlight of the year.

As we bid farewell to Sharona's active role in 2024, I am humbled to carry forward the torch of leadership in this area.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Fr Hau and Fr Emil for their unwavering support of our school community.

Quality Teaching and Learning

This year, we've made significant strides in enhancing our educational approach, particularly in the utilisation and analysis of student data. Our commitment to the Clarity initiative, a system-wide, evidence-based model for school improvement, remains strong. All teachers have been developing their expertise in learning and assessment task design, incorporating student feedback into the success criteria. The implementation of clear Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, visualized through Bump It Up Walls, has fostered meaningful discussions about student learning outcomes and success indicators.

Our platform, SEQTA, has been instrumental in gathering information for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on students with Disability (NCCD), tracking student attendance and managing pastoral care notes.

In terms of teaching, learning, assessment, and reporting, this year has been pivotal. We've fully integrated SEQTA to streamline our school reporting process. This has involved:

- Digitizing staff timetables and ensuring equitable ESO support in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Establishing uniform and collaborative Marks books at all year levels, under the guidance of Callan and Ali, which has facilitated learning moderation.
- Incorporating CESA performance standards and rubrics to enhance the assessment process.

Additionally, our reporting on students with special needs has improved, enabling us to provide more tailored reports.

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Literacy, encompassing the Big 6—oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension—is the cornerstone of all curriculum areas. It's the key to knowledge acquisition and equipping our children for the future. Our literacy program addresses each component of the Big 6. Alison Uren, our Leader of Learning, received specialised coaching from CEO consultant Sarah Byrne. Together, with valuable input from our staff, they've developed a comprehensive whole school literacy framework and approach that will be refined throughout 2024.

This year, our educators have concentrated on the explicit instruction of phonics for early years (R-3) and morphology for middle years (2-6). Our ongoing efforts include:

- Direct instruction in spelling patterns and rules.
- Teaching morphological markers and suffixing conventions.
- Providing immediate corrective feedback to students.
- Revisiting previously learned skills to aid memory retention.
- Using data analysis to identify and support students who require skill reinforcement.

In 2023, we purchased the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) to monitor reading progress closely. This data informs our planning for Tier 2 (small group) and Tier 3 (one-on-one or one-on-two) interventions. We expanded our intervention team to assist more students in need. Our reading and spelling support team overseen by Alison Uren and Sharona Edwards, consists of, Callan Maczkowiack, Alanna Kurtzer, and Renee Brown.

Inclusivity

Our school is a place of authentic inclusivity, catering to the best of its ability for students with specific needs. In 2023, students were supported by Personalised Plans for Learning and support provided by the school's own resources and other funding through the NCCD (National Consistent Collection of Data) aided all students to achieve their goals.

In the realm of performing arts, our school's choir and assisting artists' group shone brightly at the Riverland Music Festival in Renmark. A heartfelt thanks to our music teacher, Karen Cash, for her dedication in preparing our students for this cherished musical tradition.

Our annual sports day, held on school grounds, was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie. The positive feedback from parents and the vibrant atmosphere were truly heartwarming. I extend my appreciation to Chris Vowels, our exceptional Physical Education teacher, for his pivotal role. I also thank him for his ongoing commitment to providing a rich and varied physical education programme for all students.

Thriving Community and Wellbeing

Throughout 2023 wellbeing continued to be a focus for our school community. R U OK?, Bullying No Way! And Harmony Day featured strongly in our school and student leaders were engaged to lead a variety of activities to highlight these important days and their educational message.

The Commonwealth Education Minister Jason Clare announced the provision of a one-off wellbeing 'Boost' funding to every school to support students' mental health and wellbeing. With this funding and with support assistance from Blair-Boyer, Minister for Education, Training and Skills we were able to purchase a Well being programme supporting Friendship Challenges which we implemented in 2023.

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In 2023 all teaching staff, children and families were invited to take the CESA Living, Learning, Leading survey which collected perception data to assist schools rate their performance and progress towards meeting the intent of the CESA Living, Learning, Leading Framework. The data has been interpreted and has been used to inform strategic plans for St Albert's School into the future.

As part of our commitment to well-being, all students participate in the Classroom Pulse survey each term. This survey includes questions related to their identity, learning, relationships and belonging. By conducting these regular check-ins, we can gauge how our students are feeling and identify any potential social, emotional, or learning needs they may have.

In 2023 we continued our whole school well-being approach with the Resilience project, and this will continue in 2024. Anna Strachan worked with us providing a valuable counselling service in 2023. Unfortunately, due to family commitments Anna tendered her resignation as counselor in Term 4. We value and appreciate her contributions and wish her well.

Infrastructure and Resourcing

The year 2023 marked significant progress in enhancing the overall aesthetics of our school. We invested in upgrading both the tech room and the computer room, ensuring that our students have access to modern facilities for learning and exploration. The library, JP (Junior Primary) classroom, and MP (Middle Primary) classroom were successfully relocated. This strategic move allowed for better utilization of space and improved learning environments.

Several areas received a fresh coat of paint: Additionally, the roofs across the school were replaced, ensuring safety and protection from the elements. The parish office underwent mold removal, followed by new carpets and a fresh paint job. Thanks to the support of our dedicated parents, we planted numerous trees across the school grounds.

For further details, please refer to the WHS (Work Health and Safety) report.

Gratitude and Thank You

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of St. Albert's. Our educators, administration, and support staff exemplify unwavering commitment and professionalism. They create a nurturing and vibrant learning environment for our students while tirelessly supporting the multitude of activities within our school.

I also extend my gratitude to the School Board and the Parent and Friends Committee. Your ongoing support, engaging conversations, and enthusiasm strengthen our community bonds.

I express my sincere appreciation to Alison Uren, our dedicated Leader of Learning, for her unwavering support, enthusiasm, and commitment to her role. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to Sharona Edwards, a valued member of our leadership team, for her extensive knowledge and passion in fostering the best literacy practices throughout our school. Their contributions are truly invaluable to our school community.

To our wonderful families, thank you for your support and partnership. Your involvement enriches our community. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our shared vision.

With gratitude,

Jacky Swanson
Principal

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Leader of Learning Report 2023

In 2023, we created a whole school Literacy approach which included timetabled, literacy blocks, pedagogy and curriculum. This document was created with the support of the CESA Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. A part of the strategy was to provide schools with intense coaching and support if they requested it. We were fortunate enough to receive this intensive coaching provided by Sarah Byrne. She has supported me in creating this whole school document.

Sharona began to refine our own unique intervention program for students that needed Tier 3 (1:1) support in areas of Reading and Spelling. The school invested heavily into the intervention time, making all ESO's available in the afternoon to support Sharona in providing the intervention to those students that our data determined needed extra support. At the end of 2023 we had 23 students receiving tier 2 and 3 intervention.

In 2023 Callan completed his training in running Multisensory Maths, an intervention program for number. I supported Callan in assessing the student's levels and Callan provided Tier 3 (1:1) or small group 1:3 intervention to students. The school invested heavily in purchasing this programme and in training and timetabling to ensure we can provide this support.

Our focus in 2023 was to have these programs operational and begin to work how we can track and monitor student growth. This year we are monitoring the data through data walls which tracks student growth and includes regular assessments. This is then monitored and regularly reviewed with ESO's and classroom teachers and through our school leadership team.

In 2023, we introduced daily reviews into our Literacy and Numeracy lessons, to provide ongoing learning opportunities for topics that have been previously taught. This allows students to retain the learning and develops confidence in our learnings as each student has multiple exposures to the content throughout the year.

We introduced DIBELS as a measure of reading and this has been implemented across all years R-6. This allows us to track student growth in areas of reading and this will continue into 2024 as staff commenced DIBELS testing in February.

NAPLAN In 2023, our school did not meet the minimum of 11 participants to make comparisons available as we had a cohort of 7 students with one student withdrawn from NAPLAN. These results have guided the strategic plan and are the reason for improving the Spelling interventions throughout the school. The year three cohort were unable to register a median score as we had 4 students with three NAPLAN participants. Looking into the future we will have more student participation numbers in 2024, so look forward to seeing more data.

2023					
Compare to	Students with similar background		All Australian students		
	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	-	-	-	-	-
Year 5	440	415	377	428	463



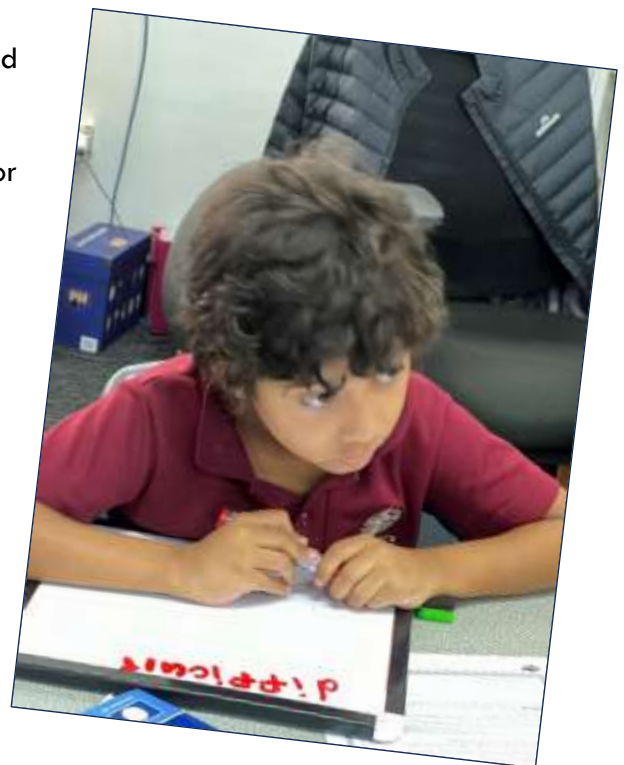
Compare To		Year			
National		2023			
		Latest Year			
Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
3	404	417	404	409	407
5	496	483	490	496	488

Already in 2024, we have received professional learning for Numeracy. This was a combined day with all four Riverland Catholic Schools. As previously mentioned, we have started the Data walls to track student growth. In 2024, St Albert's staff will continue to work with a system coach to begin a focus on developing a whole school numeracy approach to ensure we are providing cohesive teaching and learning across all year levels. Sarah Byrnes attending a staff meeting with all staff as we explored curriculum mapping and assessment design tasks. Later this term, she will run a LEAP levelling training for staff to build capacity around writing moderation and functional grammar. This will assist staff in tracking and monitoring student writing progress.

I am proud of the progress we have made in 2023, developing our cohesive learning practices, tracking student progress and seeing their growth. I look forward to further developing this in 2024.

Alison Uren

Leader of Learning and Inclusive Education Coordinator



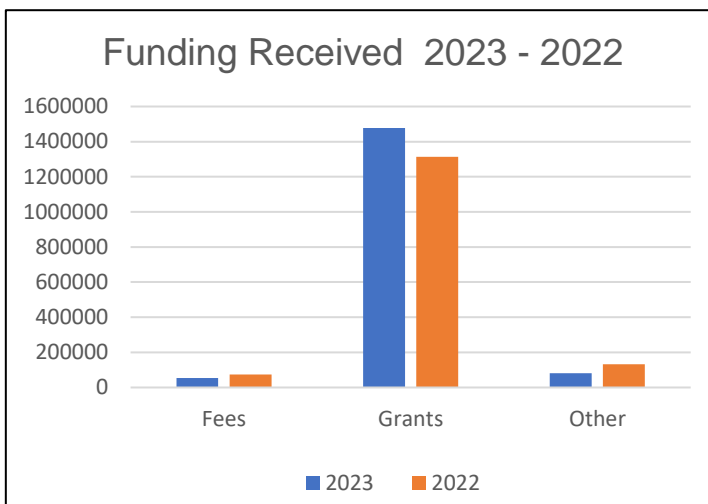
Finance Report 2023

St Albert's financial position at the end of 2023 was positive with a Surplus of \$35, 490. Income and funding was received from a combination of Commonwealth, State, CEO, Tuition Fees, and P & F Fundraising and the Catholic Education Office.

Due to student needs, staffing was increased in 2023 and grants were applied for to cover the salary cost. A key expenditure line this year was teaching and administrative costs with staff receiving a salary increase of 2.35% in May and a further 3% in December.

Our school expenditure is closely tracked with emphasis on savings, where possible without compromising learning or commitment to the community. With this in mind, although we are happy with a small surplus of 35, 000, with careful monitoring our aim is to increase our surplus in 2024.

I would like to thank Lauren Lynch for her time, effort and input in our regular finance meetings and reporting our school's financial status to the School Board during 2023.



Hannelie (Finance and Manager)

2023 BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	\$ 1,024,918.00	\$ 972,052.00
Debtors	\$ 29,465.00	\$ 28,949.00
LSL	\$ 157,762.00	\$ 56,218.00
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$ 1,140,584.00	\$ 1,160,000.00
	\$ 2,352,729.00	\$ 2,217,219.00
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities	\$ 282,495.00	\$ 182,475.00
Equity	\$ 2,070,235.00	\$ 2,034,744.00
	\$ 2,352,730.00	\$ 2,217,219.00

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

	2023	2022
Students	59	58
INCOME		
Fees Income	\$ 53,872.00	\$ 73,389.00
Grants Income	\$ 1,476,785.00	\$ 1,318,411.00
Other Income	\$ 80,485.00	\$ 59,421.00
Total Income	\$ 1,611,142.00	\$ 1,524,425.00
EXPENDITURE		
Tuition Salaries & on-cost	\$ 989,010.00	\$ 911,148.00
Admin Salaries & on-cost	\$ 136,654.00	\$ 122,743.00
Administration	\$ 179,887.00	\$ 133,018.00
Teaching & Class Room Expen	\$ 59,191.00	\$ 59,421.00
Utilities & Rate Expenses	\$ 16,335.00	\$ 12,660.00
Levies	\$ 73,079.00	\$ 89,682.00
Capital Depreciation	\$ 121,495.00	\$ 120,953.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 1,575,651.00	\$ 1,449,625.00
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 35,491.00	\$ 74,800.00

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WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT 2023

WHS Management and Administration: Throughout the year, significant strides were made in enhancing WHS management and administration. The implementation of a digital database in Teams has streamlined administrative functions, data allocation, and reporting for future reference.

Asbestos Audit: An exhaustive asbestos audit was conducted to update the asbestos register, revealing that asbestos was present in only 2 rooms, constituting approximately 10% of the school premises, contrary to the previous indication of nearly 70%. This outcome underscores a substantial improvement in asbestos safety, allowing for the removal of irrelevant asbestos stickers, thereby enhancing both safety and aesthetics.

Infrastructure Enhancements:

- A new gabion wall was erected at the front of the school, enhancing child safety by serving as a barrier from the street while also improving the school's visibility.
- Roof replacements were carried out during the April holiday in response to damage from a hailstorm in 2022, with costs covered by insurance.
- The remodelling of the Tech room into separate Kitchen and Art areas encountered complexities due to the discovery of Mold during reconstruction. Costs were divided between insurance coverage and the school budget.
- Renovation of one of the sheds into a woodwork shed has enriched hands-on learning opportunities.

Playground Improvements: Finalization of plans for a new playground, including an extension alongside the oval, was achieved in 2023, with construction scheduled for April 2024. A Safe work SA audit identified non-conformances. Temporary measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of the current playground until the new one is completed.



Catholic WHS Audit: An audit conducted by Catholic WHS during term 4 identified non-conformances, which are currently being addressed by the school.

Cleaning and Maintenance: Significant enhancements were made to the cleaning and maintenance schedule, including regular major cleaning projects and garden/grounds maintenance. Parental involvement in sourcing and planting new trees has contributed to the enhancement of the school environment.

Staff Training: Staff participated in an online training program aimed at enhancing their knowledge and understanding of WHS requirements, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Overall, the updated WHS protocols and improvements have resulted in a significantly safer, cleaner, and more aesthetically pleasing environment conducive to improved student learning and well-being.



OUR PROPOSED NEW PLAYGROUND



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Thank you all so much for your attendance
tonight.

Together we can Make St Albert's the
school of choice in the Riverland



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**ST ALBERT'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
LOXTON

**St Albert's Catholic Parish School
13 Geraldton Street
Loxton 5333**

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