

Celebrate the Past—Build The Future.

Issue 2

3rd June 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Building Work Commenced
- New Uniform at St Monica's
- Father Fernando —new Priest at St Monica's
- Some photos from the Past
- Can you help... What was it like when you went to School? Find your old classmates!

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BUILDING WORK COMMENCED

The building of a new state of the art school at St Monica's has finally commenced. The demountables were removed and the demolition of the majority of the 1965 (double storey) building was started in the January school holidays and the children are being housed in the hall and the 1955 school building along Daking Street.

To make matters more complex, new parish offices are also being constructed alongside the church and with some extra money from the Government stimulus package the proposed building will now be made larger to accommodate a library space.

It's painful at the moment with the playground space severely restricted, parking non-existent, trucks and building noise. In St Monica's true spirit however, everyone is



making the best of it and is being cooperative and supportive with the vision of the new school and classrooms planted firmly in their minds.

It is planned that the building work will be completed in December 2009, and despite a little asbestos setback the building works are currently running ahead of schedule. The concrete slabs have been poured and the wall frames are beginning to be constructed.

We are planning a BIG formal opening of the new school,

which is hoped to come about sometime in term 1 2010. Watch this space for more details.

The school has also applied for 2 grants from the Commonwealth Government, and the first has been approved and will include some paving, fencing, a large soft-fall area, a small shade and seating area, cement rendering, 8 laptop computers and some portable playground equipment



NEW UNIFORM

Those of you who made it to our Celebrate the Past Open day last September may remember a proposed change to the school uniform. Keeping the traditional colours of navy and light blue, a modern polo style shirt has been adopted for both boys and

girls. With the girls now wearing a skort (shorts which appear to be a skirt). The uniform is very distinctive and very smart and alleviates many of the issues of the old school uniform, and has been universally popular with parents and students.



FATHER FERNANDO – NEW PRIEST

Rev Luis Fernando Montano Rodriguez MG

After Father Brian Rooney's retirement last September, Father Fernando has been named as the 15th Parish Priest of St Monica's. Originally hailing from Mexico, Father Luis Fernando Montano Rodriguez MG joined the Missioners of Guadeloupe in Hong Kong before joining St Monica's as the Chinese Chaplain in 2006.

Father Fernando is fluent in Spanish, English, Cantonese and sign language.

Father Fernando is a great supporter of the school and an inspiration to the children.

St Monica's Mass Times are:

Saturday: Vigil 6pm

Sunday: 9am, 6pm,
11.15am (Chinese
Community Mass)

Daily: 9.15am (Tues to Fri)



Father Fernando

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL?

What did you carry to school everyday and what did you have for lunch? How were the desks arranged and how messy was the ink?

I was thinking about the differences between schooling now and schooling over the past 100 years. In the back of one 1970's photo you can see the little brown suitcases lined up. These days of course it's all backpacks, plastic lunch boxes and packaged food. What did you carry to school everyday and what did you have for lunch?

Lessons now are very collaborative with groups working independently and circular

tables. How did your classroom work? How were the desks arranged?

These days the students use laptop computers, pencils and biros. Long ago of course they used slates. What did you use? What sort of fountain pen did you use? How messy was the ink? One boy from the 1950's recalled dipping the plaits of the little girl in front in the inkwell!

If you have any memories or stories to share I'd love to hear from you. If you have an old school case, or fountain pen I'd love to see them too.

We are hoping to put a display case with some old bits and pieces—so if you have any ribbons, certificates, trophies, suitcases, pens etc which you could loan us let me know.

Janet Joseph

TRACK DOWN YOUR CLASSMATES

We have about 100 Past Pupils registered on our database now and we are still seeking more.

Dig out the old school photos and start ringing round! Do your old school friends still live in the area? What about their parents or broth-

ers and sisters. I noticed a very unusual name on a Facebook Group recently and after a little correspondence found it was the daughter of a pupil from the early 1950's!

Did your siblings attend the school or what about your cousins and neighbours?

Help us spread the word!



1973
Year 2
Blue

C O N T I N U I N G R E S E A R C H I N T O T H E S C H O O L A N D P A R I S H H I S T O R Y

After Last years successful exhibition of school and parish history , Janet Joseph is continuing her research and is currently putting together a coffee table style book.

We have had a number of recent finds including a package of photocopied photographs which appear to have formed an exhibition in 1992 for the schools centenary. Unfortunately technology was quite different 16 years ago and the resolution on the photocopies is poor. If anyone has seen or may know the whereabouts of any of the originals of the following photographs we'd love to hear from you. The

photographs are from 1906, 1929 and 1932. Additionally if you are in touch with anyone from the McBrien, Prudames, Overton or Stretton families please let us know.



1 9 4 3 A E R I A L P H O T O G R A P H

Did you know the Land Titles office has been taking aerial photographs in Australia for many years and one from 1943 is available on the Internet? Here is St Monica's Church and Primary School from the air in 1943.

You can see Church St branching to North Rocks Rd in the middle of the photograph. The old church, the 1919 school building, are on the right hand side of Church St and Daking St is on the far right of the



picture. The church owned 5 blocks along Daking St at this time, but the Daking St Building (currently housing Early Stage 1 and Stage 3) wasn't added until

1955. To access the photographs go to...www.lands.nsw.gov.au then go to Survey and Maps, Maps and Imagery, Accessing SIX and follow instructions.



Did You Attend St Monica's prior to 1959? Share Your Memories of the Old School Building and Church.

1 9 6 5 S C H O O L O P E N I N G

This photograph was obtained from the Catholic Weekly Archives. It has no date or description but we're pretty sure it was the grand opening of the 1965 double storey building.

Were you there on that day? Can you or your family help with any memories or other photographs?

The building was officially opened by Cardinal Gilroy on Sunday 11th July 1965. It is the double storey building running at right angles to Daking St. It looks like a great day. Marie Carney remembers the ladies stiletto heels leaving holes in the new lino floor!



SOMETHING TO
CONTRIBUTE?

ST MONICA'S PAST
PUPILS
ASSOCIATION

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

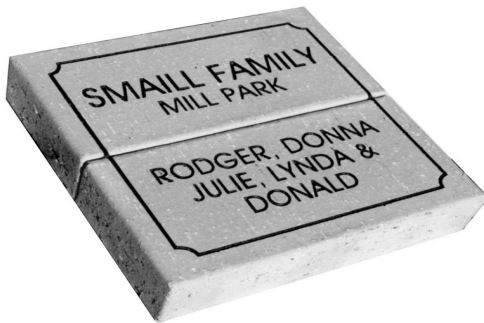
Phone: 02 9630 8995
Fax: 02 9683 4984
E-mail: smppa@optusnet.com.au

Join us on Facebook too— St Monica's
Past Pupils Assoc

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!

LAST CHANCE
TO BUY A PAVER



At last year's open day we were offering engraved pavers for sale. These pavers will be laid at St Monica's and could be a record of you or your families attendance at the school. So far we have sold 96 which is fantastic and if we reach the 100 mark we can have free delivery of the pavers. Single Pavers can hold 3 lines of text (up to 32 characters) and double pavers can hold up to 6 lines of text (up to 64 characters).

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 find attached the paver order form, if you have friends or family who attended please pass on to them too.

Please have your forms in by **26th June 2009**

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.

CHECK OUT OUR
PHOTOS

We have started putting some of our photos on the school website. Check out www.stmonicas.catholic.parra.edu.au

The photos are currently in "2008 Galleries" under Past Pupils but hopefully we can get them moved onto the Past Pupils Gallery in the near future.



THE MISSING
TIME CAPSULE

There were some students from the 1980's who were keen to dig up their time capsule last year. Unfortunately none of those who turned up could remember exactly where it was. St Monica's parish have also embarked on a building program, adding a small office block on the site which was known as "Father's Garden". Although the contractors kept a lookout for the capsule, it was not found. They dig not excavate the site and so it is probable that the capsule has not been disturbed and may lay unopened for another 100 years! Anyone who remembers where it was or has a map let us know

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