


Celebrating 172
years of St
Patrick's, Port Fairy





"From very humble beginnings with the opening of the first official Catholic school educating just 31 students located on Hunter Street in Parramatta, Catholic schools have grown to educate more than one in five Australian students..."

Timeline of Catholic Education at St Patrick's Primary School, Port Fairy



October 1820

It was in Parramatta that the first Irish Catholic convicts settled and where the first Catholic priest, Fr John Therry, founded the first official Catholic school in October 1820.





October 1836

Bishop John Bede Polding arrived in Sydney in 1835 and took control of Catholic Schools.

In 1844, when Port Fairy was known as the new township of Belfast, an area full of Irish-Catholic immigrants, Bishop Polding heard that the little settlement was in need of some formal Catholic structure.

Yellow house is named after Bishop Polding.



Polding

July 27th 1849

July 27th 1849 was the date upon which our school, St Patrick's was opened.

Father Slattery had built a school room, 26 feet by 16 feet (7.9m x 4.9m). It was also here that parishioners were able to attend the weekly Mass.



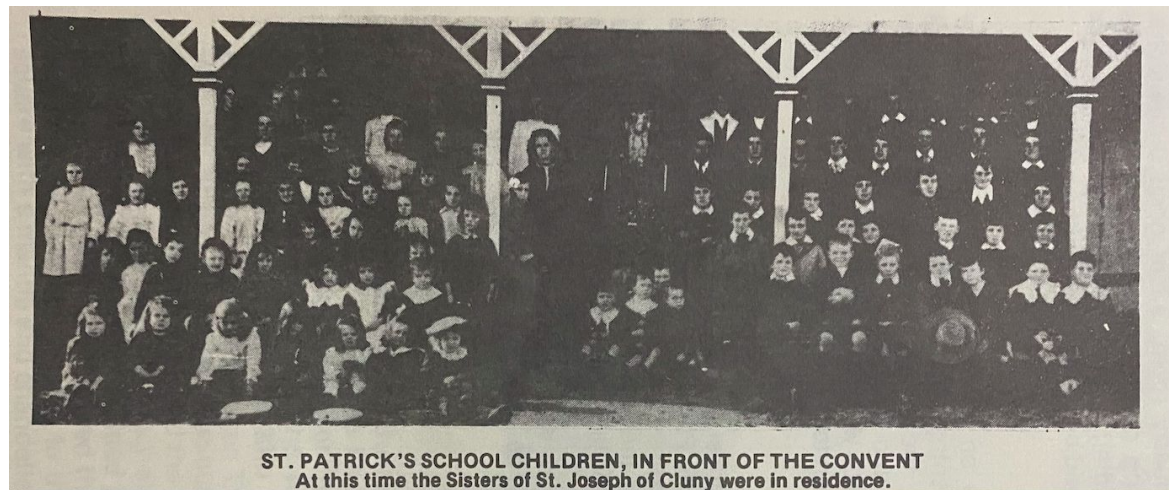
"Taught reading and spelling. Reading and spelling good, some very neat writing, arithmetic and geography were poor, no history taught, sewing for girls"

October 1855

In 1855, a second building at St Patrick's was added to cope with increasing numbers.

Lay teachers staffed the school until the arrival of the St Joseph of Cluny sisters in 1906. They taught until 1912.

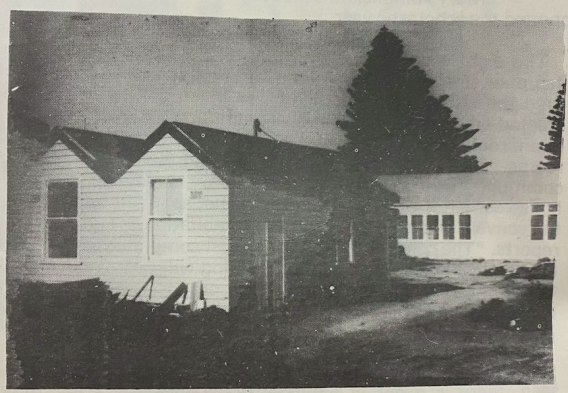
Current roll: 19 boys, 18 girls



1914

St Patrick's was taken by the Good Samaritan sisters who arrived at Port Fairy. A convent was built where the school hall now stands.

The original 1910 infant room, later to become the music room, still stands in the school grounds today.



Music Room. formerly 1910 Infant Room.



Samaritan

1923

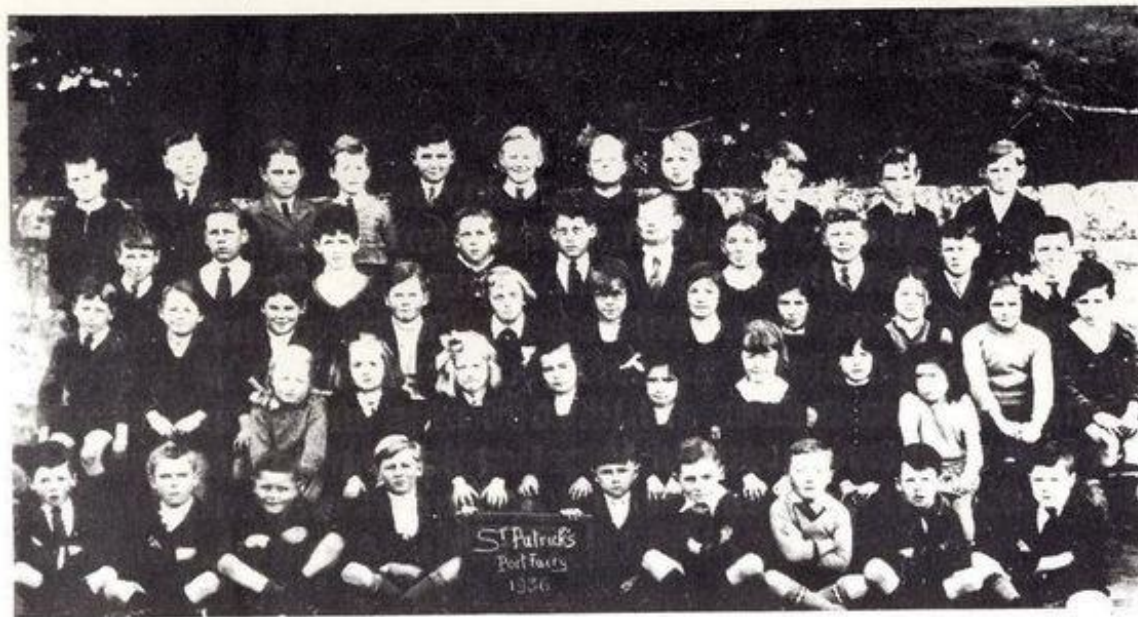


1930s



FIRST COMMUNION 1939.

Back: Paul Dempsey, Peter Dempsey, Michael Whelan, Max Uebergang, Jack Pascal, Leo Bourke, Vern Emery, Ron Eales, M. Donohue, B. Delaney.
2nd Front: M. Elliott, B. Thompson, ... Emery, K. Smith, M. Bourke.
Front: J. Francis, H. Francis, M. Donohue, K. Lanigan, Fr. Healey, M. Leishman, A. Gall, D. O'Brien, M. Lanigan.



1936

Back: B. Elliott, P. Hogan, T. Fallon, J. Malone, D. Manuell, J. Malady, J. Dixon, G. Donohue, L. Hallinan, C. Eales.
2nd Back: P. Dixon, K. Carter, D. Coffey, J. Dowie, ... McMahon, G. Thompson, B. Dowie, F. Williams, C. Foley, V. Hallinan.
2nd Front: J. Pascal, ... Lynch, M. Whelan, S. Thompson, M. Russell, B. Dowie, P. Sherry, L. Foley, M. Leishman, M. Condon.
Front: L. Whelan, J. Hallinan, R. Leishman, L. Eales, J. Lanigan, B. Thompson, R. Dwyer, B. Manuell.

1940s



1944

Back: C. Piller, D. Miller, P. Artis, G. Fitzgibbon, B. Kearney.
2nd Back: P. Taffe, J. Dowie, D. Foley, M. Fitzsimmons.

3rd Back: I. Fitzgibbon, M. Hughes, T. Lanigan, J. Dart, M. Irving, A. Hanley

1950s



ST. PATRICK'S JUNIOR DEBUTANTE BALL (Approx 1952)

Back: P. Gardner, G. Dwyer, M. Hearn, R. O'Halloran, B. Fitzgibbon,
K. O'Halloran.

Centre: J. Dunn, K. Fitzgibbon, J. James, A. Forsythe, N. Hearn, G. Conlan,
G. Guyett, D. madden.

Front: . . . Malone, H. Irving, K. Ryan, H. Fulton, C. Fredrikson. Floor: C. North.

1960 – 1979

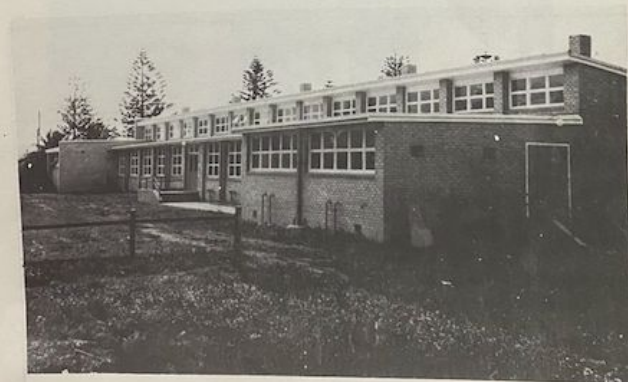
St Patrick's is now 111 years old.

In 1960, the first stage of the new St Patrick's school was built.

The second stage was added in 1979.



New School 1960.



New School 1960's.

1982

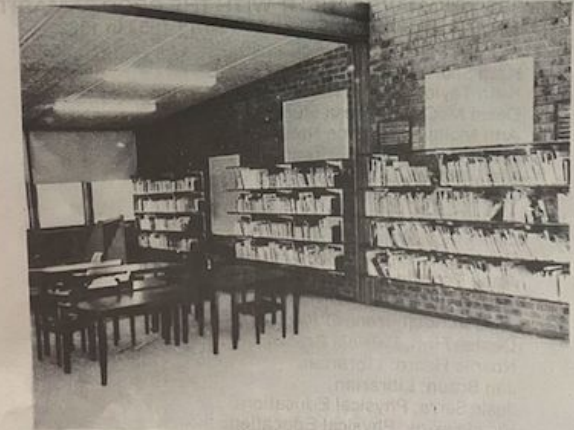
On the exact spot formerly occupied by the Convent, the new Assembly Hall and Library were created. This is the current hall and Jen Coffey/Anne Robertson's classroom.

There is only 1 sister in the school, assisted by 6 lady teachers, with the roll at 150 pupils.

The convent was moved from the current hall site gently in many parts.



NEW ASSEMBLY HALL



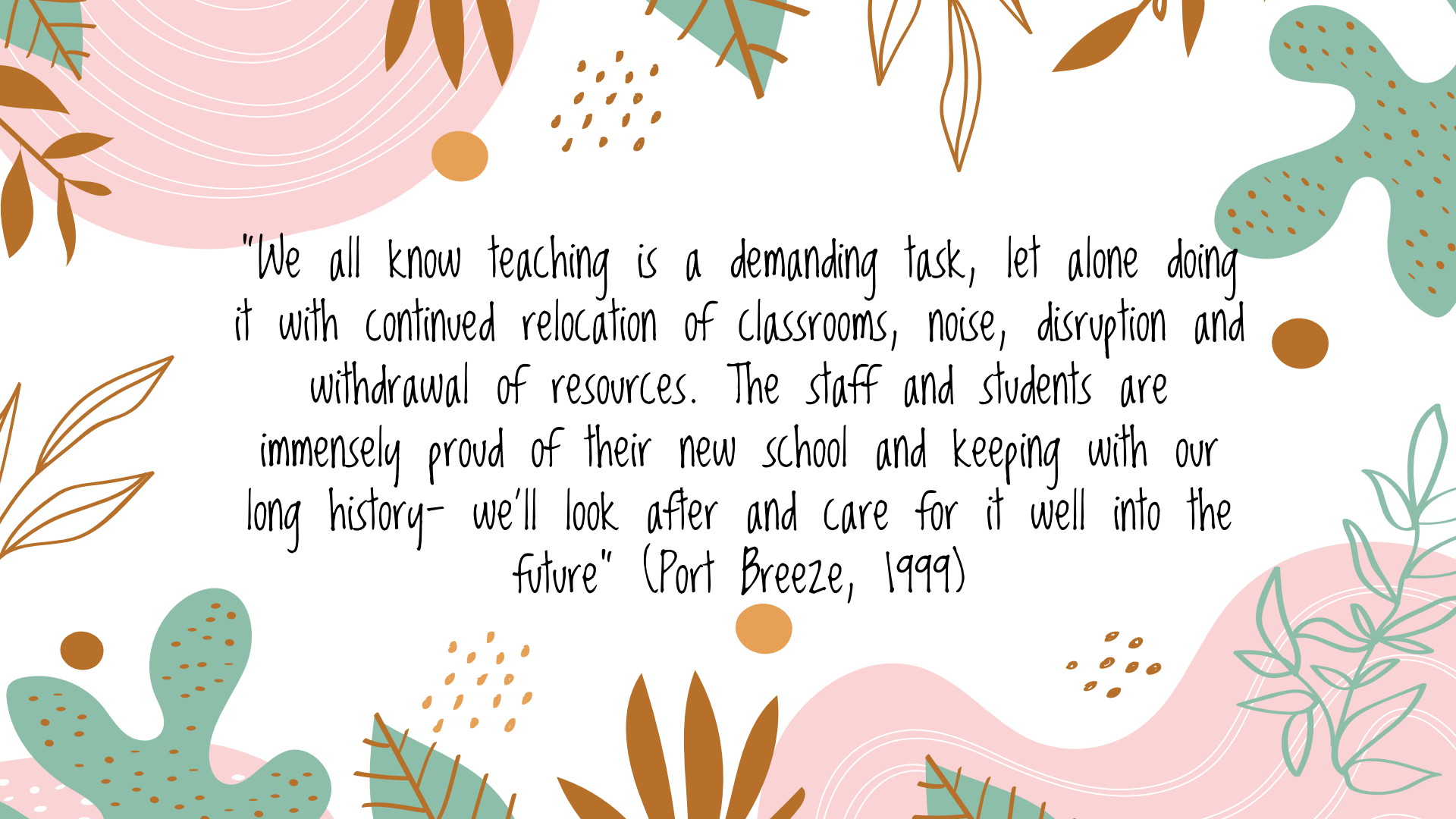
NEW LIBRARY

1999

The William Street redevelopment began.

Newly planted gardens and signs have dramatically changed the whole front of the school.





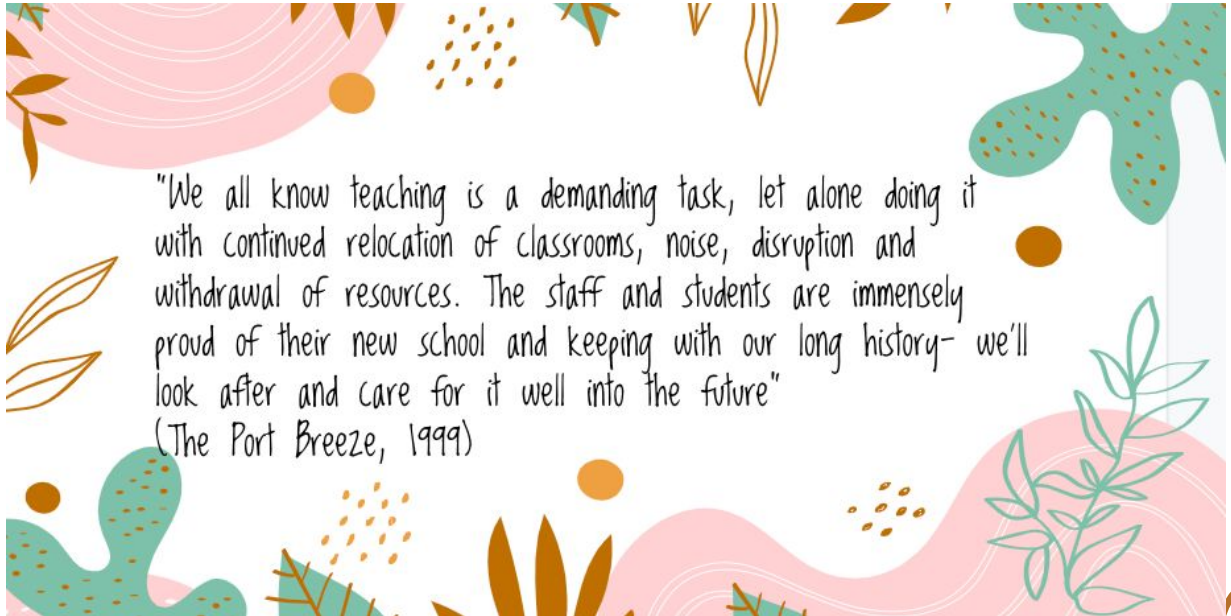
"We all know teaching is a demanding task, let alone doing it with continued relocation of classrooms, noise, disruption and withdrawal of resources. The staff and students are immensely proud of their new school and keeping with our long history- we'll look after and care for it well into the future" (Port Breeze, 1999)

2000 – 2003

Card #9

The third stage of refurbishments and extensions was added to the current Year 3/4 area.

Parts of these buildings were completed in 2000 and 2003.



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(The Port Breeze, 1999)



2010

A new library, Information Technology Room and Meeting Rooms were built.

At this time refurbishment of our staff room was also completed.




2010s





2021



Today, St Patrick's is a proud example of Catholic education in Australia.

In the tradition of the Good Samaritan sisters, we are a Catholic educational community, giving ourselves to goodness throughout our lives.



Faith in the future beyond 2021

Soon enough, St Patrick's will undergo another large redevelopment to accommodate our growing school.

Today, and next week in light of Catholic Education week, we celebrate 200 years of Australian Catholic Education and 177 years of St Patrick's, Port Fairy.



