St Joseph’s School WYNDHAM celebrated 50 years in 2014.

It was a very exciting time for the community, the school, and especially the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

MARCH 19

March 19, 1964 (St Joseph’s Day) is the day the sisters arrived in Wyndham. On March 19, 2014 we had Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sisters.

MARCH 31

March 31, 1964 is the day the school was officially opened by Bishop Jobst. On March 31, 2014 we had a Thanksgiving Mass for the past community members of St Joseph’s School, and a 50th birthday party with the school community.
OUR GIFT TO THE SISTERS

During the Mass on March 19, we presented the Sisters of St Joseph’s a gift from the school.

A student and buddy artist, Destiny Garcia created an artwork called ‘We Are One’ which we presented to the Sisters of St Joseph’s of the Sacred Heart – our gift to them.

‘We Are One’ is our school motto. In her painting, Destiny depicted all different peoples coming together – and Jesus is the person that brings us together.
50th BIRTHDAY PARTY
AUGUST 8 Feast of St Mary MacKillop

During May to July we are had a small documentary made of the old students and families. This DVD was distributed to the families in August.

August 8 2014 (Mary MacKillop Day) - Our main celebration with the Bishop was held on August 8, 2014. We had a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10.00am followed by morning tea and open classrooms and there was a photo display in the original school/church building.
Later in the afternoon – around 4.00pm, the students put on a concert, followed by some sharing time with the past students, teachers and families. Maria Morgan then organised a celebratory Corroboree of dancers from around the area and then had a relaxed community barbeque with some local entertainment by the Johnson Band.
The following is an excerpt from the Chronicle of the foundation year of St Joseph’s in Wyndham.

“19 March, 1964. Feast of St Joseph. Today Mother Adrian (superior general) and her assistant Mother Leone, accompanied by Sister Maureen Joseph and Sister Fergal came to Wyndham from Perth in the Fokker Friendship plane to make the first foundation of the Congregation in the Kimberley Vicariate, which is presently ruled by Bishop Jobst.”

31 March, 1964. School officially opened today. Children came this morning to be enrolled then returned home. Bishop arrived by plane this morning. Discussed plans with Priests and Sisters. At 5pm a meeting of Parents was held in the Church and school declared open. All mixed freely after the speeches and the people seemed pleased the Nuns had come to Wyndham.”

1 April, 1964. Classes began today. Owing to some trouble on the wharf the desks that should be here ready to use have gone to Darwin so this week we have to improvise and use Church seats. We began with 31 children, which increased to 34 by the end of the week. All classes were taught in the Church. There has been some difficulty experienced in completing the building of the toilet block so for the present the children use the Convent toilet.”

**SR VERONICA RYAN LIBRARY**

As a gesture of remembrance for Sr Veronica Ryan, during our 50 anniversary celebrations we re-named the school library the ‘Sr Veronica Ryan Library’. We did this to memorialise Sr Veronica and all she did in Wyndham and in the whole Kimberley community, and the notable way she went to heaven.
JOSEPHITE VALUES.

During our 50th year, we took on 6 Josephite values, as values that we learn from and aspire to have.

Our Josephite values are:

COURAGE
Courage to listen to your heart so that you do the right thing.
Courage to say no when other are asking you to do the wrong thing.
Courage to always tell the truth.
Courage to try your best in all you do.
Courage to give everything a go, even if you are not that good at it – have some fun.
Courage to stand strong and proud to be yourself, with your own gifts and talents.

HOPE
Hope that if we always do the right thing we will have a happy and peaceful life.
Hope that if we try hard we will achieve great things.
Hope that the hard work we put in at school, and if we come to school every day, it will help us to be the person we were born to be.
Hope that our families and friends will stay healthy and happy all their life.

FAITHFULNESS
Faithfulness to pray and listen to Jesus’ message of love and peace
Faithfulness to stay true to our family and never turn our back on them, no matter how hard that is sometimes
Faithfulness to attend Mass whenever we can
Faithfulness to stay loyal to our family, our school, our friends, to Jesus and to our faith.

INTEGRITY
Integrity to tell the truth in all we do.
Integrity to always do things with the very best of intentions in our heart
Integrity - keep gossip to ourselves so that others are not hurt. Do not repeat stories about others
Integrity to speak out when people are being treated wrongly

RESPECT
Respect for our land – put rubbish in the bin, don’t break the trees, leave the animals alone.
Respect your homes and your community – keep your homes tidy, clean up after yourself, put your rubbish in the bin
Respect your family – speak nicely and positively to your family, support them when they are sad,
Respect your selves – keep yourself clean and tidy, speak nicely to others, smile, don’t use bad language, stay healthy and happy, eat healthy food, have plenty of sleep, talk to people when you are worried about something, seek help from a doctor is you are sick.

HUMILITY
Humility – never see a need without doing something about it
Humility – be humble in your dealings with others. Let them have their say, Listen to their side of the story.
Be humble – don’t make others feel bad if they are not good at the same things as you – encourage them to have a go
Be humble – see the good in others and let them know when you see that they are really good at something.
SCHOOL SONG
During our 50th anniversary, we created and learned a new school song. The school song reflects the Josephite values and the culture of our school.