



**Topic: Queensland Governor Visits St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal**

**Date of issue: Tuesday 15 June 2021**

On 25 May, Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC made an official visit to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wandal marking the first Vice-Regal reception in the school's 109-year history. The Governor was accompanied by Mayor of Rockhampton Councillor Tony Williams and in accordance with protocol the Governor's Standard flew for the duration of his visit.

A special school assembly was held in honour of the Governor's visit attended by Catholic Bishop of Rockhampton, Most Reverend Michael McCarthy DD, Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton, Leesa Jeffcoat AM, St Joseph's Principal Kellie Jenkinson, members of the school community, staff, and students.

Governor de Jersey visited a Year 3 classroom where he spent time with students reading and discussing the story book *'Gavel Finds His Place'*, which he presented to the school.

Miss Jeffcoat said the students were very much engaged with the Governor during his time at St Joseph's and were exemplary ambassadors for their school and for Catholic Education.

"I was delighted to be at St Joseph's for this historic visit by His Excellency. There was real a sense of occasion around the event with great respect shown to official guests and to the observance of protocols," Miss Jeffcoat said.

Whilst the visit involved certain formalities, Miss Jeffcoat said staff and students extended a very warm welcome with genuine hospitality which was well received by His Excellency and the official party.

"Governor de Jersey commented on the meaningful Acknowledgement of Country by the Prep students and the Year 3 class had a lively discussion about Gavel the Vice-Regal Dog and his many adventures," Miss Jeffcoat said.

"It was a very memorable day for the school community in this special bicentenary year of Catholic education in Australia," Miss Jeffcoat said.

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