A Little Bit of History…

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School was opened by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart on 30 April, 1917, on the site where the Marymac Community Centre now stands. It was originally called the *Ipswich Road Convent School* and lessons took place in the church building during the week.

Original Parish School and Church   Dedicated 14th June, 1914.

After two years, the Sacred Heart Sisters moved to Stuartholme, to be replaced by the Sisters of St Joseph (1919). The name of the school was then changed to *St Joseph's Convent School.* In 1932, when the present church was built, classrooms were included in the lower section to cater for increasing numbers.   In the 1950's the name was changed once again, to *Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School*, in line with the name of the church that stands on the corner of Ipswich Road and Ferndale Streets.

In 1954, the double storey block of classrooms, including the Administration Area, was built and when the Marymac Community Centre was built in the 1970's, two classrooms and a general purpose area were included underneath. A Preschool (now Prep) was opened in January 2004 and this brought an exciting new dimension to the school. As part of the government's stimulus package in 2009/2010 a covered sports area and Art room have been constructed.

Enrolments peaked in the 1960's with approximately 500 students, and began to decline in the 1980's due to changing demographics in the local area. Our current enrolment is 146 from Prep – Year 7.

The Sisters of St Joseph continued to run the school for 72 years (1919-1991). The first lay Principal was appointed in January 1991. However, the Mary Immaculate School Community still has a very close association with the Sisters of St Joseph, through the Mary MacKillop Centre, located in Ferndale Street. The charism and spirit of Mary MacKillop is promoted throughout the school, particularly through our Student Leadership Program. We are proud to be a school that is associated with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint.