Queen of Apostles
School Riverton

A History – 1951 - 2015
The Riverton Parish was officially established on Easter Sunday, 25th March 1951.

In September 1951 Fr. Leo Hornung SAC was appointed as Riverton’s first permanent parish priest.

In 1952 land was acquired for a parish site at Tribute Street at the cost of £320 pounds. Later another block was added for £300 pounds.

Construction of the church and school begins.

On the 9th March 1953, foundations for the church were laid.

On the 1st July 1954 Fr. Hornung SAC leaves and is replaced on the 3rd July 1954 by Fr. Antony Omasmeier SAC who took over as parish priest.
The parish school opened with thirty four students on the 13th February 1956. The first principal was a Schoenstatt sister named Sr Mary Magdlen.

On 19th February a new convent on the corner of Tribute Street and Tudor Avenue was blessed and opened by Archbishop Prendiville. Four Schoenstatt sisters took up residence to work, in particular, in the school.

In July 1956 Fr. Omasmeier SAC leaves for NSW replaced by Fr. John Luemmen SAC

School Entrance from Playground first opened in 1956

Fr. John Luemmen
In November 1963 Fr. Paul Wagenknecht SAC was appointed as parish priest.

The new kindergarten was completed in February 1964 with seventy children enrolled and divided into two sessions with Sister Louisa in charge.
In October 1966, the blessing and opening of House Schoenstatt took place. The new convent was built on land that was subdivided from the main parish block and given to the Schoenstatt Sisters as a gift.

In February 1967 Fr. John Flynn SAC, was installed as the newly appointed parish priest. He oversees the completion of the new classrooms which were officially opened on March 5th 1967.
19th December 1970 - blessing and opening of the church together with the consecration of the altar took place with Archbishop Goody as the main celebrant.

A week later, work starts on two new classrooms, a hall, a canteen and a lunch shelter. These buildings were blessed and opened in April 1971.

In January 1974 the building of a new school library, staff room and office commenced and in June 1974 it was officially blessed and opened.

March 1976 Fr. John Flynn SAC was transferred to Syndal, Melbourne and Fr. Roger McGinley SAC took up appointment as new parish priest.

The school’s first lay principal was appointed, Mr P Smith in 1978.

Pressure grew to admit all applicants to Queen of Apostles despite there not being enough room or buildings. Other options were looked at, one being establishing a school on the corner of Vahland Ave and Acanthus Rd (now Querrin Ave) in Willetton which was owned by the parish and within the parish boundary.

Archbishop Foley said the location was a disaster and the mistake of locating a school without a parish should never be repeated.

On November 30th 1980 Orana Primary School was officially blessed and opened by Archbishop L J Goody.

Eventually the parish boundaries were changed so that Orana was within the Willetton boundary.
In 1984 a school lunch shelter was refurbished to extend the size of the hall.

Demands for placements in the school continued, as Baptisms were hitting about 100 per year. Research was undertaken to find a solution. It was deemed there were no other Catholic schools in the district that could take them, so a second stream was proposed.

An extra 2 acre block of land was acquired fronting Tribute Street and adjoining the school.

The new school administration block was blessed and opened on 28th November 1984.

In 1988, Mr Michael Smith was appointed Principal. It was during this time, the prebuilt demountable classrooms were placed in the school to cater for the growing school population.

In 1989 a large block of land with a few old shops fronting Barbican Street was acquired by the parish. In February 1990 the shops were demolished and this land became the Annexe Oval.

In 1990, a new Principal was appointed – Mr Tony Giglia.

Tony left at the end of 1995 and Kevin King took up the Principal Role at the start of 1996.
On 12th February 1995, Fr John Luemmen SAC retired as parish priest after 14 years and Fr Dean Bradbury took up his appointment as the new parish priest.

Official Opening and Blessing of the Father John Luemmen Hall took place on Sunday 28th November 1999.

Fr Dean Bradbury SAC was farewelled on 22nd July 2001 and Fr John Flynn was welcomed as parish priest.

Mrs Sue Fox was announced as the new Principal of Queen of Apostles School and started her appointment in Term 2 of 2004.

On the 26th of November 2006 Fr. Paul Manickathan SAC was installed as new Parish Priest.

On the 31st October, Shaun O’Neill was announced as the new Principal of Queen of Apostles School and took up his appointment in Term One of 2009.

In 2010, new building works were started. The Kindy was renovated and a new playground put in. The Pre-Primary also had the playground renovated. The old parish hall, which was gifted to the school by the parish and used as Year 7 classrooms, the existing canteen and Reading Recovery room and offices were all demolished to make way for a new Undercover Area.
The existing Year 6 classrooms, Music Room, Computer lab and Learning Support Room were all renovated with a new office added to the end of this building. During this time, the Year 6 classrooms and the Library were relocated to the school oval. This provided the teachers and students with a few challenges, as the basketball courts would often become flooded, making it difficult to access the classrooms without wading through pools of water. Year 6 Teacher, Maria Valli’s shoes were never the same again!
Kerry Miller, our Librarian, was put into a Sea Container and still managed to do some book changes with classes.

The Library was to be renovated also, but due to a demolition error, the Library collapsed, meaning it mostly had to be rebuilt.
The old school hall, which was being used as Year 7 classrooms and some small offices were demolished to make way for a new Undercover Area. The existing canteen and toilets were also demolished. A new canteen and block of toilets were built, connecting with the existing Uniform Shop.

In December 2011, the new buildings were officially blessed and opened. Senator Mark Bishop came to open the buildings and Father Paul blessed them.

In 2014, a process for building a new school began, with a CDP being approved in 2015.
Over the years, many traditions have been established at Queen of Apostles. The Catholic culture permeates right through the school and evidence can clearly be seen when you walk around the school grounds. The close link with the parish makes it easy for children to understand the charisms of the Catholic Church and learn about the traditions and ideas of our faith.

The school Motto of ‘Love, Unity & Peace’ outlines the importance we place on showing love and respect to others, ensuring all are included and the importance of working together and getting along.

The School Crest with a *white circle surrounding a white cross, gold crown and the yellow "M"* serves as a constant reminder of our call through Baptism to be Apostles - bearers of the Good News to all people. The *white cross* reminds us of the Sacrifice of Jesus and that to be one of his followers, we must take up our cross daily to follow Him. The *letter "M"* symbolises Mary - Mother of Jesus. It is Mary who says to us "Do whatever He tells you". The *gold crown* is a symbol of the Queenship of Mary. We recognize Mary as Queen of Apostles by the example of the life she lived devoted to doing God's will and look to her as a leader and model. The *circle which surrounds the cross, the crown and the letter "M"* symbolises the Mystery of God - without beginning and without end - in whose image and likeness we are created and who we endeavour to serve.
Queen of Apostles School is a vibrant, Catholic community which follows in the footsteps of Christ and his Mother, Mary, who gave witness to the values of love, unity and peace.

We provide a nurturing, inclusive and safe environment which celebrates each individual’s unique talents and qualities.

Our school encourages a passion for lifelong learning and prepares today’s children for their place in tomorrow’s society.

We aim to provide an awareness of Social Justice
We will provide a respectful, safe and friendly environment
We will strive to provide a balanced and comprehensive curriculum
We will encourage a passion for life-long learning where everyone has the right to learn
We will join to form a faith-filled Catholic community
We will treat everyone with equality and fairness
We will prepare today’s learners for their place in tomorrow’s society
Prayer to Mary Queen of Apostles (School Prayer)

Mother of God, Queen of Apostles,
Bless our school and parish communities.

Help us to be like you,
to witness the values of love, unity and peace.

Help us to love one another as you loved the Apostles,
Help us to share our unique gifts and talents with others.

Encourage us to always try our best and to work to be like you.

Through your guidance, may we show love, patience
and kindness to others.

We thank you for the example you gave us,
the teachers who help us,
the friends who play with us
and the blessings you place upon our school.

Amen.

Written in 2013
There are four factions that children are placed into when they enroll at the school. The factions are broken into the four colours of Red, Gold, Green and Blue. Children participate in sporting events in these factions. The factions are:

**Magdlen** – Was named after the first school Principal, Sr Mary Magdlen.

**Luemmen** – Was named after Father John Luemmen. He was a Parish Priest for 22 years and remained living in the Parish House until his death in 2013.

**Flynn** – Was named after Parish Priest Father John Flynn. Fr Flynn was Parish Priest for 15 years and remains living in the Parish House today.

**Canning** – was named after the area that the school is situated in – The City of Canning. The Canning River also runs close by to the school.
Queen of Apostles students involve themselves in the Religious dimension of the school in a number of ways. Class Masses are held throughout the year and special feast days are celebrated. Queen of Apostles celebrates its Feast Day on the Friday before Pentecost. This day begins with a Mass and the children are then given the opportunity to cut a cake. The rest of the day is usually then filled with fun activities the children participate in. Past activities include a quiz, a treasure hunt and a tabloid carnival.

Queen of Apostles School sees Social Justice as an important area that we can practically implement assistance for others. Each term has a different focus, which reflects our fundraising efforts.
Term 1: Compassion – Caritas’ Project Compassion
Term 2: Care – Archbishop’s LifeLink Appeal
Term 3: Sacrifice – Kids for Kids and Pallotines/Schoenstatt
Term 4: Generosity – St Vincent de Paul (Christmas Appeal)
Students are given a range of opportunities to learn and develop at Queen of Apostles. There is a focus on differentiation and targeting learning to meet the student’s needs.

Leadership opportunities are available in the way of Class Representatives which change each semester, and a SRC Executive council made up of four Year 6 students (President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary).

Faction Captains and Vice Captains are elected each semester.

Choir Leaders are chosen at the beginning of the year to assist with the Choir.

A Social Justice committee is also elected at the beginning of the year. This committee coordinates the fundraising and promotion for Social Justice issues. They also coordinate our special Queenies Hero Award. This award is given to someone who works hard to make our school a great place to come to through their interactions with others, their kindness, courage and hard work for our community.