

St Joseph's School Northam Celebrates

St Joseph's School Northam celebrated seventy years of the amalgamation of the school with the sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition and the Marist Brothers. Our sisters have had a very long association with education in Northam prior to this. The amalgamation date was celebrated on the 28th June. Sisters Elizabeth Rose, Sr Bernadette and the Sisters' Administrator Adviser Egmont Melton, attended the function. Egmont had association with the school prior to this.

Arriving at the school it was evident that an increased number of classrooms filled the landscape. We learned that there were 750 pupils on campus, a goodly number indeed for a country town. It was now a High School catering from kindergarten to Leaving Certificate. A very pleasing factor.

We, with a number of other visitors were warmly welcomed. Some I recognised as I had taught in Northam in 1974-1975 returning there 1976. Arriving at the school hall, where the pupils were, we were shown to our reserved places. All were warmly welcomed by the school principal.

The head girl of the school greeted all present, this followed by an opening prayer. Resumes on the lives of St Emilie and Brother Marcellin (founder of the Marist Brothers) were very well depicted by the use of silhouettes and dialogue.

A guest speaker, Alana O'Driscoll, who was a former pupil of the school, spoke to the pupils regarding their dreams and how important it was to follow them. She pursued sports but she explained the sacrifices she had to make to get to the professional level which she enjoyed today. It was not an easy road but she worked hard and had the support of family and her local community. I am sure it resonated very well with the secondary school pupils.

The musical choice of the celebration was very fitting, and was a credit to teachers and pupils. We found it extraordinary that 750 pupils were so attentive during the proceedings. They are certainly to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour.

After formalities we were invited to a sumptuous morning tea. It was great to meet up with parents who are supporting the school now and were great supporters of our Sisters when we had an apostolate in Northam.

Sr Bernadette Casey

28th June 2024



Students sitting in St. Emilie's corner



Egmont, Principle, Sr. Bernadette and Sr Elizabeth Rose



**Maria Spadaccini, School Principle,
Sr Bernadette, Maria Chomniak, and Sr Elizabeth Rose**