

PRIMARY SCHOOL IN LUCAS NEWS

Fr Justin Driscoll is delighted to announce that Mrs Jo Brewer has been appointed as the foundation principal of the new Catholic primary school in Lucas, Ballarat.



Jo will commence in July 2016 and comes as an experienced principal. She is currently principal at Lumen Christi, Churchill in the Diocese of Sale and previously at St Mary's School, Alexandra and Sacred Heart School, Yea which are both in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

In addition to her many years in Catholic education, Jo has postgraduate qualifications in Educational Studies and Psychology. The appointment as foundation principal at Lucas will be a return to Ballarat for Jo, who lived here in the 1990's while studying at what is now Federation University and while on staff of St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh.

Jo says, "I am very privileged to be the founding principal of our new Catholic school in Lucas for two main reasons. Firstly, it gives me the opportunity to come back to Ballarat. My mother grew up near Ballarat and we have many friends and family members who live in the area. It was also a place where I spent many happy, childhood holidays on my aunt and uncle's property in Rokewood Junction. My attachment to Ballarat resulted in me moving here in 1990 and I loved the ten years I spent living here and always hoped that I would be able to return – and now I can."

"Secondly, the prospect of being part of a community initiative to create a new Catholic school is enormously energizing. My many years of experience working in a wide range of Catholic schools, large and small, city and rural, will be very useful in ensuring that the school we build will be a school for the future, a school where we can promote excellence and nurture the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical growth of our children."

Jo continues to say that she is looking forward to meeting and working with the community at Lucas as they embark on their mission to provide a quality Catholic education to the children of this new suburb.

The master plan and subsequent building plans for the new school are tracking well. Y2 Architecture is working with the steering committee to refine the master plan and stage 1 concept plans. Further feedback and input will be sought from the community as more detail is provided as part of the capital funding submission. In accordance with the planned opening of the school in 2017 a modular building facility is proposed to be delivered in the latter part of 2016 as a staged approach to the development. Site works and servicing are programmed to commence prior to the arrival of the modular building to ensure there is a smooth transition for the opening.



Nick Grylewicz, Integra, Fr Justin Driscoll and Julie Duynhoven, CEO Ballarat looking at plans in the early days

There is a information evening on Tuesday, April 12 to update the community on progress. It also an opportunity to provide feedback on the developing facility master plan, school name, learning style as well as meeting Jo.

Enrolments are now open for 2017 and information can be found [here](#). Formal enrolment interviews are expected to be conducted early Term 2 with the first round of enrolment offers to made by May 9. If you have any queries, please contact Cass Klain- cklain@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au