

5 April, 2012

## Positive transformation highlight of first year

It's been one year this Easter since Gavin Rick walked through the heavy, welcoming green gates of St Rita's School in Babinda as its new principal.

In that time, much has changed, he says.

"Since coming to St Rita's, I have been suitably impressed with the school community – the dedicated staff, friendly children and supportive parents. The good old fashioned country hospitality and spirit shines at St Rita's.

"My focus has been to build on the strong traditions of the school which were laid by those who have been before me – particularly the Mercy Sisters as well as lay Principals and staff.

"Renewing the school by rebuilding a strong culture with the staff, parents and students has been very successful. We have a clearly articulated vision and direction for the future. We have set ourselves apart from other schools in the district with a strong values based curriculum and relationships framework. Respect, Learning, Community and Faith are what the community have said they want of St Rita's and now we are living it out. This positive transformation has been a highlight of my first 12 months as Principal of St Rita's, Babinda."

Catholic Education Services Assistant Executive Director for School Development, Paul Cazzulino, said Mr Rick's proactive approach to rejuvenating St Rita's at Babinda had been supported by CES with a new website for the school.

"It is testament to Catholic Education's ongoing commitment to St Rita's and the Babinda community," he said. A commitment, it seems, also appreciated by parents.

"As a parent I'm really impressed by the fact that there is a quality Catholic education available to my children in a small town such as Babinda," parent Kylie Luce said. "I see the values that a Catholic education offers my children and I'm really pleased to see them employ those values in their day to day life skills."

Visitors to the new website at [www.stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au](http://www.stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au) can view You Tube clips of other parents, staff and students sharing their views about the school.

