

St Marys Primary School Orange
Annual School Report to the Community
2014



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Principal

Mrs Kerrie Basha

Principal's Message

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Orange, is registered by the NSW Board of Studies and is part of a recognised system of schools managed by the Catholic Education Office, Bathurst.

The following pages constitute a report on the various aspects of school organisation, programmes, policies and student performances for the 2014 school year. It compliments and is supplementary to school Newsletters and other regular communications.

Your child is God's gift to you and depends on you for his/her formation in a way of life which will lead to an eternal destiny with God. Correct social behaviour and a growth in secular knowledge and skills are not enough.

Parents of St Mary's Catholic Primary School realise this and so have chosen to enrol their child in the Catholic school. Teachers will assist in what parents have commenced at home. They will give instruction and work co-operatively with parents.

In our task, we hope to complement the endeavours of parents as the prime educators of their children and always welcome parental involvement. We are most appreciative of the enormous foundation and support that the children of our school have from their homes.

Parish Priest's Message

One of the great traditions of Orange Catholic Schools is the commencement of the school year with a Mass for all those involved in the Orange Catholic Schools. It serves as a focusing of the task ahead - that all the many elements that constitute our educational endeavours are underpinned by the person of Jesus Christ, the mystery of God, and the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We reaffirm that reality for our school community at the opening school Mass.

The Masses and other liturgies that are celebrated during the year make explicit our recognition of our faith in Jesus Christ and our dependence on his grace and love. The values of compassion, courage and hope are witnessed to in many ways by all members of the school community. The challenge for all of us is to be consistent in living out of these values.

While we can learn a lot about God and how God has been particularly revealed by Jesus, the challenge is always to apply what we have learnt in our relationships at home, school, in the workplace, on the sporting field, in all those places we live and interact with one another.

Fr Garry McKeown

St Joseph's & St Mary's Parish, Orange

Parent Body Message

2014 was an extremely successful year for the St Mary's Catholic Primary School P&F.

The P&F is a very active, inclusive and supportive group of parents who work together to support the school ethos and all the students of the school.

The aim of 2014 was to install a Hearing Sound System into each classroom and this was achieved after the very successful St Mary's Catholic Primary School Art Show, Auction and Trivia Night.

A Walking School Bus programme was also an initiative of 2014. Details of which are available on the school website.

We are very much looking forward to another exciting year.

Student Body Message

SUPPORT OF CHARITIES: The students supported a variety of charities throughout the year including Caritas, The Missions, The Australian Cancer Council, St Vincent de Paul and Relay for Life.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: The students also participate in a Peer Support programme. The Year 6 students are 'trained' in peer support and how to effectively manage a small group of students of mixed age and ability. This provides a friendly link throughout the school and encourages the self-esteem and Catholic values of all. A 'Buddy' system is established early in the year between Yr6 and Kindergarten students. The 'buddies' get together throughout the year for art/craft, games, parades, reading and provide a support during Mass and other celebrations.

SECTION TWO: SCHOOL FEATURES

St Marys Primary School is a Catholic systemic Co-Educational School located in Orange.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is two-stream K-6 with an enrolment of 375 students. Thirty full time and part time staff members are employed at the school. The school was established on its present site on the corner of Park and Byng Streets in 1998, following the closure of the then existing school on Bathurst Road. The Sisters of mercy taught at the original site and have a strong affiliation with the school and parish. The school has modern facilities and is set on a large block of land which is also the site for St Mary's Church.

The school has been built in stages. All classrooms are fitted with Interactive Whiteboards, laptops, printers and Hearing Sound systems. The school is involved in a variety of community, parish and diocesan activities and events whilst providing a rich curriculum for the students.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is part of the Diocese of Bathurst Education System, under the direction of Executive Director of Schools, Mrs Jenny Allen, who is appointed by, and responsible to the Bishop of the Bathurst Diocese. Father Garry McKeon, Parish Priest, is the school manager and is consulted on a variety of issues relating to the school.

Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Kindergarten to Year 6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2014:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
181	192	14	373

* Language Background Other than English

Enrolment Policy

The school enrolment policy has been developed in the context of government, system and parish requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. Total fees are made up of the Diocesan school fee, the Diocesan Family Building Levy and local fees and charges.

Detailed information about enrolment at the school is available from the school administration office.

Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2014 was 94.81%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group	
Kindergarten	95.20%
Year 1	93.43%
Year 2	94.01%
Year 3	95.29%
Year 4	94.98%
Year 5	95.11%
Year 6	95.67%

Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community;
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance;
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance;
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance;
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented;
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern;
- the Executive Director of Catholic Schools or designated Catholic Education Office Bathurst officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom School strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

SECTION FOUR: STAFFING PROFILE

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2014:

Total Teaching Staff*	Total Non-Teaching Staff	Combined Total
23	10	33

* This number includes 13 full-time teachers and 10 part-time teachers.

Percentage of staff who are Indigenous	0%
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Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Education Office Sydney. The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking of its staff professional learning and individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.

The School held the equivalent of five staff developments days this year with areas of focus as follows:

Term 1	Child Protection/Code of Conduct
Term 2	N/A
Term 3	QCE Framework
Term 4	PLC Introduction

The staff at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are committed to continuously improving their learning/teaching strategies and actively engage in and seek a variety of professional learning activities. Staff are involved in many differing professional sessions outside the weekly staff, grade or stage meetings which also contain Professional Learning Activities. Emphasis during 2014 included but is by no means restricted to development in the areas of iPads/ICT across the curriculum, implementation of the new Australian Curriculum and PLC initiatives.

Teacher Standards

The following table sets out the number of teachers who fall into each of the three categories determined by the Board of Studies:

Teacher Qualifications		Number of Teachers
1	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	25
2	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0

SECTION FIVE: CATHOLIC LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. As a key ministry of parishes and the diocese, Catholic schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

The School follows the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student textbooks *To Know, Worship and Love*, as authorised by the Bishop of Bathurst.

Whilst the 'To Know, Worship and Love' programme is the basis of the school's Religious Education, there are a number of other aspects of practice and philosophy that give the school its Catholic identity and ethos. These areas include Pastoral Care, Liturgical Life, support of Charities and other activities such as Peer Support.

Pastoral Care refers to the climate of care which originates in the attitude of respect, acceptance, understanding, real interest and love which staff and members of the school community demonstrate to the students. This attitude is firmly based on the Gospel Values that are the base of the ethos of the school. Pastoral Care underpins all school policy and practice. It is the responsibility of everyone in the school.

Liturgical Life includes the celebration of Mass, liturgies and prayer. Liturgical seasons and special events, such as the school Feast Day, are celebrated throughout the year.

The school community supported a variety of charities throughout the year. This included Relay For Life, Caritas, The Australian Cancer Council and The Missions.

Other activities include our Peer Support programme. As active members of Peer Support Australia, our Yr6 students are 'trained' in peer support and how to effectively manage a small group of students of mixed ability and age. This provides a positive and friendly link throughout the school and encourages healthy self-esteem, tolerance and acceptance of all. Students also gather in Peer Support groups to celebrate Mass, to participate in arts/craft, games, parades, reading and other special occasions.

Our school motto states "Learning. Justice. Love." We strive to grow in the peace and love of Christ and bring it to others in all aspects of our daily living. We aim to provide a strong foundation for the development of values, skills and attitudes that will enable the students of our school to make a positive contribution to the society and community in which they live.

Students in Years 6 and 8 in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bathurst undertake the Diocesan Religious Education (RE) Test annually. The test consists of fifty multiple-choice questions. Results of the test are analysed by teachers and are used to inform teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Our School's average result (as a mark out of 50)	
Year 6	37.79

Further information about the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum and the RE Tests may be accessed at the [Religious Education and Evangelisation](#) site on the Catholic Education Office Sydney website.

SECTION SIX: CURRICULUM

The school provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the BOSTES syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. In addition, the school implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Education Office Bathurst. School effectiveness is monitored by the Quality Catholic Education self review process and through regular school reviews conducted by CEO personnel. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

Students at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are taught the Syllabus prescribed by BOSTES. There are six Key Learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. The students also receive instruction from 'To Know, Worship and Love' Religious Education Programme.

The school's Physical Education Programme is complemented by the 'Live Life Well' Programme and the Diocesan sporting structure in swimming, athletics, cross country, summer and winter sports. Many students have the opportunity to pursue pathways to Southern Region, Diocesan, NSW Polding and NSW PSSA levels.

The school also participated in AFL, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket and Netball Gala Days. The school competed strongly in all areas and were Regional winners of the Rugby League Peachey Shield and were ranked 5th in the All Catholic Schools Netball Competition.

A great number of staff and parents work together to assist the students train and prepare for various sporting events.

All Primary classes participate in Public Speaking at school level, with one child from each grade then representing the school in CWA Public Speaking Competition in Bathurst. During 2014, our students placed highly in the competition including being awarded 1st place. Our Yr6 students also participate in the Interschool Debating Competition in which we are defending champions.

Lunchtime Chess continues to be popular with our Primary students and our school Instrumental Music Programme is moving from strength to strength. Our Stage Band is still in early development but our String Ensemble performed admirably at the Orange Eisteddfod and was placed a respectable third.

The School Newspaper Editorial group worked hard throughout the year and through their lunchtime to create 4 Bulletins containing examples of student work, photographs, interviews and other relevant reporting to all students of the school.

Grades also entered the Orange Eisteddfod in either Verse Speaking, Prepared Mime, String Ensemble or School Dance Troupe. During 2014, all school entrants were highly placed within competitive sections.

Students from Yrs3-6 have the opportunity to participate in ICAS Mathematics, English, Science and Spelling competitions. These competitions are conducted throughout Australasia with over 500 000 students taking part. The following results were achieved:

ENGLISH: 1xHigh Distinction,8xDistinctions,30xCredits,15 Merits,190=participants

MATHEMATICS: 5xDistinctions,21xCredits 26xMerits,196=participants

SCIENCE: 1xHigh Distinction,1xDistinction,7xCredits,4xMerits,3xPrincipal's Awards,20=participants

SPELLING:4xDistinctions,,6xCredits,3xMerits,13=participants

COMPUTING SKILLS:7xCredits,2xMerits,11=participants

SECTION SEVEN: STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN STATE-WIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2014		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	71.00%	50.00%	4.00%	12.00%
	Reading	59.00%	46.00%	2.00%	13.00%
	Writing	59.00%	39.00%	0.00%	11.00%
	Spelling	41.00%	44.00%	10.00%	15.00%
	Numeracy	59.00%	36.00%	4.00%	14.00%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2014		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	64.00%	37.00%	9.00%	16.00%
	Reading	59.00%	34.00%	11.00%	16.00%
	Writing	21.00%	16.00%	6.00%	21.00%
	Spelling	55.00%	33.00%	4.00%	16.00%
	Numeracy	42.00%	26.00%	13.00%	18.00%

Student Welfare Policy

The school community is a caring body of people that follow the ideals of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Pastoral Care is therefore an integral part of the school's life and a major influence on school policy. At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, the aim is to provide a pastorally caring environment where each child is treated as an individual whose personal well-being is of the utmost importance.

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

Discipline Policy

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this School. The School does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by School persons and non-School persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the School.

Discipline Policy

The major orientation of the St Mary's Catholic primary School Discipline Policy is the fostering of self-discipline. School rules are guidelines to promote the Christian development of the whole community. Similarly, punishment must not be viewed as the consequence to failure but rather a process challenging them towards transformation and personal growth.

Affirmation and acknowledgement of positive characteristics displayed by students are essential elements of school discipline.

A whole school approach to Anti-bullying and Resilience education is undertaken each year. Information is also included in the newsletter so that parents can assist by reinforcing the message we are delivering at school. Throughout 2014, the programme had a positive influence and we look forward to continuing the programme.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The Diocese of Bathurst has established a *Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy* which is used to guide the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) monitors the implementation of this policy as part of school compliance requirements. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the *Anti-Bullying Policy* may be accessed at the administration office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The Diocese of Bathurst has established *Guidelines for the Management of Complaints* which is implemented by our school through the Complaints Policy. The rationale for the policy is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur, and that these need to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) monitors the implementation of this policy. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the *Complaints Policy* may be accessed on the School's website, or the administration office.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

In addition to what is taught and demonstrated in the classrooms, the school maintains a very strong Peer Support Programme. This programme involves all children in the school from Kindergarten to Yr6.

Staff and students also proudly participate in the local ANZAC Day March and are fully involved in regular Flag raising ceremonies where respect to our Aboriginal heritage and the singing of the national Anthem take place. Children are recognised at school assemblies and within the classroom and newsletter with a variety of awards that promote respect, Christian Leadership, fair play and responsibility.

Students are also recognised during our annual School presentation Day for their academic success, Christian leadership, improved efforts and sporting representation.

SECTION NINE: QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The School implements the Catholic Education Office Bathurst Quality Catholic Education Framework which outlines the processes and benchmarks for creating the culture and practice of continuous improvement with students as the focus.

Each year, the School develops an Annual Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. The plan is drawn from the School's Strategic Improvement Plan. The School engages in an annual evidence-based evaluation of its effectiveness against standards in collaboration with the School Consultant.

Key Improvements Achieved in 2014

With assistance from other areas, we continue to work towards developing and improving our play areas.

A major playground improvement during 2014, was the first stage of the Infants Dry Creek River bed. This is a large naturally shaded area where the children play. They are able to use the area for stepping stones, construction and other imaginative play. Within this area is an outdoor stage which includes a disabled access ramp. The stage has been the centre of outdoor classes and also many great lunchtime performances by some of our more dramatic students!

Our vegetable garden has continued to take form. During 2014, we hatched our first 'Book Chooks'. A most welcome addition to our school library that soon began to grow so quickly that alternative accommodation was necessary. With assistance from other areas, we were able to construct a large and very secure 'Chook House' which includes an automatic watering system. We look forward to many more eggs and chooks to come.

A class set of ipads, a portable trolley and hearing systems in all classrooms have also been welcomed improvements to our school during 2014.

Priority Key Improvements for 2015

Selected staff have been trained in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden programme. We are very much looking forward to the implementation of this programme in the 2015 and beyond.

The school Instrumental Music programme is continuing to grow. Interest is such that we will be commencing a second acoustic guitar group and further strengthening our musical relationship with JSCHS and the Orange Conservatorium.

As a staff we will continue to focus on the strong implementation of the new curriculum and gather rich resources to assist our delivery and explicit teachings in these areas.

The playground will continue to be a focus. New outdoor seating, development of a quiet outdoor prayer space, more access to play equipment and the development of imaginative play areas will all be priority key improvements for 2015 and beyond.

2015 will see the implementation of formalised PLC's amongst our staff. We are very excited about the prospects of this and the positive outcome this will have for our student learning. During 2015, we will be focusing on student writing, incorporating complex sentences and rich vocabulary development for all students.

SECTION TEN: PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

Parent Satisfaction

During the year a sample group of parents were asked to complete a survey indicating their satisfaction in relation to aspects at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Comments and responses were taken in regards to four key elements. Results were as follows:

1. We are satisfied with the CATHOLIC ETHOS of the school.

Strongly Agree=70% Agree=30% Disagree=0% Strongly Disagree=0%

2. We are satisfied with the CURRICULUM of the school.

Strongly Agree=64% Agree=36% Disagree=0% Strongly Disagree=0%

3. We are satisfied with the ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT of the school.

Strongly Agree=59% Agree=37% Disagree=2% Strongly Disagree=0%

4. We are satisfied with the RESOURCES AND FACILITIES of the school.

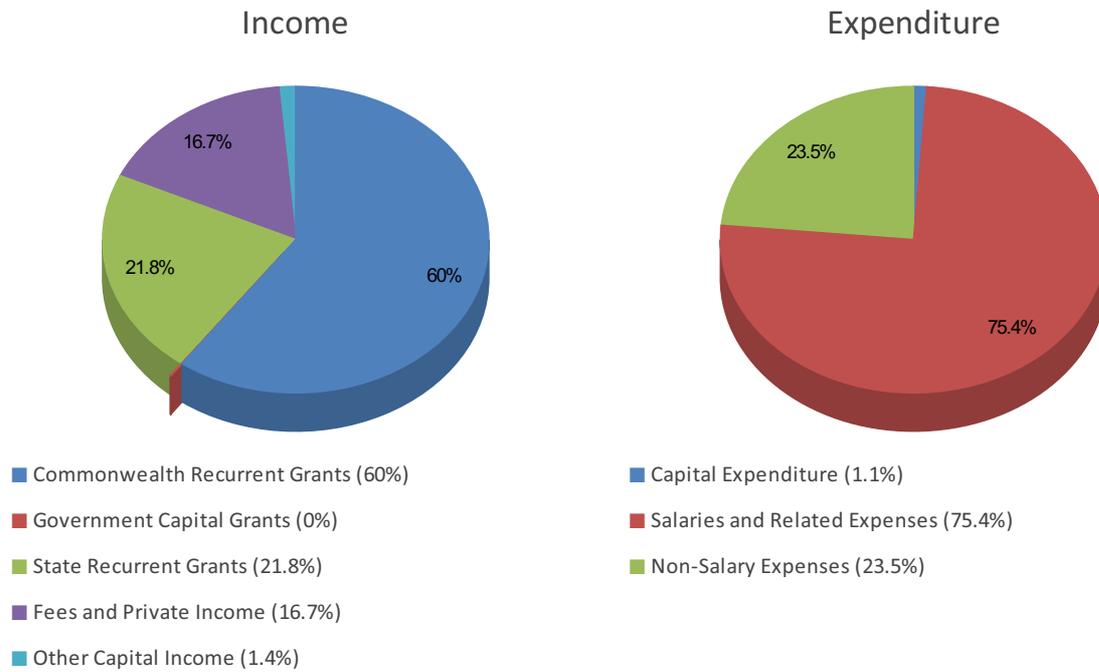
Strongly Agree=66% Agree=32% Disagree=0% Strongly Disagree=2%

Student Satisfaction

The students have expressed that they are happy here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. For those leaving the school this year, they have agreed that it has been a rewarding seven years of Catholic primary education. They are able to point out many highlights of their time here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Students in Kindergarten have benefited socially, academically and spiritually during their first year of schooling. As a school we are an extension of their family and they feel welcome, safe and cared for. This information is evidenced by feedback from parents, staff and students themselves.

Teacher Satisfaction

Staff will be participating in a School Review in 2015 where they will have the opportunity to participate in a teacher satisfaction survey that will reflect on the past 4 years at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. This will also help drive the Annual School Improvement Plan and other strategic planning areas.



This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

Notes

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants include recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita and special purpose grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes capital funded through the central Capital Fund.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Plant, Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure include all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.