

2022, Golden Jubilee, Sr Maree Riddler rsj



Quoting Sr Maree: “My first Kimberley appointment was to St Joseph’s Kununurra in 1979 and I was so happy as this was my dream to join the sisters in the East Kimberley. I joined the Josephite community of Sisters Veronica and Joan. Two inspiring mentors for me in my early years of teaching. I was the Junior Primary teacher and I loved teaching the little ones and getting to know their siblings and parents”.

Sr Maree visiting Peggy Patrick (dec) and family after school in Wyndham, 1981. (Historic photo, unknown photographer).

“In 1981 I was appointed to Joseph’s Wyndham as Principal/teacher and responded to any need that arose. Early mornings I would drive the school bus out to the 9 mile village and around the town. The children would be waiting” to jump” on the bus and get to school to see their friends and play basketball before school. I remember the Broome Camp School next to Cable Beach and the children ecstatically running into the clear blue ocean”.



Sr Maree with Vanessa Thomas, a friend from Warmun, celebrating St Joseph’s Jubilee, Wyndham 2004. Photo by Br Berkeley



St Joseph’s Wyndham 2004: with Philomena Hunter a past pupil of Sister Maree’s, celebrating St Joseph’s 40 years. Photo by Br Berkeley

“From Wyndham I moved south to Warmun Community another wonderful experience. Teacher then Principal. The style of teaching at Ngalangangpum School was unique - Two Way Learning.

The community were so involved with the school and each day early in the morning the children would be taught by the elders their own language. This was a wonderful experience for me and the teachers to get to understand the local culture and join in with the people”.

During 1999, Term 1 and part of Term 2 Sr Maree had time to return to the Kimberley to prepare the Pictorial History of St Joseph’s Wyndham by identifying and dating hundreds of photos. As she said, it was “A job I loved being involved in. The beautiful photo collages certainly helped when they celebrated their Fortieth Jubilee in 2004 and their Golden Anniversary 2014”.

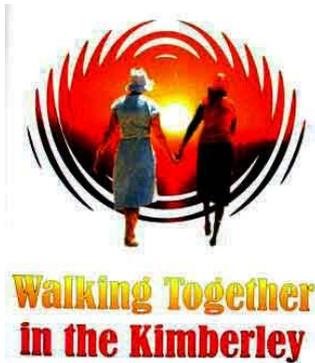
2022, Golden Jubilee, Sr Maree Riddler rsj



“The Lord has been truly good to me. It was my dream to teach and to walk with the people of the Kimberley. It has been a life changing experience for which I am eternally grateful”.

A favourite quote of Mary MacKillop:
“Gratitude is the memory of the heart”

Sr Maura O'Connell and Sr Maree Riddler enjoying celebrating St Joseph's Wyndham 40th Jubilee celebration. Photo Br Berkeley.



We congratulate Sr Maree as she celebrates a Golden 50 years as a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, a Josephite. And we thank her for her generous service to the people of the Kimberley for eleven of those years as well as returning to the Kimberley to assist the schools and catchup with those she ministered to in earlier years.

Cover of a book celebrating the Josephite Sisters' Ministry in the Kimberley. Photo Br Berkeley



Sr Margaret Cleary, Sr Anne Mills, Sr Maree Riddler, Sr Joan Goodwin, Sr Nellie Versluys, Sr Pat Malone, Sr Margaret Lambert, Sr Denise Casey. Photo taken during 25th celebrations at Ngalangangpum School, Warmun in 2004. Photo by Br Berkeley