Starting kindy a family affair for Matilda

New kindy student, Matilda Paul, and her classmates have an extra reason to be excited about their first day at kindergarten this year as they are the foundation students for Mackay’s newest kindergarten.

St Brendan’s Catholic Kindergarten, Bucasia, will open its doors on Wednesday with a full cohort of 44 students making up two groups attending a five-day fortnightly program. Matilda is very familiar with her surrounds as dad, David, is Principal of the adjoining school, St Brendan’s Catholic Primary School which opened last year.

Matilda’s mum, Val Paul, also has a new Kindy related role in 2016, as the newly appointed Kindergarten Parent Representative with the Parents and Friends Federation, a state-wide advocacy group representing families in Catholic Education.

The Pauls are one of many families in the Northern Beaches region reaping the benefits of increased education options in the area.

Catholic Education Diocesan Co-ordinator Early Learning and Care, Kathryn Byrne, said the new facility had generated enormous interest and was very well-supported by the local community.

“There was strong demand from families for kindy places right from the early planning stages and it is very satisfying for Catholic Education to be able to support children and families, particularly working parents, with options that suit them,” Mrs Byrne said.

Mrs Byrne said Catholic Education was particularly appreciative of the support received from the Department of Education and Training and Employment (DETE) in establishing the new kindergarten.

“DETE has been a strong supporter and valued partner in bringing to fruition this new facility for families in the Northern Beaches region. The practical support offered and many hours of planning and coordination were integral to establishing the kindy,” she said.

Mrs Byrne said it was an exciting time for Bucasia and Catholic Education was pleased to be a part of such a vibrant and friendly community.

Mrs Byrne said parents seeking further information should visit the Catholic Education website at http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au/catholic-schools/kindergarten-pre-pre.