

2016 SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

#CEW2016 #SOCEAWARDS



Aaron Horner – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: David McNeale

Aaron Horner is a rare breed of Groundsman. He takes exceptional pride in every detail of his work and works tirelessly to ensure that the College is always in picture perfect condition for students, staff, parents and the wider community. The large volume of comments received about the grounds and environment is true testament to his work ethic, skill, knowledge and organisation.

Aaron continuously goes above and beyond what may be expected of him in his role, always looking for new ways, methods and techniques to improve the outcomes he wants. He actively seeks out people and activities that may be able to assist in this quest thereby updating his own knowledge and skills. He willingly shares this information with his colleagues near and far. He leads his team well and certainly by example.

As a former student of the school and having worked at the College for 16 years, Aaron takes exceptional pride in his work and will go out of his way in order to provide the best possible facility.

Alan Millican – St Anthony’s Catholic College, Deeragun

Nominated by: Julie Sullivan

Our school motto is “Let your light shine” and Alan Millican is a true example of a person who strives to achieve this on every level, every day, with students, staff, parents and volunteers alike. Alan does not always expect top results but in not expecting the best, the best results are achieved. His enthusiasm towards the smallest achievements by a student or group to an outstanding achievement by a student or group are all measured the same to Alan.

When students are asked what they like about Mr Millican their responses are that he treats everyone equally, is fun, passionate, considerate, supportive and willing to help, listen and teach each student. When the children are asked what they will miss about the primary school as they move to our secondary school the answer quite often is “Mr Millican”.

Alan has a “you can do it” attitude and encourages all his students to never give up. These life giving skills are absorbed by all the children he coaches and teaches, regardless of their skill level or interest in sport. His spirit shines and we are privileged to have Alan as a member of our school community.

Anne-Marie Hammond, St Patrick’s College, Townsville

Nominated by: Paulina Skerman

As Director of Faith and Identity, Anne-Marie Hammond is tasked with fostering a community mindedness culture in the college. Anne-Marie has implemented a number of initiatives which have exemplified the spirit of Catholic education by engaging in life-giving relationships with students, the parish, Mercy ministries and the wider Catholic community. Anne-Marie launched the ‘Mercy Girls in Action’ program, drawing together the mercy charism of the school and the call for community service. As part of developing an *international* community focus, Anne-Marie has facilitated the opportunity for students to be involved in the World Challenge – a three week student-organised program that involves a community service project in a developing country.

Aside from her role on the Parish Council, Anne-Marie has worked to encourage students to become involved in parish life through youth masses, the sacramental program and helping out with church cleaning and hospitality. The girls have responded enthusiastically with a significant increase in engagement in the life of the parish. The College will host a Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp for children with special needs in 2016. Anne-Marie is leading the project, working with Ignatius Park College, the Townsville Community Learning Centre and other organisations to coordinate the event.

Anne-Marie is engaged in nurturing exceptionally life-giving relationships that result in positive initiatives for the St Patrick’s College community.

Bernadette Witham – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: Paula Duffy

Bernadette Witham has played a significant role in leading and facilitating change and improvement in learning and teaching at Ryan Catholic College since 2006. She has been pivotal in the roll out of the Australian Curriculum across the College from Prep to Year 12. It was a challenging time in many respects as staff were confronted with the need to change their pedagogy and approach teaching

differently. Bernadette's knowledge and understanding of all things curriculum is absolutely amazing. She sees projects or challenges through to completion with great dedication and commitment. She is very much a visionary leader.

These skills, as well as Bernadette's passion and interest in learning and teaching, make her a fountain of knowledge and a wonderful resource for staff to utilise. Bernadette often has the big picture and end result in mind and works to bring about necessary change by empowering staff to experiment, engage and excel. She supports the staff by investing in worthwhile resources and professional development. She epitomises what it is to be a teacher in a Catholic school and is a great ambassador for Catholic Education.

Cathy Lane – St Catherine's Catholic College, The Whitsundays

Nominated by: Dianne Stevens

Cathy has a long standing history with both Saint Catherine's Catholic College and our local parish community, firstly as a student, and for the last 14 years, as a dedicated professional and dependable member of our College. As a teacher of students with disabilities, Cathy is highly regarded in her ability to work closely with families of children with high needs to ensure they feel heard, valued and then advocated for. Cathy's aim is that no child falls through the cracks in our college, and she works tirelessly to ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach this/her maximum learning potential. Cathy also ensures that children's social and emotional needs are met, she has started social groups to address the needs of our students. Cathy is not one to admit defeat, and has an amazing amount of persistence, patience and positivity in working to ensure that no need is left unmet. Cathy goes above and beyond what is expected of her position at the College, putting in many extra hours of work to ensure students, parents and staff members are supported and that their diverse needs are recognised and met. Cathy is a much admired member of our St. Catherine's Catholic College community.

Cherrie Pierce – Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook

Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton

Cherrie Pierce works as a school officer in Year One and brings enthusiasm and dedication to this position.

In 2010, when Cherrie's eldest child commenced at Holy Spirit Catholic School, she immediately became involved in the life of the school. For a number of year, Cherrie held the position of Class and Community Contact assisting the teacher with various task and activities. As a volunteer, Cherrie participates in many areas of school life, especially those involving hard work! Cherrie has assisted with classroom activities, Sports Carnivals and each year she worked tirelessly to set up for the school fete. Cherrie is generous with her time and talent, her commitment to fundraising is praiseworthy! Cherrie is the quite achiever who can be relied upon to get the job done. She willingly takes on any role to support students and staff members. Cherrie's contribution to the life of our school community makes her a most worthy recipient of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

Christine Fletcher – Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale

Nominated by: Martin Cordery

Christine Fletcher has been a teacher aide at Southern Cross Catholic College since the school started in 1998. Christine is one of those people who never sees a need that she doesn't respond to; she is either working to help students in our classes who need support or has found another task that needs to be done and adds it in to her busy schedule.

This willingness to help makes Christine an invaluable member of our community. As an example, Christine recently decided to come in on weekends and stay back after work making costumes for our musical Mulan. In fact, when she was booked to go on a cruise on Monday morning, she spent the weekend at school to help out because she was going to be away for the next week. She works out how to get along with all students and pushes them to produce their best effort while still always working in an encouraging manner. She models the values of kindness, love and patience in her interactions with others. She cares for others generously and understands their needs, she gives her time and effort endlessly, and her dedication enables others to shine.

Donalee O'Brien – Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale

Nominated by: Karyn Heitmann

Dedication to excellence is just the tip of the iceberg when talking about Donalee and her commitment to teaching. She is a teacher with many years' experience across the primary grades, and has raised a family of her own, providing her with a wealth of knowledge and experience to draw upon in the classroom. There is no "one size fits all" learning in classroom 3C. By assessing and observing Donalee has identified the needs and strengths of each individual student to find the most successful path to learning success on a personalised level, while still meeting required curriculum standards. Donalee takes the time to learn the interests, passions and strengths of her students, then creatively works learning outcomes in to these making learning fun for the student; more importantly it gives every student their own sense of success.

Donalee is a bright, enthusiastic and cheerful member of the Southern Cross Catholic College teaching team, freely giving of her time to her peers and for a variety of sub-committees and student clubs that further enrich the student's experience of school. Dedicated and hardworking, Donalee expects and inspires those around her to meet their full potential every single day. We feel that Donalee clearly demonstrates excellence in her work, and has done for many years.

Dorothy Watson – St Michael's Catholic School, Palm Island

Nominated by: Ross Horner

As a proud Bwgcolman woman, Dorothy (Doris) Watson is an iconic Catholic figure throughout the Palm Island Community. Doris' first love is the Palm Island community – currently she is employed as Senior Community Relations Officer. She has formed invaluable relationships with parents and families and played a critical role in supporting primary school students transition to our Catholic boarding schools.

In addition to her role at the school, Doris plays an important role in the sacramental program at the school, in particular reconciliation and confirmation rights of passage. She is supportive of the Indigenous spirituality retreat program. She was an inaugural member of the St Michael's School Board (which she continues to serve on today).

Doris is a very giving person who works in a non-judgemental way to provide opportunities for all students at St Michael's and the wider Palm community. She is an exceptionally resilient professional who daily models 'reconciliation in action.' Doris has been a mentor and role model for graduate teachers – providing them advice and escorting them to home visits – a critical role in the formation of teacher / parent relationships. Doris embraces her cultural heritage and is an inspiration to many.

Fiona Glendenning – Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale

Nominated by: Karyn Heitmann

Fiona Glendenning is Southern Cross Catholic College's Indigenous School Officer. Working one on one with dozens of students, it is immediately evident that the students love, respect and trust Fiona. This respect and trust translates to measurable and clear improvement in academic and social outcomes for the students she is dedicated to support. Her support extends far beyond academic support; Fiona has a wonderful professional relationship with Indigenous families of current students, local elders and extended support and scholarship providers for Indigenous youth. With her finger on the pulse, she is able to guide students through everything from scholarship application, program interviews, vocational expos and finding information about their individual tribal cultures and connection to country.

She is a valued resource for teaching staff in incorporating Indigenous culture and education into every day practice. In partnership with the Indigenous Education team, she works tirelessly to plan, co-ordinate and conduct various cultural celebrations throughout the year celebrating Australia's rich Indigenous history.

Fiona has been instrumental in our College being the diverse, tolerant and respectful place that it is. Fiona is a prolific volunteer, a valued friend and mentor to her colleagues, and a genuinely beautiful person.

Gary Clark – Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr

Nominated by: Greg Cameron

Gary is the Head Maintenance/Grounds Officer at Burdekin Catholic High school. He has worked at the school for 20 years and is embedded in its culture. During lunchtimes, he moves around the students while emptying bins and is received wonderfully positively by them all. After taking groups away on retreats or excursions, students always remember to thank him especially. He is willing to assist any staff with transport, maintenance arrangements and equipment for events, as is his position description. The positive and proactive way he does this makes Gary a wonderful asset to our school.

He continually is available to transport Parish groups to events after hours and on weekends. He travels away on school events overnight and asks nothing in return. He has an RDO every second Friday. It is a very rare occasion if he was to take it, rather choosing to pop in and finish something off or fill in for someone else "who needs time off more than me" (in his words).

As Gary to do something and something and it will be done quickly and thoroughly. He is an excellent communicator and gives so much for our school.

Ignatius Veukiso – St Clare’s Catholic School, Burdell

Nominated by: Mary Mudge, Kath Tarttelin

Ignatius, known to all as Iggy, espouses and truly lives out Christian values in a most spirit filled manner every day. Iggy is a school officer and an educator at St Clare’s Out of Hours School Care. He works effectively with students with behavioural difficulties and students with special needs. His patience and calm manner enables him to help children identify and use their strengths and gifts. Iggy is persistently supportive of children who display challenging behaviour.

Iggy gives up much of his own time to assist with coaching football and attend competition games. He encourages players to develop good personal skills as well as working together as a team. His talents as a singer and a guitarist, especially in liturgy, motivate the children to participate more meaningfully. Iggy is very open about his deep Catholic faith and is involved in the outreach activities of the school, both as participant and a volunteer. The students, and especially the boys view him as a role model. St Clare’s is privileged to have Iggy as a staff member and his efforts and involvement significantly contributes to marking St Clare’s the wonderful place that it is.

John Rea – St Margaret Mary’s College, Hyde Park

Nominated by: Kathy Park

In a career spanning four decades, Mr Rea’s dedicated commitment has been to his students, their parents and the staff of the schools where he served. His calm sensitivity endears him to all and he has a special knack for putting people at ease, even in the most stressful of situations. He has enjoyed a long and fruitful association with the Sisters of Mercy. His achievements are many, but the most important thing to John has always been establishing genuine and life-giving relationships with the staff, students and the parents. St Margaret Mary’s College has benefitted greatly from his extensive experience and knowledge of curriculum development, senior studies, school organisation and master planning. In his humble, un-assuming way John has contributed much to the development of facilities and the capital building works that have dominated the past decade at the College. Once again it is his ability to work with people – architects, builders, contractors and staff – that allows for such successful outcomes.

Julie Neiberding – Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook

Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton

Julie began her active involvement in the life of Holy Spirit Catholic School in 2010 when her first child commenced school. Julie can always be relied upon to assist in a wide range of school activities. She not only takes on the role of Class and Community Contact for one class but readily and competently doubles her workload by simultaneously taking on the role for two classes!

Julie is active in many areas of school life, and does not shy away from hard work. Julie even enlist the support of family members for events such as the Holy Spirit Fete and 10,000 Steps. Each fete day when a truck load of plants arrive, you know Julie has been at work.

Julie is a ‘quiet achiever’ her actions speak louder than words. Holy Spirit Catholic School is all the richer for the generous commitment and support of Julie.

Kath Tarttelin – St Clare’s Catholic School, Burdell

Nominated by: Adam McCoy and Mary Mudge

Kath Tarttelin is a passionate school leader who personally exemplifies in her daily practice, the core values and traditions of Catholic education. Kath is the founding principal of St Clare’s Catholic School, managing its growth from 175 children in 2011 to its current population of 649 students. While remaining fully faithful to the school’s catholic identity, Kath has welcomed families and students of all faith traditions. As principal, she has taken singular responsibility for securing and developing resources necessary to sustain the mission and development of the school and firmly ensuring its successful future.

Kath has a profound knowledge of teaching and learning and consistently promotes best practice by all staff. She experiments with new learnings, enthusing others to participate collaboratively. She is an outstanding mentor for new principals.

Kath knows and loves the students at the school. Her enthusiasm in providing the most memorable school experience for them inspires quality and state of the art education experiences. Community members, witnessing Kath encouraging and cheering on the efforts of the children, are motivated too. Knowing that the school is successful if it works in conjunction with parents. Kath is always willing to support endeavours with and for parents, so their passion and sense of purpose is one with the school.

Kristy Bates – Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook

Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton

Kristy Bates is a Year One teacher at Holy Spirit Catholic School. Kristy has a passion for literacy and currently has the added responsibility of developing curriculum in the early years. She has a wonderful work ethic, and works tirelessly for the school as a staff member and a parent. Kristy’s response to additional responsibility is always ‘Yes, I can do that’.

Kristy holds the role of P&F Secretary, ensuring agendas and minutes are prepared for meetings. She is active on this committee and has initiated and organised fundraising activities.

Kristy is active in the Holy Spirit parish dedicating many Sunday mornings to assist with the Sacramental program. Kristy is resourceful and preserving, she is ever ready to assist colleagues and strives to provide quality education for her students. Holy Spirit Catholic School is enriched with the energy, generosity and enthusiasm modelled by Kristy Bates.

Lyn Horner – St Mary MacKillop Parish

Nominated by: Taya Bortignon

Throughout her 30 years of service to the Mary MacKillop Parish community, schools and early learning centres, Lyn Horner has engaged in exceptionally life giving relationships and continues to be a beacon of joy and love to all she comes in contact with.

In her role as Parish Pastoral Leader for the last 18 years, Lyn has created an incredibly welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. She has been a wonderful mentor and is always willing to share her wisdom. Lyn endeavours to foster continuing relationships between the Parish and families through her coordination of the Sacramental program. Aside from coordinating the various programs and day to day business of the Parish, she is heavily involved in a number of Parish committees.

Lyn has a passion for sharing the love of God with children of all ages. Her exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, parents and staff have most definitely attributed to the beautiful prayer-life of the school and promoted a Christ centered environment. Lyn's passion for the Catholic Faith and the education of our young people is evident through her tireless, unending devotion to creating and nourishing exceptionally life-giving relationships with everyone she meets.

Marcella White – Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook

Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton

Marcella brings a great work ethic to Holy Spirit Catholic School community but more importantly she brings a warm, caring manner which engenders learning in students. While Marcella readily adapts to a variety of work situations her strength is working with students in the early years. In her role as school officer, Marcella goes above and beyond contributing to the classroom and school community.

Encouragement and patience are evident in Marcella's daily interactions with students, parents and staff members. Marcella has proven to be highly skilled in her field. She is both conscientious and dedicated and a great example to others of what it means to have a vocation. Marcella is a quiet achiever who gives life to the Holy Spirit Catholic School community through her positive interactions with all she meets. She is a worthy recipient of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

Margaret Nugent – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: Paula Duffy

Margaret has engaged in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues and families during her very long association with Ryan Catholic College. It began when her two daughters were students at the College. Margaret volunteered as a parent helper and this led to her being offered a teacher aide position in 1991. During Margaret's Ryan journey she has worked with a variety of staff, numerous students and many families. She takes a keen interest in the students on the Junior Campus even after they move onto the next year level. She is an extremely generous and giving person. Margaret prepares for Christmas all year round and is always looking for the ideal gift for staff members. Whenever Margaret travels, she constantly think of her work colleagues because she often returns from her holidays with a little souvenir for staff. Gifts appear in your pigeon hole or on your desk. These little gestures are much appreciated by the staff.

Margaret enjoys organising social gatherings for the school officers and attending staff functions. Ryan Catholic College has been a large part of Margaret's life and in turn, she has played a large part in the College community. This year she celebrates 25 years of service to the College.

Nadina Laguna – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: Bernadette Witham

Schools function on positive energy. When people walk through the door each morning they bring with them all the trials and tribulations of their everyday lives. But the moment they meet Nadina all of that seems to disappear and they are left with energy, passion and a positive outlook that sustains them for the rest of the day. The good in Nadina seems to help others discover the good in themselves. She is a wonderful asset to have in a school. Nadina is a kind, caring and compassionate person who goes out of her way to help others. She understands the demands of teachers and works well with their deadlines. Nadina also has a great perception of knowing when others need some assistance and will happily lend a hand.

She has boundless energy and a wonderful sense of humour. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Nadina. If you are on the road to Emmaus and you should bump into Nadina you instantly see the face of Jesus and you leave that encounter filled with a spirit to be the face of Jesus to others.

Nikki Blackwell – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: Erin Stafford

Nikki has engaged in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues and other members of the Ryan Catholic College community through more than 10 years of working as Defence Transition Aide and as a School Officer working with students with disabilities. Nikki understands that a great working relationship with a student is the most important foundation to being able to work effectively with students. If these two exceptionally life giving roles were not enough, Nikki has also engaged with the P & F and has become the driving force behind the organisation of the Ryan Spring Fair for a number of years – this is no small feat!

Further, she undertakes a number of roles including volunteers her time to assist with library camp, social club, Mothers' Day stall, lunch time activities, selling Project Compassion cold cups, selling ANZAC day badges, and running the BBQ for the parent teacher nights. Nikki truly embodies the gospel values of respect for the life and dignity of each individual, service, justice, peace, compassion, forgiveness and community in everything she does, each and every day.

Patricia Dobbins – Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr

Nominated by: Greg Cameron

Trish is a school officer who is in charge of the resource centre at our school. In this position she is always willing to assist students and staff without hesitation in any matter. When a job needs to be completed at short notice, Trish is the person to turn to. From taking photos, to running the IT for assembly, to helping a student with organisation, organising the library for a meeting, assisting with sports days, compiling data, looking at processes for borrowing laptops, she always approaches tasks with a positive attitude. More recently, Trish has suffered serious health concerns. Throughout this period she has remained a highly effective and professional member of staff. She is a confidante to

many and a mentor to others. There are very few people who know the school, its students, its staff and its history better than Trish.

Sonia Wintour, Sue Deon, Tamara Medill – Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale

Nominated by: Julie Wallace

Compassion, empowerment and community spirit are the driving force behind 'Project Club', designed and delivered by teachers, Sonia Wintour, Sue Deon and School Officer Administration, Tamara Medill.

This tailored support program arose from a wish within the school community to help families in need or crisis, and empowers school students to support their fellow classmates. Project Club has supported many families over its four-year history. Children in Years 4/5/6 and secondary can join Project Club to organise simple events with money raised cleverly assigned to bring the most support.

They have provided reuniting flights to the child left behind while their sibling undergoes treatment in Brisbane, baskets of goodies to entertain a sick child, meals for families who are struggling, pushbikes for students who need transport, assistance to clean the house of families of students who are away receiving treatment and care packs for staff members experiencing grief.

While never seeking recognition for what they do - the school community would be at a loss without the time, effort and enthusiasm these ladies so freely give through Project Club.

Rachel Gadd – St Anthony's Catholic College, Deeragun

Nominated by: Barry Horner

Rachel Gadd is a school officer at our College, who actively seeks ways she can make the lives of members of our community better on a day to day basis.

Rachel's role at the College is assisting in literacy and with our special needs students. She does this with care and concern ensuring all of our students feel valued and included. Rachel is part of our Positive Behaviour Program by volunteering to be a "Check in- Check out person for student who are struggling. Rachel is heavily involved with our Social Club where she is on the lookout to involve all in our activities.

This year Rachel has been involved in our Sacramental Program assisting our Sacramental team. Rachel is a heavy lifter when it comes to our Parents and Friends association especially in the major fundraiser the Winter Carnival. Rachel's motivational and organisational skills are exemplary. In summary Rachel is a staff member who goes beyond the call of duty daily and a parent who immerses herself into her children's school. She does this always with a smile and we truly blessed to have her in our community.

Rita Martin – Gilroy Santa Maria College, Ingham

Nominated By: Peter Groundwater

Rita has been a long time member of our school community and has been involved in our Pastoral Care team for a number of years. In this time she has displayed a level of care and concern that is consistently over and above what is required for this position. In recent years, Rita has taken time off from a designated Pastoral role, yet she has still maintained a strong presence in caring for members of our school and of the wider community.

Rita organised herself and students to attend the Missionaries of the Poor Tour to Indonesia where she worked with the extreme disadvantaged of this Region for two weeks of her holiday break. Rita continually works with our Year 11's and 8's with the Peer Support Program as well as being the coordinator of the Young Vinnies Association who actively assist the St Vincent de Paul's society in their work with the disadvantaged.

Rita also coordinates this group to pay monthly visits to the three Aged Care facilities in Ingham. Rita has also organised Vinnie's Sleepouts in an effort to raise awareness of homeless persons in our community. Rita is a worthy nominee for this award and she is an extremely worthwhile individual with an outstanding record of extending Mercy within our community.

Sally-Ann Gray - St Patrick's College, Townsville

Nominated by: Paulina Skerman

Sally-Ann Gray joined the St Patrick's College leadership team as Director of Boarding in 2015. With a background in psychology, Sally-Ann implemented a review and a plan to facilitate internal cultural change and improvement in the boarding house.

Sally-Ann implemented programs that attest to her commitment to leading and facilitating for change and improvement.

Her first approach was to implement and foster a Positive Psychology culture based on rewards and privileges. Sally-Ann built on this by encouraging the girls to be self-accountable through a number of activities that have taught them to work together and to be responsible for their schedules.

The overall boarding experience has been enhanced through the introduction of a number of changes.

Through these changes, the culture of the boarding community has dramatically improved. The girls have responded happily to the positive psychology approach which has developed their sense of self-responsibility, their self-esteem and has fostered cultural appreciation. Sally-Ann has dedicated the past year to creating a positive culture for the girls and she has transformed boarding into a happy, positive home where the girls feel affirmed and encouraged.

Teresa Murphy – Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

Nominated by: Paula Duffy

Teresa has engaged in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues and families during her long association with Ryan Catholic College. She is a very highly regarded classroom teacher who always creates a very welcoming, supportive and organised environment for the students in her care.

Recently Teresa had a change to teaching in Learning Enrichment. Teresa always ensures students' needs are catered for as much as possible. She has a positive rapport with staff and makes time to speak to them about students who have a disability or need extra support or extension with their learning. Teresa will often sit in on parent interviews and meetings as a way of supporting teachers.

Teresa has a special connection and 'soft spot' for students with a disability. A recent initiative of Teresa's was the introduction of a specially designed report card for students with a disability. This

initiative was well received by parents with one parent saying she felt she had a good understanding of what her son had done during the semester.

Teresa is most deserving of this award. Ryan Catholic College has been a large part of her life and in turn, she has played a large part in the College community.

Trish Petrie – Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook

Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton

Trish Petrie brings good humour and cheer to all work situations. Her presence and witty repartee brighten the day of students and staff members alike. Trish is a valuable member of the Holy Spirit Catholic School community and she is both responsible and hard working. In her role as school officer, she is versatile in her ability to work with students from Prep to Year 6. She has a positive attitude and willingly takes on any given task.

Trish is a person of initiative and she assists with the smooth running of the classroom and implements her ideas to assist student learning. Trish is a living example of a person filled with the “Fruits of the Spirit”, in particular joy and generosity. A conversation with Trish regularly results in laughter, lifting the mood of others. She has the ability to see the bright side of life and shares this with her peers. The Holy Spirit School Community is enriched by Trish Petrie, a worthy recipient of this award.

Trish Scholes – Townsville Catholic Education Office

Nominated by: Derek Worden

Trish is the Manager of administration and finance at Townsville Catholic Education Office. She has been in this role for 21 years. Trish witnesses to and lives out a passion for social justice through her work and advocacy for equity and fairness for all, in particular students, staff and schools in rural and remote communities, indigenous students and students with a disability.

Trish can see the real people and real situations behind the spreadsheets. Trish is an incredibly skilled financial manager, bringing her deep knowledge of financial systems, processes, school and system funding, block grant processes and her intimate knowledge of each of our schools together. Trish’s has played a leading role in establishing co-responsibility between TCEO and schools to ensure the Gonski principles and good financial stewardship are hallmarks of our schools. She has done this while allowing schools maximum flexibility and decision making at the local level.

Trish has a calm positive influence and is accessible to both office and school staff, in particular principal’s, business managers and finance staff. Trish continues to be a compassionate and knowledgeable mentor for people in her team and staff in our schools.