



2017 SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

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Ann-Luisa Bertocchi

Nominated by: Anita Livingston, Ryan Catholic College

Anna-Luisa epitomises the spirit of Catholic Education by the way she relates to others with Christian love, mercy and forgiveness. Anna-Luisa treats everyone with dignity, and students and colleagues alike look to her as a role model of consistently respectful and positive interaction with others. Her gentle yet firm nature has guided many students through their journey with Catholic education.

Throughout her time in Catholic education, Anna-Luisa's willingness to give of her time to contribute to the life of the College goes beyond the classroom, including a range of sports, Italian speaking competitions and being a member of the ECSIP team. This further exemplifies her ability to share a Catholic understanding of holistic education and what it means to live life in abundance. Anna-Luisa truly lives the message that our Parish Priest, Fr Dave Lancini, asks us, to just "love the students".

Aura Parsons

Nominated by: Ms Paulina Skerman, St Patrick's College Townsville

Aura is a mother of eight and grandmother to 11, and has been teaching for 14 years in Australia, Canada and the Middle East. Her personal motto is, "You shall know them from their deeds," (Matt 7:16-20). Aura says she gravitates toward those most in need, taking their hand and walking with them on a part of their journey. This is very much the role she plays within our College, supporting our most vulnerable students in their learning and confidence development.

Aura is a committee member of the St Vincent de Paul's Refugee Assistance Program and a tutor and a trainer of tutors for refugees in Townsville. In the short time that Aura has been with us, she has lived out the values of the criteria for this nomination, engaging in exceptionally life-giving relationships. Aura lives her faith and leads by example. Her warmth and her quiet, yet effective style of pedagogy makes a difference in the lives of her students.

Helen Wade

Nominated by: Kim Higgs on behalf of St Joseph's Catholic School, Mount Isa P&F

Mrs Helen Wade knows every child and their families, and welcomes everyone with a smile and a heartfelt greeting. She knows every staff member well enough to be familiar with their interests and ask after their

family members. She knows everything about St Joseph's - every policy, every procedure, every inch of the grounds and buildings (even down to the location of every power point!). Her knowledge and passion for curriculum and all areas of teaching and learning ensure that teaching staff are guided and students are supported.

Helen loves St Joseph's and the special place that it is and wants to share that love with others in the Mount Isa community. Helen's love for the students at St Joseph's is personified by the genuine smile she gives to each child, and the excitement she displays at their successes. Becoming a parent at the school has given her a special appreciation of the parent community.

Helen goes above and beyond what is expected of a school principal. She lives the school motto to 'Know, Love and Serve'.

Jane-Frances Luton

Nominated by: Mike Colahan, St Joseph's Catholic School, Mundingburra

Jane-Frances is a dedicated and inspiring teacher at St Joseph's Catholic School. She is passionate about teaching and has a love of learning and endeavours to instil that same positive approach in her students. She never turns down an opportunity to dress up and ensure everyone has fun.

J-F, as she is affectionately known, has been a Leading Teacher of Christian Meditation since 2015. Her whole school Christian Meditation experiences are always so contemplative and reverent. She has a genuine care and concern for others and her acts of kindness brighten the days of those around her. Jane-Frances is a shining example of St Mary MacKillop's motto, 'never see a need without doing something about it'.

Joanne Andrews

Nominated by: Ed Burke, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen

Joanne Andrews is the Teacher of Students with Disabilities at Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen. Joanne actively engages with professionals to support students' needs and noted an increasing frequency of sensory processing difficulties being reported by these professionals. Her personal research led her to establish a sensory room at the school.

Joanne provided professional learning sessions to all staff about how the sensory room could be used and provides regular updates about new equipment being installed. The sensory room has provided much needed support to many students who have previously demonstrated disruptive behaviours. These students are now engaging with the sensory room and anecdotally, they are calmer, more engaged learners. Student's parents have also noted improvement in the child's behaviour and capacity to focus.

The success of the sensory room has meant other schools and organisations have visited the room to find out more about the project. Joanne is to be congratulated for establishing the school's sensory room which has assisted many students by giving them opportunities for improved future learning outcomes.

Juanita Tighe**Nominated by: Paula Duffy, Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan**

Juanita has engaged in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues and families during her long association with Ryan Catholic College. Juanita is often seen outside classrooms working with small groups of students assisting them with their literacy skills and encouraging them to reach their full potential. She quietly goes about her work without any fuss but always with dedication, a smile and positive words for students and other staff.

Juanita's sense of community is evident in the way she interacts with students, staff and parents. Juanita reaches out to students whose anxiety levels are high in the mornings. Her compassion and kind and caring ways quickly help settle their nerves and reassure them that everything is going to be fine for the day ahead. She seeks time and experiences to deepen her faith by being an active parishioner of the Good Shepherd Parish and attending staff retreats and spirituality courses. Ryan Catholic College has been a large part of Juanita's life and in turn, she has played a large part in the College community.

Karen Pearce**Nominated by: Michelle Jones, Marian Catholic School, Currajong**

Karen's career in Catholic Education spans 31 years, during which she has fostered exceptional life-giving relationships with students, parents and staff.

You could write a tome detailing her visits to parents who have lost a loved one; about the meals she delivers to families after a tragedy; about how her day lengthens with extra meetings with staff and parents who just need a friendly, non-judgemental ear; about her quiet financial generosity to any and all who need it. You could speak volumes about her relationships with students whom she instils with Catholic values and hope for their future. Every child in the school can quote her favourite saying before an event: 'it's not about the winning, it's about the taking part!'

She has been instrumental in the lives of many of our city's leaders and sports stars, a fact that they freely acknowledge. We are blessed to have her in our diocese and see this as fitting recognition for her inspirational and life giving work.

Kathy Morris**Nominated by: Geraldine Egelton, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook**

Prep teacher Kathy has established a reputation for working with children who have "special needs". She manages "challenging" students especially well. Her teaching and learning skills are individualized to each child's needs.

Kathy's generosity and commitment to the school and wider community are highlighted by her participation in school and parish events. As an active member of the Holy Spirit Parish for many years, Kathy has

dedicated many Sunday mornings to assist with the Sacramental Program. Her workshop is easily identified by the children in fancy dress acting out the gospel stories!

In all, Kathy Morris is the epitome of the ideal teacher in a Catholic School, a person of joy, generosity and compassion, a person of lived faith and a person for others.

Lesley Hutton

Nominated by: Annette McCarthy

Lesley Hutton is an exceptional Guidance Counsellor and she has a well respected professional reputation across a number of schools in our Diocese. In recent years, she has been involved in the implementation of many significant social-emotional wellbeing and pastoral programs that foster growth in students in the area of self-awareness and social competence. Lesley has been an instrumental support at Southern Cross Catholic College as it has transitioned from a primary school to include the secondary college. She has been an enormous support to students and staff and has been able to impact on the community in a number of positive ways when challenging situations have arisen. In all work, Lesley demonstrates an exceptional sensitivity to the needs of others and a strong sense of professional responsibility to protect and respect others.

Her outstanding contribution extends beyond her school to her peers in the Student Support Services team and community agencies. Lesley's generosity of spirit and holistic understanding of people make her an excellent Spirit of Catholic Education candidate.

Louise Vella-Cox

Nominated by: Martin Cordery, Kylie Helmore, Judy Bell, Katrina Wootton & Mark Fleming, Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale

In her role as College Principal, Louise has a clearly articulated vision, which she passionately shares with the entire school community. She demonstrates the school motto of "To Love, To Serve, To Shine" through all that she does, encouraging staff, students and parents to do the same. Louise is an active witness to her faith. She maintains close connections with the parish and actively leads the spiritual life of the College.

Louise develops positive relationships with students, teachers, parents, parish and the wider school community. She recognises the unique power of a community based on trust, faith and values.

With Louise's vision, the College has blossomed into an exciting and beautiful environment with connections to its patron saint, Mary Help of Christians, the Bindal traditional owners and our local Defence community. Louise is driven by a strong desire to serve the Southern Cross community for which she is responsible.

Maria Johansen**Nominated by: Bill Goodwin, St Francis Catholic School, Ayr**

Maria Johansen epitomises the very essence of what it is to be Catholic. Maria shows a great model to those in her company in the way she interacts and respects individuals.

As a teacher, Maria embodies the Gospel values of trust, respect, empathy and love to the children in her care. They feel safe and have a true sense of belonging to the class group.

Maria has been part of the Catholic Identity Project at the school and has lead from the front in the way she expresses her faith and understands her role in the church. Maria is an excellent mentor to younger teachers and has endeavoured to pass on her wisdom and knowledge in a practical and positive way which has been appreciated and acknowledged by all.

Mary Mudge**Nominated by: Kath Tarttelin, St Clare's Catholic School, Burdell**

A significant member of the staff of St Clare's Catholic School, Burdell, Mary Mudge has been very influential in developing the faith of our school. As the foundation APRE, she has assisted in the development of St Clare's into a large, diverse community, while maintaining harmony and a strong sense of inclusion and respect for all.

Mary has been central to the development of the school's Mission Statement and shares this understanding of the Franciscan charism, including formation programs for Board members and staff, as well as with students and parents. Mary has also been reflective and wise in her practice, modelling this behaviour for other staff. Her influence can also be seen more broadly than in just St Clare's, as Mary also mentors other people in the position of APRE. Mary's influence has seen us build a strong religious culture at St Clare's.

Mark Ivory**Nominated by: Mark Fleming, Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale**

Mark Ivory has demonstrated a wonderful approach to his work both as a specialist language teacher and in his commitment to strengthening the parish-school relationship at Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale. He displays a strong pastoral relationship for students, colleagues and members of our school community, and always seeks to live out the mission of the school through his faith commitment. Mark is an exceptional specialist Japanese teacher who finds joy in the teaching and learning of all things Japanese with students.

This year, he will lead a group of students on a highly anticipated cultural experience to Japan, making this the College's first overseas learning opportunity in its history. Mark has been actively involved in the parish-school partnership, as a leader in the sacramental programme at St Bridget's Parish. He is exceptional in this

role, making this important faith journey a rich and rewarding experience for the children. Mark is to be congratulated on his commitment to the mission of Jesus, as a servant working in Catholic education.

Rachel Harrison

Nominated by: Barry Horner, St Anthony's Catholic College, Deeragun

Rachel embodies the wonderful Franciscan tradition of "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Rachel has an uncanny sense of knowing when someone is in a bit of trouble and coming up with the right advice or action to assist that person. In many ways, our community is honoured to have our very own guardian angel as she flutters from one need to the next. She truly does see the face of Jesus in everyone she has contact with.

Rachel leads our assemblies in prayer where she brings God's word to life through words, video and drama. Rachel challenges others to think beyond themselves without feeling guilt but rather compassion for the other. Rachel is faith filled and readily fills others with faith. Rachel is a friend, colleague, mother, volunteer, educator, spiritual leader, counsellor, rock, religious leader, listening ear, shoulder to cry on and sounding board for our community. We are blessed to have Rachel in our community.

Sharon Hayston

Nominated by: Collette Brickhill, St Margaret Mary's College, Hyde Park

Sharon Hayston has blessed the St Margaret Mary's College community with her passion for teaching, her love of Catholic education, and her care of staff, students and parents for past 28 years. It is clearly evident through student and staff reflections that Sharon engages in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues and other members of the College community.

Students who have been taught by Sharon remember her with such fondness and the deepest respect. Students would also acknowledge Sharon's humility and tenderness. Her ability to connect with her students is an admirable quality. Sharon's humility and genuine interest in people are great gifts. Sharon lives her life fashioned on that of Jesus, in service of others. Sharon plants the seeds of humility, solidarity and tenderness and she nurtures an atmosphere of peace and patience.

In the words of one of her students: 'I feel so blessed to be taught by Sharon Hayston' and this College community is so blessed to have this faith-filled, authentic, wise woman be such an integral part of the tapestry which is St Margaret Mary's College.

Sr Lyn Freestone

Nominated by: Mark Newton, St Joseph's Catholic School, Cloncurry

Sister Lyn has dedicated her life to serving God and her community as a Sister of St Joseph, Secondary School Science and Music Teacher, and for the past seven years, managing the St Vincent de Paul Op Shop in Cloncurry. In January 2018, Sister Lyn will celebrate 50 years as a Sister of St Joseph. For the past 30 years,

Sister Lyn has served the North Western region of Queensland, based in both Mount Isa and Cloncurry. She taught Science and Music at Mount Isa Catholic High School (now Good Shepherd Catholic College) before relocating to Cloncurry where she has been based for the past 16 years.

During this time, she has taught music at St Joseph's Catholic School, Cloncurry as well as being very active as a leader in the life of the Parish. She continues to manage the St Vincent de Paul store and retains a very close relationship with the school and community through teaching the guitar to our students. She is an extremely humble person who maintains a total commitment to her ministry and the charism of the Josephites. It gives us great pleasure to nominate Sister Lyn as a most suitable nominee for the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards.

Tim Ham

Nominated by: Paula Martin

Tim Ham was the much-loved Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in Ingham for eight years. Tim's vision, his personal generosity and his lived faith and values transformed our school community, both visually and culturally.

Tim's vision was to transform the school into a modern and engaging place of learning, both inside and outside the classroom. He upgraded the grounds, classrooms, resources and pedagogy. He refurbished classrooms with state of the art technology, including interactive touchscreen multimedia systems, modern fittings and furniture that allows for the flexible arrangement of classrooms to cater to different learning needs. Tim's ability to create and maintain relationships is significant. He developed genuine relationships with the P&F, which transformed the culture of the school into a family-focused, supportive and joyful place. Tim's personal faith is lived every day. He has given significantly of his personal time and resources over the past eight years to turn our school into one of the best-resourced learning environments in the Diocese.

Tricia Widt

Nominated by: Colette Williams, St John Bosco Catholic School, Collinsville

Tricia Widt initiated and implemented a Community Outreach Program at St John Bosco Catholic School, Collinsville, which involves students visiting various community-based organisations in the local community in a voluntary capacity. The children visit the local community based Kindergarten, Meals on Wheels, St Vincent de Paul and the Aged Care Facility at the Collinsville Hospital. During their visits to these organisations, the children volunteer in a variety of ways.

Recently, the Hillside Haven Retirement Village was closed down and our entire community felt the impact. Tricia and the children wanted to continue to visit the elderly with whom they had formed very strong and close relationships. Tricia approached the Hospital to continue to visit some of the elderly who were relocated to the Hospital.

Tricia is an outstanding member of our school and wider community. She exemplifies what it means to be a volunteer in our community, and is a role model to students as she shows by her behaviours and interactions the importance of caring for others, by simply taking the time to sit, chat and interact with people. The visits to these organisations have built long lasting friendships.

Uncle Peter Smith

Nominee for the Aunty Joan Hendricks Award

Nominated by: Tammi Weber

A Kamilaroi man, Uncle Peter Smith is recognised as a community elder and leader throughout North West Queensland and across Australia. Uncle Peter has always been passionate about the Catholic Church, education and his community. Uncle Peter has served on numerous committees and advisory groups. He has the unique ability to bring people together by talking about his Indigenous heritage and his stories in a very subtle way.

Uncle Peter is continually used as a key advisor to Principals, teachers and staff, ensuring that best practices are always implemented. His work for Indigenous people has been outstanding.

Uncle Peter tells his powerful story of Indigenous Reconciliation, through his own journey from the policies of the past which impacted on his mother, and their subsequent loss of connection with the family. Uncle Peter shows how to heal from the hurts of the past to overcome, connect, and reconcile within, to be able to make positive contributions towards Indigenous issues on a local, national and global scale. Uncle Peter embraces his cultural heritage and is an inspiration to many. He epitomises the word 'reconciliation'.