EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

This term, Townsville Catholic Education proudly hosted the state-wide launch of Catholic Education Week, and more than 300 guests attended the Mass and Launch ceremony at St Anthony’s Catholic College, Deeralguin.

Hosting the launch created a real buzz around our schools. Students from Mount Isa, Proserpine, Ingham, Charters Towers and a number of small regional locations participated in the event, and our students were encouraged to feel connected to the Queensland Catholic education community during this important celebration of the mission of our Catholic schools.

Catholic Education Week was an opportunity to recognise staff and volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to Catholic education. Spirit of Catholic Education Awards were presented to 21 recipients from throughout our Diocese, whose contribution to Catholic education goes above and beyond the expectations of their daily roles. Hearing the stories of the award recipients makes me very proud to work alongside these people who make a difference to the lives of the people in our school communities on a daily basis.

Our Mulkadee Youth Arts Festival 2018 was a huge success. Almost 1,000 students travelled from all around the Townsville Diocese to be part of the annual event. Mulkadee is the only event of its kind in Australia, offering a week long program of artistic workshops led by professional instructors in the areas of choir, dance, drama, band, guitar and strings. The 2018 major concert finale was held on Friday 27 July, and followed a new format, with students performing scenes from the musical based on Alice in Wonderland. Congratulations to all involved.

This edition of the Love Our Catholic Schools Magazine will focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education within our schools. There are many dedicated people within our organisation who work hard to ensure Indigenous education is provided at the highest standard.

I hope you enjoy reading about the richness of the programs and contributions of our staff and families working to inspire students to become the best that they possibly can be.

Jacqui Francis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEUS CARITAS EST AWARD WINNERS

The annual Deus Caritas Est Awards were presented during Catholic Education Week to one student from every secondary school who, by words and actions, show a love for God, others and self.

Cover:
Students from Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen celebrating NAIDOC 2018

Townsville Catholic Education acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION

NAIDOC events are held in all Catholic schools to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. National Reconciliation Week is our opportunity to build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Schools across the Townsville Diocese acknowledged the week with liturgies, assemblies and events.

COMMUNITY DECISION MAKING

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee advises Townsville Catholic Education on current policies, initiatives, developments, considerations and their implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. The committee is made up of a parent representative, an Aboriginal community representative, a Torres Strait Islander community representative, principals and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander teachers and school officers.

SPECIALIST ROLES SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Indigenous Education Workers are part of our school teams to support principals, teachers, families and the community to effect positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in our schools. They work in classrooms, small groups or one-on-one, focusing on literacy and numeracy development. Importantly, they provide liaison and cultural support to students, families and our staff.

POSITION STATEMENT ABOUT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

Our Catholic schools believe a student’s social, emotional, spiritual, physical and cognitive development is to be nurtured through:

- parental and community engagement and partnerships
- effective use of Indigenous pedagogical strategies and practices
- the establishment of high expectations relationships, and
- offering high quality educational programs.

FIFTEEN SCHOOLS HAVE COMPLETED RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS (RAPS). ALL OTHER SCHOOLS ARE CONTINUING TO DRAFT THEIR RAPS WITH THEIR STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND WIDER COMMUNITY.

1,141 students identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students within our 29 systemic schools. The breakdown of students that identify:

- 898 students identifying as Aboriginal
- 112 students identifying as Torres Strait Islander
- 131 students that identify as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
FACELIFT REVEALS A SCHOOL OF QUALITY LEARNING + TEACHING

When you drive past Good Shepherd Catholic School in Rasmussen, you can see a transformation as the school gets a facelift, with the modern colours and signage now a reflection of the quality teaching that has long been offered to parents of the Upper Ross suburbs of Townsville.

Established in 1996, the Prep to Year 6 school occupies ten hectares of land and is located next to the St Mary MacKillop Early Learning Centre, allowing families to access Catholic education from the early years in a seamless transition.

Principal Glenda Scrase joined the school at the beginning of the year, and was immediately struck by the warmth and friendliness of the Good Shepherd Catholic School community.

“I love that we have a strong focus on family and community engagement in our students’ learning,” Glenda said. “This is because of the efforts of our staff, who are committed to making sure every student and their family feel supported.”

The school is becoming well known for its innovative programs aimed at making students feel comfortable and supported in their schooling journey. It was one of the first schools in Townsville to establish a sensory room catering for students who have specific sensory needs, and to welcome therapy dog Marlow twice a week. Both initiatives aim to make students more comfortable in the school environment.

“It is about providing joy in learning,” Glenda said. “Marlow has been a great success for all students. We eagerly look forward to her visits and she lets us escape from the routine of daily life for a couple of hours each week.”

In 2019, the facelift will continue as the school welcomes a newly refurbished Prep area.

“The project will see the renovation of three classrooms to provide modern learning spaces that allow for flexible models of teaching catering to our youngest students,” Glenda said.

Amazing programs AT GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- **Deadly Learners** gives Indigenous students in Years 4, 5 and 6 an introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and a positive promotion of Indigenous identity amongst the group. Participation in Deadly Learners allows Indigenous students to gain confidence and self-esteem, which in turn impacts positively on their engagement, attendance and educational outcomes.

- **Good Shepherd Catholic School has an Occupational Therapist on site** every Monday. Ms Dixon works one-on-one with students and with our staff to help them implement strategies in their classes.

- **Mini Vinnies regularly visit Parklands Aged Care Facility**. Our students take the residents on walks through the gardens, play board games, paint their nails, share morning tea and have lots of wonderful conversations.

- **Eco Warriors regularly meet and encourage us all to be wonderful stewards of our environment**. This year, our Eco Warriors presented all students with a reusable shopping bag before the introduction of the plastic bag ban.

- **Each Friday afternoon, students in Years 4 to 6 participate in Interest Groups** of their choice, such as Gardening Club, Dance and Drama Club, Coding Club and Choir.

- **Good Shepherd Catholic School is establishing a Family And Community Engagement (FACE) network**. This network has a strong focus on involving families and our community in our students’ learning and engagement.
Townsville Catholic Education has set Indigenous students from across the Diocese on a path to leadership success.

In collaboration with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Emerging Leaders Incentive Scheme, the first program of its kind in Australia, has been launched.

Program Coordinator and Townsville Catholic Education Indigenous Education Adviser, Tammi Webber said schools and the community have enthusiastically embraced the program.

“The Emerging Leaders Incentive Scheme is setting high expectations for our Indigenous students and families whilst rewarding and promoting a culture of high attendance, academic improvement and students fully engaged in their schooling,” Tammi said.

“Students will also participate in leadership, cultural, and wellbeing experiences and opportunities.

The popular program has reached capacity, with nearly 600 students across the Diocese signing up, and positive feedback is flowing from parents, students and staff.

“Parents are saying that it’s a great help to them financially. Students have been talking excitedly about their goals. Already staff have reported increased attendance, parental engagement and student involvement in school activities,” Tammi said.

The program aims to prepare Indigenous secondary students to meet the challenges of schooling and adolescence, and to build future leaders for safe and strong communities.

In Term 2 of this year, participating students were asked to name their goals for the remainder of the year, and decide how and when they were going to achieve those goals. Students can move through incentives stages each year based on their completion of certain criteria under each of the program’s pillars.

“Schools have really taken up the challenge, implementing new programs and forming partnerships with community,” Tammi said. “The program is fostering positive relationships with our Indigenous families through individualised, responsive and culturally appropriate education.”
I like the fact that everyone has the same opportunities to gain the different levels. Also that everyone is entitled to the base level for our school fees and uniforms.

My personal incentive goal is to be reimbursed for work experience equipment and licenses, plus a desk and chair for home study. This year I really want to improve my maths. I have started attending tutoring to help with my grade.

I love that we can take charge of our education with this program. We take charge when we attend homework programs, when we help with extracurricular activities, when we attend school.

For this year, I have set my Personal Incentive Goal as:
- reimbursing my music lessons
- my learners test and licence costs
- a reimbursement for a gym membership.

I set these goals as these are extracurricular activities that are tied in with my learning, but also my wellbeing. Music and exercising have become some of my interests through school and thanks to this amazing incentive scheme, run by Townsville Catholic Education, I am able to have these funded as a reward for doing my best at school.

What I really like about the Emerging Leaders Incentive Scheme is that we get rewarded for all the great work we do and it also is going to help me achieve my goals and dreams for the future.

My Personal Incentive Goal is to join the gym and I set this goal to work on my health and wellbeing, because it is just as important as going to school.
NAIDOC WEEK AT ST TERESA’S COLLEGE, ABERGOWRIE

St Teresa’s College held their sixth Annual NAIDOC celebrations on Friday, 3 August. The purpose of the day was to celebrate cultures and traditions of Indigenous Australians, and especially the communities that make up the College family. In true Gowrie Spirit, the College again presented a memorable day full of activities, entertainment and traditional food for over 20 schools and 1,500 people.

Schools from all over the region including Townsville and Charters Towers joined in to celebrate this year’s special theme, ‘Because of Her We Can’. The College dedicated this year’s NAIDOC to Dr Evelyn Scott, who was a lifelong advocate and activist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, as well as having a special tribute to long time St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie supporter Billy Morganson.

The day’s entertainment included Black Comedy star Ian Zaro as emcee and Queensland duo Busby Marou, whose much loved acoustic sound entertained both young and old. Throughout the day, Indigenous Australian Chef Mark Olive, also known as ‘The Black Olive’ showcased his charismatic style and creative approach to food, and the lucky few who were able to taste test his creations were very impressed.

Activities throughout the day included mini classes with the Indigenous Hip Hop Group, who alongside Abergowrie students, showcased their amazing acrobatic talents and skills, traditional hunting and Indigenous games, painting and weaving activities as well as market stalls.

Another highlight from the day was the menu on offer. Guests were invited to try traditional food which included dugong, turtle, kangaroo and buffalo sausages, kup murri, semur and sop sop which were cooked using traditional methods.

The day was brought to a close with traditional dances by the students of St Teresa’s and members of the Saibai and Townsville Dance Troupes.

St Teresa’s would like to sincerely thank all of the sponsors and everyone who helped make the 2018 NAIDOC celebrations a huge success and are looking forward to a bigger and better NAIDOC in 2019.
TOWNSVILLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION’S SUCCESSFUL JUMPIT PROGRAM WILL BE MERGING INTO THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM FROM 2019 AND WILL OPERATE UNDER A NEW NAME, TRACK YOUR JOURNEY. 

THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS STUDENTS WITH A POSITIVE PATHWAY INTO FURTHER EDUCATION, TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT.

- During Term 3, JumpIT has facilitated three Indigenous Careers Aspirations Bus (ICAB) experiences for Year 9 and 10 students from eight Catholic secondary schools. An ICAB offers students a glimpse into diverse workplaces including NQ Cowboys, 1300SMILES Stadium and the Mount Isa City Council. Students get to see a wide range of occupations and speak with people who have had different pathways to their current jobs.

- Transition plans are continuing to prepare senior students for their post school pathway. The focus is to monitor each student’s progress toward attaining the necessary points for a QCE, that the students are regularly attending school above 90%, and that they are on track to complete a VET qualification or gain an OP less than 15.

- Life Business have produced a Coaching Young People For Success module called ‘Moving Up - Steps for my High School Success’. This new module for primary school students aims to support the transition from Years 4 to 6 into secondary school.

- The Coaching Young People For Success modules continue to be utilised in our schools and enable our students to explore the blockers that they encounter, give them strategies for managing stress and plan for their future lifestyle.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) aims to inspire students to pursue study and employment in marine science and management. Schools participating this year were Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr and St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie.

- An App is under development, aiming to engage with parents, community and students that have completed their senior studies.

Venus Watson from Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers, was commissioned by CQUniversity and Transition Support Services to produce the artwork “Strong and Deadly” for the Resilience Research Project that commenced in 2015.

The artwork represents the strengths students need to possess when leaving their home communities to attend boarding school. It is a scratch art piece which depicts the Rainbow Serpent.

“The Rainbow Serpent is the guardian spirit with great powers both creative and destructive and it is wrapped around the Aboriginal Flag which represents my pride and identity as a young Aboriginal woman,” Venus said. “The footprints represent my life journey ... I carry with me my culture, represented by the artefacts [and] totems. The flower and water symbols represent the importance of land and sea ... which comforts me ... [and] the connections I have with others and most importantly my family.”
BECAUSE OF HER, We Can

The powerful 2018 NAIDOC Week theme highlighted amazing stories about strong Indigenous women. Here are some of the women who have worked with Townsville Catholic Education, and who inspire us with their strength, intelligence and connection to their culture.

DR EVELYN SCOTT AO

An Indigenous educator and social justice campaigner, Dr Scott was a tireless fighter for equal rights of Indigenous Australians. Dr Scott was a highly regarded, well respected Warrgamay Elder with her people having a strong affiliation with St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie, which is on Warrgamay Country. She was one of the leading figures of the campaign to change the constitution, to allow the Commonwealth to make laws for Indigenous people and became the first general-secretary of the Indigenous-controlled Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) in 1973. Her first Doctorate was from the Australian Catholic University, and she went on to receive a further two Doctorates. In 1993, she became the Chairwoman for the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now Reconciliation Australia), the organisation that we submit our school Reconciliation Action Plans for approval. Sadly, Dr Scott passed away in 2017 and was honoured with a state funeral, in recognition of more than 50 years of tireless campaigning for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Townsville Catholic Education received permission from Dr Scott’s family to use her name and image in this story.

PROF ROIANNE WEST

Roianne West is a Kalkadoon and Djaku-nde woman born and raised in North West Queensland. Roianne has over 20 years experience in Aboriginal health and education. Roianne is a University trained Registered Nurse and also holds two master’s degrees and a PhD. Roianne is Griffith University’s Foundation Professor of First Peoples Health and Director of the First Peoples Health Unit which she spearheaded the establishment of. Roianne attributes her success and passion for improving the circumstances facing her people to being raised in North West Queensland and to the tireless work of her grandmother and mother in Aboriginal affairs. She has been instrumental in establishing Australia’s First Health Trade Training Centre at St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie.

DR MIRIAM-ROSE UNGUNMERR AO

Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr AO is an Aboriginal elder from Nauiyu (Daly River). She is a renowned artist, activist, writer and public speaker. Miriam became the Northern Territory’s first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in 1975, and later became the Principal of the Catholic school in Nauiyu, her home community. In 1988, Miriam presented a paper, Dadirri - Inner Deep Listening and Quiet Still Awareness. This beautifully concise explanation of the spiritual dimension of Aboriginal culture has since been utilised by people working in diverse settings and in private meditations all over the globe. In 2013, Miriam established the Miriam Rose Foundation to continue her work advocating for experiences that allow Indigenous youth to learn to ‘walk in two worlds’ - Aboriginal culture and mainstream Western culture. Her work is featured in our Catholic school spirituality retreats.
VALE UNCLE BILL MORGANSON

The Hinchinbrook community was sad to say farewell to Uncle Bill Morganson.

The Morganson family has had a long association with St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie. Uncle Bill was always a great supporter of NAIDOC Day Celebrations, as a Warrgamay Elder he has proudly welcomed us all to country. The St Teresa’s College Community Consult Committee had the privilege of having Uncle Bill address the group to give all a greater understanding of his traditional home. Uncle Bill had a quiet and unassuming manner and his smiling face will dearly be missed by the St Teresa’s family.

ACCOLADE FOR CODIE

Congratulations to Codie Kemp, who was named the 2018 Mount Isa NAIDOC Person of the Year.

Codie was nominated for setting a wonderful example as a mentor to those around her. Codie is currently working at St Joseph’s Catholic School, and is studying a Bachelor of Education degree.

Codie’s achievements were recognised both in the school and in the local community. They include starting an Indigenous Family Group at St Joseph’s Catholic School who are involved with cultural events, hosting guests at the schools to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, and working with Reconciliation Australia and their Reconciliation Action Plans format towards more cultural awareness, understanding and support in the school.
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**Term 4 2018 Calendar of Events**

- **MONDAY:** 8 OCT
- **TUESDAY:** 9 OCT
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Recognition Liturgy
- **WEDNESDAY:** 10 OCT
- **THURSDAY:** 11 OCT
- **FRIDAY:** 12 OCT
- **SATURDAY:** 13 OCT
- **SUNDAY:** 14 OCT

**Key Dates**

- First Day of Term 4
- National Water Week
- Pupil Free Day
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Recognition Liturgy
- World Teachers’ Day
- All Saints’ Day
- All Souls’ Day

*Yours to tear out & keep!*
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<td>Melbourne Cup</td>
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**Weeks:**
- **Week 5**: 11 Nov - 18 Nov
- **Week 6**: 19 Nov - 26 Nov
- **Week 7**: 27 Nov - 4 Dec
- **Week 8**: 5 Dec - 12 Dec
- **Week 9**: 13 Dec - 20 Dec

**Website:**
www.tsv.catholic.edu.au
DISCOVERING OUR talented writers

In the July school holidays, Townsville Catholic Education hosted inspirational writers, Dr Anita Heiss and former NRL player and boxer Joe Williams to facilitate student writers’ workshops.

Anita worked with a group of eight young women and Joe with a group of six young men to explore this year’s NAIDOC theme of ‘Because of Her, We Can’. The young people were nominated by their schools to participate and selected on the merit of their nominations.

“I chose to attend the writers workshop because I thought it would be a great opportunity to meet like-minded people who are interested in the field of writing as well,” Ryan Catholic College student, Anushka Tanna said.

“GETTING TO MEET ANITA HEISS AND JOE WILLIAMS WAS AN ASPECT OF THE WORKSHOP I IMMENSELY LOOKED FORWARD TO, AS I COULD GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF WRITING BY LISTENING TO THEIR STORY AND JOURNEY THEY HAD TO TAKE TO MAINTAIN THEIR WELL-DESERVED SUCCESS.”

The students, staff and presenters started each session gathered together in a circle to get to know each other and prepare for the day of workshopping. Throughout the day the authors took the students through writing processes. At the end of the day, groups of students presented a short scene that explored the NAIDOC theme of “Because of Her, We Can”.

“The greatest learning for myself was that each individual interprets things differently and therefore writes differently, there is no specific way to write, yet there are always ways to improve,” Lily Baumgarten from Columba Catholic College said.

“It was incredible to meet and learn from such an inspirational female figure. Anita gave me a greater sense of bravery towards writing.”

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr Anita Heiss is a proud Wiradjuri woman from central NSW. She authors non-fiction, historical fiction, women’s fiction, poetry, social commentary and travel articles and is a member of the governing board for the State Library of Queensland. Anita is a regular guest at writers’ festivals and travels internationally performing her work and lecturing on Indigenous literature. She is a Lifetime Ambassador of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, manages the Epic Good Foundation, is a marathon runner and an Ambassador of Worawa Aboriginal College.

Joe Williams is a proud Wiradjuri, First Nations Aboriginal man born in Cowra and raised in Wagga, NSW. Joe played in the NRL for South Sydney Rabbitohs, Penrith Panthers and Canterbury Bulldogs before switching to professional boxing in 2009. Joe is a two time World Boxing Federation World Junior Welterweight champion and recently won the World Boxing Council Asia Continental Title. He travels nationally and internationally speaking about his experience with mental health and mental illness. In 2018, Joe was conferred the highest honour of Suicide Prevention Australia - the LIFE Award for his outstanding work in communities across Australia.
STUDENTS CELEBRATE
Palm Island centenary

The Palm Island Centenary 2018 ‘Share our Journey’ was celebrated across three weekend long events from March to June. St Michael’s Catholic School staff and students actively helped organise and participate in the events that reflected on the past, celebrated the present and culminated in an investment in the future of the people of Palm Island.

The school staff organised a ‘Back to St Michael’s Day’ as part of the commemoration of the island’s past. Former students of the school visited and spent time with staff and students. Uncle Ralph spoke with the Year 6 students about his time at the school.

Dates chosen for the event coincided with a cyclone that hit the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement (10 March, 1918) triggering the first forced placement of people on Great Palm Island.

Staff and students also celebrated at the Deadly Didge n Dance Festival where thousands of visitors came together to celebrate the present. St Michael’s students made, decorated and shone their lanterns at the Lantern Parade. The school also joined more than 250 people in the Largest Aboriginal Dance World Record attempt, and the Year 6 students held a Recycled Art Stall during the Festival.

SUPPORTING RESTORATION of traditional lands

Townsville Catholic Education continues the successful partnership with Mungalla Station to give our students a hands-on experience of curriculum through engaging with historic, social and ecological content.

Mungalla Station is a working cattle station which in 1999 was purchased by traditional owners, the Nywaigi Aboriginal People.

Mungalla has provided schools in the Townsville Diocese with units of work for Years 3, 5 and 9 that fit within the National Curriculum. Each year, many schools visit Mungalla to provide a deep learning experience for the students.

Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation has been awarded for their efforts in protecting Nywaigi Mungalla Wetlands from noxious weeds and other environmental impacts.

Jacob Cassidy, Director of the Mungalla Business Corporation said this year’s NAIDOC theme, “Because Of Her, We Can” fits perfectly within the story of Mungalla Station.

“Through the works of one old Aunty, it’s quite fitting that this is the year of ‘Because Of Her, We Can’. She did a lot of work through the Indigenous Land Corporation in getting the land back, and we inherited a lot of bad farming practices, in particular the introduction of noxious weeds,” said Jacob.

SINCE THE RESTORATION OF THE WETLANDS, MUNGALLA ABORIGINAL BUSINESS CORPORATION HAVE RECEIVED MANY RECOGNITIONS ACROSS THE QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE 2018 NATIONAL NAIDOC ‘CARING FOR COUNTRY’ AWARD.
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK LAUNCH

Townsville Catholic Education hosted the statewide launch of Catholic Education Week with a Mass and awards ceremony at St Anthony’s Catholic College, Deeragun in July.

The theme for this year’s celebration was Discovering New Horizons, drawn from the words of Pope Francis at World Youth Day in 2016 when he told young people that to live a Christian life they would need ‘a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths’.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Dr Lee-Anne Perry said the week of celebration was a time to focus on the achievements of Catholic schools across the state.

“From the far north to the southern and western borders, our schools will be celebrating the distinctive ethos of Catholic education,” Dr Perry said. “Once again this year we are heading outside the southeast corner for our official launch and we’re excited to be holding the event in the Diocese of Townsville.”

“Catholic schools are all unique, but they are also bound together by a common mission to make a difference in the lives of students, and in the wider community, by challenging young people to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society.”

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards recognise volunteers, staff and community members whose contribution to our schools goes above and beyond expectations, and our nominees have in common an unwavering commitment to Catholic education.

This year, 21 nominations were received from around the Townsville Diocese, and each nominee was recognised at a special ceremony held during Catholic Education Week.

Each Diocese nominates one person for statewide recognition, and Yvonne McDonald from Mount Isa was a worthy local representative.

For details of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award nominees in the Townsville Diocese, visit www.tsv.catholic.edu.au

Yvonne McDonald has a long association with Catholic Education in Mount Isa, and in her retirement she has been an active and passionate volunteer for her beloved schools, church and the wider community. Many attest to the sense of calm that she creates, with her warm embrace and genuine love and care. We sincerely thank Yvonne for her continued presence in our schools, parish and broader community.
ST PETER’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Halifax -

St Peter’s has an enthusiastic pastoral outreach committee called the Children’s Committee which is overseen by their junior class teacher, Miss Silvini. Members of this committee meet regularly each term to discuss which local and/or national causes they are going to support during the term and how they are going to support them, whether that be with fundraising activities or pastoral outreach visits.

The cold weather at the end of last term provided the perfect opportunity for St Peter’s to hold their ‘Beanie for Brain Cancer Day’. It was a significant day as they remembered staff member Mrs Grube’s niece, Jess, who passed away from brain cancer and who would have celebrated her birthday on the very day they held their beanie day. It was wonderful to see all the beanies worn by the students and how well the cause was supported by staff, students and families. Around $100 was raised, with funds being donated to support brain cancer research.

This term students will be performing their Ingham Arts Festival songs to senior citizens at an event called ‘Walking on Sunshine’. They will be fundraising for their local ‘Meals on Wheels’ organisation where staff member Mrs Sargent is a volunteer. Senior students may be given the opportunity to volunteer at ‘Meals on Wheels’ and attend with Mrs Nuttall at specified times throughout the year. What a wonderful outreach experience this would be for our students.

GILROY SANTA MARIA COLLEGE
- Ingham -

This term, Mrs Squires 7A Humanities class has been participating in some fun, interactive activities to further their understanding of the historical inquiry process.

They have made authentic Chinese lanterns using red money bags. This activity required the students to follow instructions closely and work well in groups. The lanterns are now proudly displayed in their classroom.

As an activity to introduce students to the idea of collating historical evidence to create theories about events, an ‘ancient crime scene’ was staged in the classroom. The crime scene included four stations of evidence leading to the overall crime of the assassination of Julius Caesar. Students were required to use problem solving, inferring information and bringing evidence together to create a theory or come to a conclusion.

The activities have been useful for the students in understanding the importance of collating different forms of evidence to create theories and answer questions.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL
- Ingham -

In week 2 this term, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School celebrated the Feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Virgin Mary, with their annual Grandparents Day Mass and classroom visits. The day started by joining together for Mass in St Patrick’s Church, where the numbers were so overwhelming that people spilled out onto the footpath. From there, everyone was invited back to the classrooms to share in storytelling, games and activities. It was lovely to be able to walk around and witness the special interaction between a child and their grandparents. Once the classroom visits were over, all gathered around to share morning tea. This event continues to be very well supported by families from near and far and something that the children anticipate all year.

Love Our NORTHERN SCHOOLS
ST COLMAN’S SCHOOL
- Home Hill -

Twice a term, the Mini Vinnies group walk down to the Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged Society. The students stay for 30 minutes socialising with the elderly residents, which is a highlight for both the students and the elderly residents. This event is a highlight for both the students and the elderly residents. While at the Home for the Aged, the students perform plays, sing songs or enjoy playing games such as Snakes and Ladders, Guess Who and card games. Some students partner up with elderly residents who prefer to colour in, while many enjoy talking. After each visit we hear comments from the students such as, “I feel really good, my heart feels like I have done something really nice today” or “When are we going next?” The Mini Vinnies have been visiting the Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged for over 10 years and will continue to give back to the community in this way for many more.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Bowen -

To begin their NAIDOC Liturgy this year, Uncle Jim Gaston performed a smoking ceremony. The Motto and Pryor families performed traditional Indigenous dancing, closely following Uncle Jim as they weaved through our sacred space to represent a snake.

During the Liturgy, all mothers, sisters, aunties, grandmothers and daughters were acknowledged, who continue to be the thread which holds families together as the school community remembered ‘Because of Her, We Can’. Carmen Franks-Weier, Townsville Catholic Education Indigenous Adviser, reflected on the scripture reading. The children heard about creation and about how men and women are made equally special, in the image and likeness of God, having equal dignity. Carmen also reflected on the role of one of the greatest women in the Bible, Mary, Mother of God. Rianna Nisbet-Roth, one of our parents, spoke about women forming the backbone of Australian communities. She shared her journey as a young Indigenous woman and stories about the significant women in her life. The Prep Class performed “Taba Naba”, a traditional Torres Strait Islander dance, which means come down to the reef.

ST JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Collinsville -

Being in a regional community, it is always important students understand the need to be extra safe when it comes to our amazing but sometimes deadly Australian wildlife.

This term, the students of St John Bosco were treated to a two hour, interactive show that aligned with topics some of the classes are learning about. Mark, the presenter, did a wonderful job in explaining all the details to the students about each and every animal and why they can be so dangerous. Many students volunteered to hold everything slippery and slimy that Mark had to show, and even some teachers who were scared got up and had a go too.

Overall, this was a fantastic way to link classroom learning with real life situations, especially in the rural community of Collinsville where students see these kinds of creatures all the time and now know to... STAY AWAY!

ST CATHERINE’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- The Whitsundays -

The College recently played host to a group of Indonesian students. After two days in Sydney, the 21 students and two teachers were plunged into country life with a visit to the school and its surrounding cane fields. Across the week, the Indonesian visitors were buddied by year twelve students. They attended the Proserpine showgrounds to see the Australian Stockhorse Association’s campdraft, visited Bredl’s Wild Farm to get close with the local wildlife and participated in an inaugural Australia versus Indonesia basketball match. The students spent Indonesian Independence Day at the Peter Faust Dam, water skiing with their host families. In return, our students were treated to a traditional Indonesian dance and spent the week learning more about Indonesian culture and language. Indonesian is in the top three languages taught in Australian schools and Bahasa Indonesian is taught at St Catherine’s from Prep into secondary. The visiting students attended the college as part of an exchange program with our sister school, Celebes Global School in Makassar.
ST FRANCIS SCHOOL
- Ayr -

St Francis had all the fun of the fair while finding out all about maths when the school performance, Circular Circus, visited recently.

Ring Mistress, Heidi Hoops amazed the children with circus tricks of all proportions and dimensions. The show featured sensational hoop tricks including the most, the hardest, the biggest, the smallest, the weirdest and the most dazzling. Heidi had a number of crazy characters including the kooky magician, the silly strongman and the whacky professor.

It was a race against the clock, as she only had 45 minutes to complete the show. Students needed to read the time, observe patterns, gather data, and employ their skills of counting, fractions, arithmetic, probability, measurement, co-ordinates and geometry to help Heidi finish on time.

With loads of audience participation, comedy, magic, rope tricks, illusions, juggling, whip cracking, lasso spinning, fabulous costumes, loads of hula hoops and a spectacular finale (LED light-up flashing hoops), Circular Circus excited the children of St Francis and made them curious about maths in a fun and enjoyable way.

BURDEKIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
- Ayr -

On August 1, St Francis and St Colman’s Catholic Schools joined us to celebrate their Founders and Catholic Education Week. Founder’s Day recognises each school’s Founding Order in the educational mission of the Church.

The day commenced with a Liturgy recognizing the theme of Catholic Education Week: Discovering New Horizons and its Founding Orders. Each school did a presentation about their schools and the contributions they have been making in continuing the traditions of their Founder. Year 11 students were charged with engaging the students from Prep to Year nine in a variety of activities. Prep to Year four students were involved in rotations of music, face painting, biscuit decorating and computer activities. Older students were involved in sports, manual arts and giant games rotations. The Year 11 students ran a successful day of activities with all taking something home to share with their family.

The day concluded with cake for both primary schools. The Year 11 students certainly were very tired by the end of the day trying to keep so many young students engaged and moving around to the various rotations.

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Mount Isa -

During Catholic Education Week, we joined together for whole school meditation. Miss McCulloch, Leading Teacher Christian Meditation, and Year 6 students led the whole school in an outdoor meditation experience. Students were very reverent and all found it to be a very prayerful experience. A special mention to our marvellous Prep students who were amazing, joining the rest of the school for meditation for much longer than they are accustomed to.

ST PATRICK’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Winton -

Catholic Education Week was celebrated at St Patrick’s, with a variety of special events throughout the week. The celebrations began with a special Liturgy followed by a Grandparents’ Morning Tea. Students performed for the senior members of our community and then enjoyed playing table games with them. At assembly, students from Prep to Year 6 shared reasons why they were grateful to be a part of our wonderful school. Later in the week, kindy students visited the school to join our school community for a morning of fun, including a jumping castle, dress-ups, making pet rocks, easel painting, pavement art and an obstacle course.
An exciting array of activities were planned at Columba Catholic College for Book Week 2018, including a staff versus students spelling bee, treasure hunts, trivia, ‘guess what your teachers are reading’, spot prizes, games, book fair, dress-ups and the ‘Columba Writes’ creative writing competition.

Acclaimed Australian comedian and TV writer, Toby Halligan, ran a Google Hangouts Q&A session with students at the Mt Carmel Campus. Toby has written for Channel 10’s The Project, SBS’ Legally Brown, and ABC’s Mad as Hell. Mamamia, The Monthly and The Age newspaper have all published his work, and he co-authors the popular ‘Diary Leaks’ website. Kindergarten to Year 6 students, were treated to a visit from author in residence, Aleesah Darlison, an internationally published, award-winning author of over forty books. She is famous for her animal stories, from non-fiction narratives to picture books, short stories and novels. Students were thrilled to share in the treasure of reading in Columba’s Book Week and Literacy celebrations.

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Hughenden -

Under 8s Day at St Francis was a fantastic, fun-filled morning. Children from across the Flinders Shire descended on St Francis for an all Aussie adventure! There were so many wonderful Australian characters and icons. Students participated in a range of activities, which included making Aussie craft and sand art animals and icing lamingtons.

The school sent Year 5 and 6 students to Townsville for the annual Mulkaedeet Youth Arts Festival. The ten St Francis students formed part of the 400 strong choir to perform to a sell-out audience of 2,500 people. The final performance of Alice in Wonderland was brilliant. Students also enjoyed afternoon activities, which included hanging out at The Strand, King Pin Bowling and Laser Skirmish, Reef HQ, shopping and eating at Sizzlers, Fasta Pasta, St Patrick’s College and Gelatissimo.

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Cloncurry -

ITD and Manual Arts with Mrs Vicki Rodgers is back this term and look at our students go! Year 9’s are hard at work designing a folding laptop table. They researched a variety of table top designs before settling on one that was practical for them. The students then mock up their table top using cardboard, making any alterations before using the jigsaw to cut out their final design.

ST KIERAN’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Mount Isa -

This year, the Mount Isa Rodeo Celebrated its 60th Birthday. St Kieran’s participated in the annual Street Party with a walking float. The theme ‘Mount Isa Mines through the Years’ was well received and the school was lucky to take out the prize of Best School Entry! The float included characters unique to Mount Isa such as John Campbell Miles, old time and modern miners, cowboys, rodeo queens, rodeo clowns and the iconic red and white stack. The Band performed on the main stage outside of the Mount Isa Civic Centre. They performed a piece which they had been working on with John Babbage and Steve Francis from Typology, leaders in musical creativity in Australia, prolific creators of new original work, expert collaborators across genres and art forms and award-winning music educators. Participating in this event gave the school a chance to have fun together and to show the Mount Isa community our love and pride for our town.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- Mount Isa -

During Catholic Education Week, students ‘discovered new horizons’ by participating in a number of activities including, prayer/meditation, trivia, inter-house sport and the ‘Good Shepherd’s got talent’ talent show competition. The talent show was a huge success with many people participating, encouraging and supporting. This demonstrates a great sense of spirit and belonging within our College.

During this week, we also celebrated Good Shepherd Feast Day. The day started with Mass, and as always our students were extremely respectful and reflective during this time. Students then participated in various activities that acknowledged our House patrons, Bishop Raymond Benjamin, Caroline Chisholm, St Mary MacKillop and Blessed Edmund Rice. The day was successful in enhancing the culture and identity of our College, and was a reminder of just how blessed we are to be part of Catholic Education. The students also raised money on the day which will be donated to Drought Angels, to assist rural Australian farmers through the Queensland Drought Relief Campaign.
From Anthea Corkeron: 2018 SMMC Space Camp Astronaut Captain’s log, stardate Sunday, 1 July 2018: A group of STEM enthused Maggies have gone boldly where no Maggie has gone before. Aboard USS Alacoque, 24 students along with our teachers/chaperones, ventured out to explore strange new worlds and new civilisations as we toured the USA. Throughout our mission we encountered new challenges, daring new culinary experiences and new species of fellow nerds from around the globe. It was Space Camp.

USS Alacoque safely took us to the sunny and spontaneously stormy Florida quadrant. At Full Sail University we walked among the stars (or rather their music producers and directors) and had the opportunity to design our own games (@Nintendo watch out). iFly brought us plummeting back down to Earth at terminal velocities we calculated ourselves. We skipped through the gates of Kennedy Space centre like children set loose in a lolly shop. After dining with astronaut Mike Foreman we toured the launch pads of Cape Canaveral; historic ground that changed our world and continues to drive human aspiration and exploration. Finally, we sussed out all the hype around this attraction called “Disney” (noun; dis-knee). It was pretty good.

Space camp and the USA gave the young Maggies an insight into the world of spaceflight; the worlds it can take us to, both as a career and as the first people on Mars and beyond. We young astronauts of spirit and purpose boldly explored a new frontier, one which we ourselves may define in the future.

RYAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- Kirwan -
Ryan Catholic College has now a beautiful labyrinth to help all students, staff and community members immerse themselves in meditation and prayer. The labyrinth is a model or metaphor of the Christian life, where everyone is on a journey towards God, and in turn, become closer to others. Those who walk the path of the labyrinth, walk from the outside into the centre and then follow the path back out. We know life’s journey is full of twists and turns, but the journey is always to the centre, to God. When we are at the centre, we reflect on our relationships and then make the journey back out to the world. The students of 2A were the first class to experience this ‘walking prayer’. As one walks the labyrinth, they do so prayerfully, walking slowly, perhaps pausing along the way to say a quiet prayer. As with meditation, the focus is stilling ourselves, to have some quiet time with our loving God.

The labyrinth is located on the Junior Campus.

ST MARGARET MARY’S COLLEGE
- Hyde Park -
Our College turned blue to support Year 1 student Patrick Gregory, who is currently in the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital in Brisbane receiving treatment for leukemia. The whole school community has rallied around Patrick and his family.

Our College raised $2,081 just by wearing blue, Patrick’s favourite colour. The College purchased an iPad with some of these funds to help Patrick pass his time in hospital. Some of the money will also assist his family to fly to Brisbane to visit him.

Patrick has been busy hosting an episode of Juice TV for Science week while he is in hospital.

Many thanks to our friends at the Townsville Catholic Education Office, who also had a blue day for Patrick. What a great community!

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- The Strand -
St Joseph’s, The Strand students celebrated their success at the Young SpeechMakers competition. The annual event saw the best of the Catholic schools’ public speakers display their skills on a number of different topics. Students Samantha Gugliotti and Mikayla Baynes scored first place in their sections, with Joshua Morton and Tom Wilkinson being awarded second. Callum Scott and Gemma Morris were also highly commended for their efforts.
ST MICHAEL’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Michael’s students were treated to some important visitors recently with the first one being Dr Gracelyn Smallwood who talked about her life, her achievements and her strong connection to Palm Island. The other special visitor was Alwyn Doolan, a young man from Woorabinda, who is walking from Bamaga to Canberra to raise awareness about reconciliation and to encourage young people to use their abilities and take every opportunity in life.

ST CLARE’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

On Friday 10 August, the school celebrated their St Clare’s Feast Day. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr Giles and finished the day with the staff versus students touch football game. This year, it was an especially close game, with the staff winning by only one try. In the middle session, the children were in their Peer Groups and rotated through activities based on collaboration, prayer, community and charity. This is truly a special day for the St Clare’s community!

MARIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Crocodile spotting, koala cuddling and snake handling are not activities usually experienced during science lessons, but that is exactly what the Year 3 students of Marian Catholic School experienced this term at Billabong Sanctuary. Teachers took learning outside the classroom and into the ‘wild’ for a one-night camp at Billabong where students applied their learning from the Primary Connections Science unit – Feathers, Fur or Leaves? Students learned about the adaptations that different native animals have made to ensure their survival in the Australian environment and how animals are classified and related to each other. For example, did you know that wombats and koalas are related? The excursion was a wonderful experience of hands on learning, and a great chance to hold a baby croc!

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The St Joseph’s Mini Vinnies team has been incredibly busy this term. The group attended the St Vincent de Paul Carpark Sale, where they assisted with face painting, tidying sale tables and handing out fairy floss and popcorn (they may have also eaten their fair share!). Some of our Mini Vinnies team have also visited Villa Vincent where they played bingo with the residents. Following in the words of St Mary ‘Never see a need without doing something about it’ the group took an active part in driving a collection for the St Vincent de Paul Homelessness Week Appeal.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

During Catholic Education Week, students from Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen participated in Acts of Kindness. These included thanking various staff around our school, collecting donations for Vinnies, making gifts for the residents of Ronald McDonald House and collecting donations for Blue Bags as part of the Gateway Ministry. Pictured are students from Year 5 with Mr Theodore from the Josephite Association. These students presented Mr Theodore with basic hygiene items for their blue bags. These items are presented to prisoners recently released from prison to help them out in their first couple of days. The students also created kindness cards to be included in each bag.
HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Cranbrook -

Term 3 began with much excitement as Years 3 and 4 students moved into their newly built learning spaces. Year 4 teachers, Mrs Kim Mabin and Miss Trisha Telford love the design which allows teachers and students to work more collaboratively. "Our students love the interaction between classes to work with other students who have similar interests and learning styles", said Miss Telford. "Our students can quickly and easily move into four learning spaces. "We don’t lose precious time travelling from one class to another."

Students have easily adapted to their new work spaces. Year 3 teacher, Mrs Nieminen finds children love having the choice to stand, sit at a desk or at a low table which provide freedom and flexibility.

Mrs Albress, one of the Year 3 teachers leading the classroom design, is delighted to see the many hours of planning come to fruition. Students and teachers agree enthusiastically, they love their new learning spaces!

ST BENEDICT’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Shaw -

What a great excuse to get our shoes off and our hands dirty! Prep students at St Benedict’s got into some sensory activities for Science Week with a jelly barrel, frothing volcanoes, foam bottles, a sensory tunnel with loads of creepy, soft, sticky things inside and a lemon and sugar tasting, along with many other things. The kids were completely engrossed in the activities and made lots of predictions about how things might feel, taste, smell, sound and look; even getting a few surprises. They were amazed by the different sensations they experienced especially with everyday items.

SOUTHERN CROSS CATHOLIC COLLEGE
- Annandale -

The College is proud of its Pastoral Care system that includes grouping students into Houses that they and their siblings remain in throughout their time at the College. Activities that lead to House Spirit Points build a sense of positive spirit within students towards their House and College. The College is divided into four Houses, named after mountains in the Townsville district and is each represented by a colour and mascot. There are the Red Castle Saints, Blue Elliot Alligators, Gold Hervey Rangers and Green Stuart Soldiers. Next year, the College will introduce a fifth House, the Purple Louisa Jets.

Inter-House sport at lunch times promotes pride in House and the living of the College motto ‘To Love, To Serve, To Shine’. Year 7 and 8 students are combined in one competition while Year 9, 10 and 11 students form another competition. These mixed gender competitions in various sports have modified rules to encourage maximum participation. This term students are enjoying Inter-House Soccer matches.

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- Mundingburra -

St Joseph’s Catholic School, Mundingburra celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a whole school Mass, a fun afternoon of activities that highlighted some of the core values and characteristics of their founding saint, and the Parish Fair which celebrated the community spirit that St Mary MacKillop so loved.

During the fun afternoon of activities, students enjoyed showing their resilience in a game of tug of war, being contemplative while colouring in mandalas, blazing trails in scooter board races, working as a team to create a decorative banner, writing letters to others on postcards and trusting friends during a trust walk. St Mary MacKillop Early Learning Centre Kindergarten students even joined in the fun.

This year, the Parish Fair boasted a new stall, Sustainable Style. Parents and parishioners donated pre-loved clothes and accessories to be sold at the Fair. This stall embraced Pope Francis’ call to live sustainably and reuse and recycle where possible. Plus, shoppers got a great bargain!
Almost 1,000 students and teachers from Catholic schools throughout the Townsville Diocese participated in the week long program of artistic workshops which included choir, dance, drama, band, guitar and strings. This provided a platform for students to showcase their talents at a very successful concert performance at the end of the week, which cultivated their love of the arts.

We would especially like to thank principals, staff, parents and families who have worked behind the scenes to assist in bringing together Mulkadee 2018.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

A WARM WELCOME TO University life

Saints Catholic College at James Cook University (JCU) provides accommodation for 298 students from regional families, and is a home-away-from-home for former Columba Catholic College student, Jack Dixon.

Jack is studying Secondary Teaching at JCU and enjoys the sense of family, the many friends he has made, and the sporting activities available at the College.

“My brother actually attended Saints a few years ago, and after seeing how much he enjoyed it, I knew it would be a perfect college for myself,” Jack said.

According to Saints Catholic College Principal, Nicole Stott-Whiting, residents most enjoy the feeling of community and the variety of life experiences that comes with living in a College environment.

Places are available for accommodation in 2019, and inquiries can be made to the College by phoning 07 4727 7200.