

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek, and replan our future. The time to act, and to act together, is now! #COP26

Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who have recently passed away.

Pat Ashton (nee Hutcheon)
Aunt of Helen Mollard and Dan Mollard, Emmaus College, North Rockhampton. Long serving secretary to former Director of Catholic Education, Joe McCorley) and first secretary to Leesa Jeffcoat when appointed Director.

Pat Ogden, Barcaldine 'legend'
and great supporter of Catholic Education.



Please remember in your prayers those members of our extended Catholic Education Family who are unwell.

Khiana Blakey, Year 8 Holy Spirit College, Mackay and daughter of Allison Blakey, Principal MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay.

Matthew Deeth, Holy Spirit College, Mackay.

Friday 5 November 2021

Good morning everyone

Over the past few months, the CEO Finance team, led by John McDevitt, together with Primary School and College Principals and their Finance staff have been very busy first preparing and then presenting the 2022 Catholic Education Budget. This year has involved some significant improvements to our processes and many people here at CEO and in our Schools and Colleges have certainly "*gone the extra mile*" in preparing an excellent Budget.

My sincere thanks to Amanda Houston (Business Development and Strategy Leader) for so diligently overseeing the Budget process. The professional expertise and experience that Amanda has brought to the task of further developing our already sound financial systems has been very much appreciated, not only by myself, but also by the members of the Diocesan Education Council and the Education Planning and Finance Committee. The dedication and professionalism of each person involved in our financial management and accountability processes is a vital support to the great work done by our teachers. I thank all our Finance team members for your commitment to ensuring the continuation of the high level of financial stewardship that has always been a hallmark of Catholic Education in our Diocese.

The final round of Cluster Meetings for our Assistant Principals: Religious Education is now underway in each of our regions. Undoubtedly the meetings will be tinged with some sadness as Di-Anne Rowan (Assistant Director: Mission) attends her last meetings with APREs ahead of her retirement at the end of 2021. Di-Anne has been a gentle, guiding presence and valued support to our APREs for more than two decades and I am sure we all join with the APREs in offering our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Di-Anne for her wisdom, dedication, and service.

I was delighted to be present at a Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral yesterday morning for Bishop Brian Heenan, former Bishop of Rockhampton, as he celebrates 30 years as a Bishop. Bishop Brian was appointed to the Diocese of Rockhampton in July 1991 serving as our chief shepherd until October 2013. We thank Bishop Brian for all he has contributed to our Diocese and to Catholic Education and we ask God's continued blessings on Bishop Brian as he faithfully and lovingly lives out his priestly vocation.

My congratulations are extended to Selena Cutting (APC St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald) who takes up her appointment as Principal, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure at the commencement of 2022.

Today we sadly farewell Mrs Pat Ashton (nee Hutcheon) at her funeral Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton. Pat would be known to many long-term Catholic Education staff. Pat was secretary to former Catholic Education Director, Joe McCorley for over a decade and she was my first secretary on my appointment as Director. Pat was a dedicated volunteer at St Joseph's Cathedral who could always be relied upon for her practical assistance at Masses and any Parish event. I extend my sincere condolences to all of Pat's family and friends, and they will be in my thoughts and prayers at this time of sadness.

The St Joseph's community in Barcaldine is also grieving the loss of long-time parishioner and great friend of Catholic Education, Mr Pat Ogden. Pat was a stalwart of the Barcaldine community having owned the Globe Hotel for more than 40 years. He was renowned for his hospitality and for his great support of the Parish and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Until recent ill health, there would not be a St Joseph's School function that Pat did not attend and his support for the school continued long after his children had grown up. I also extend my sincere sympathies to Pat's family and friends, and they too will be in my thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

I know that both Pats will now be resting in peace with the God they loved and served so well all the days of their lives.

God bless,

Leesa

Where's Leesa: Monday 8 November, Office; Tuesday 9 November, Leadership Team Meeting, School Board Chair Meeting; Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 November, Office.

Pictured below: Nathaniel Rice, Principal, and students from **St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston**, on Day for Daniel in the school rose garden with their Daniel Morcombe Rose.



Teacher Touch Footy Day. Results for the day are as follow: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon won the small school trophy and The Cathedral College, Rockhampton won the large school trophy in a close win 3-2 over St Brendan's. A HUGE thanks to all schools for participating, it was a great day.



Employment Opportunities

For additional vacancies and to apply please click [here](#)

- Full-time Kindergarten Teacher St Anthony's Catholic Kindergarten, Rockhampton commencing 17 January 2022. Applications close 14 November 2021.
- Learning Support Teacher, Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay commencing 2022. Applications close 14 November 2021.
- Kindergarten Teachers, Biloela and Mackay commencing in 2022. Applications close 14 November 2021.
- Secondary Teachers, St Patrick's / Mercy College Mackay commencing in 2022. Applications close 3 December 2021.
- Experienced Teachers, All Regions, commencing 2022. Applications close 3 December 2021.



Centacare Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Livingstone are once again holding the School Savvy Campaign. Information can be found at www.schoolsavvyq.com.au

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure celebrated Grandparents Day recently.



Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone. As part of our Feast Day celebrations classes reflected on our school Motto and Mission statement and students came up with symbolic representations of what they mean to them.



We are being encouraged to start preparing for the disaster season and wide range weather events that can impact Queensland including bushfires, storms, floods, and cyclones.

For more information click [here](#) Prepare you home click [here](#)

Congratulations to:

Selena Cutting, APC St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Emerald on her appointment as Principal, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Springsure commencing in 2022.

Sarah Shillington, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Rockhampton on her appointment as Assistant Principal: Religious Education (APRE) at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine for 2022.

Andrea Rutherford, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandal and husband Ben on the safe arrival of Beatriz.

Farewell to long serving staff who are leaving us at the end of this year.

Rebecca Lang: Rebecca commenced with Catholic Education as a teacher at Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Gladstone in 2002, moving to St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald in 2004. For the past 17 years Rebecca has worked at St Patrick's as a classroom teacher, Acting APRE and was appointed APRE from 2007 to 2017. After two decades of service with Catholic Education we offer our heartfelt thanks to Rebecca and wish her every blessing in the future.



Sherilyn Douce: For over 23 years Sherilyn has worked as a Teacher Assistant at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina, having commenced in the role in March 1998. Sherilyn has been an integral part of the St Anne's school community and a much-valued staff member.



Janet Power: Commencing as a Secondary Relief Teacher in the Mackay region in 1997, Janet was then employed as a full-time teacher at Mercy College in 2000, taking up the additional role of English Coordinator from 2002 to 2012. In 2016, she commenced in a new position as full-time teacher and Dean of Junior English at Holy Spirit College, Mackay. We thank Janet most sincerely for her 24 years of service with Catholic Education and wish her every blessing for the future.



Jan Barnett: In 1999 Jan commenced as full-time teacher at St Patrick's College, Mackay holding this position until her retirement earlier this year. During Jan's 22 years with the College, she taught English and English Extension and was a volunteer tutor assisting students to develop essential study and research skills. We wish Jan well in her retirement and thank her most sincerely for her great service and inspiration that she has been to staff and students.



Jennifer Place: Employed for 25 years with Catholic Education, Jenny first commenced working in the Long Day Care at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, West Mackay. Jenny then took on the role of Teacher Assistant at St Francis Xavier before completing her teacher qualifications and working as a relief teacher in the Mackay Region primary schools. Jenny commenced her current role as classroom teacher at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina in 2009. We thank Jenny for her long and dedicated service and wish her every happiness for the future.



Andrea Comin: Since 2004 Andrea has worked as a classroom teacher at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina and is a highly valued member of the school community. We sincerely thank Andrea for her dedicated service and significant contribution to St Anne's and Catholic Education over the past 17 years. We wish her every blessing for the future.



Maxine Neaton: Maxine has been at Mercy College Mackay for the past 15 years. Throughout her time there Maxine held the position of Leader for Responsible Thinking, and we thank her sincerely for her significant contribution to the college. We wish her every blessing for the future.



Sincere thanks and best wishes to all these long serving staff for the future.

More farewells to long serving staff in next week's Message Stick.