

Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

Reflection from Pope Francis



Dear young friends! Be free and authentic; be the critical conscience of society. Be passionate about truth, so that, with your dreams, you can say: "My life is not captive to the mindset of the world." [Watch](#)



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.

get ready
QUEENSLAND

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 your home click [here](#)

Friday 26 November 2021

Good morning everyone

Last Friday Bishop Michael formally presented our *2021 Queensland Spirit of Catholic Education Award* recipient, Natalie McCosker (APRE St Patrick's Emerald) with her award during our final Diocesan Education Council meeting for the year. It was wonderful to have Natalie's parents, Vicki and Nicholas McCosker, in attendance for the presentation. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Natalie on this well-deserved recognition and my sincere thanks for the commitment and dedication she brings to her service at St Patrick's and to Catholic Education.

Also, on Friday, Bishop Michael launched our new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). I am very grateful to all who served on our RAP Committee for their great work in undertaking wide consultation and discernment with a variety of stakeholders leading to the development and launch of our RAP. So much wonderful work has been carried out in preparing our RAP as we strive to positively and proactively advance reconciliation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through building relationships, nurturing respect and creating equitable opportunities.

I was delighted this week to spend time with those taking on new Leadership roles in 2022 at our Leadership Induction Day. We welcomed 34 participants who joined in practical, professional, and reflective sessions, under the theme *Seeing Leadership as an Opportunity*. My thanks to our Assistant Directors: Schools for their work in planning and coordinating this formation day for our new school Leaders.

Along with some of our school Principals and student leaders, I attended a Civic Reception this week hosted by the new Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young PSM. In meeting Governor Young, on behalf of Catholic Education, I conveyed our congratulations on her appointment and advised her of our support for her Office and of our willingness to work collaboratively for great educational outcomes for students in our Catholic schools and for the advancement of education generally in Queensland.

I very much enjoyed my school visits to St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands, and Chanel College Gladstone this week. It was wonderful to spend time in classrooms with staff and students to witness innovative teaching and learning and experience the authentic expression of faith in a loving God and the person of Jesus. My thanks to Principals Kathleen Watt (St Francis) and Susan Bunkum (Chanel College) and their respective school communities for the very warm welcome and kind hospitality extended to me by all.

I was pleased to assist in the coordination of yesterday's National Regional and Remote Workforce Strategy eSummit through the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC). The Summit brought together Catholic Education Directors and stakeholders throughout Australia for strategic conversations on contemporary practice in Recruitment, Faith Formation, Professional Learning and Support, and Retention of High-Quality Staff. The Summit addressed challenges in support of Catholic Education's commitment to provide students in regional, rural and remote Catholic schools with the opportunity to be taught by high quality, faith filled and well-formed staff who are aware of localised Catholic school contexts, opportunities and needs. My sincere thanks to teacher Louise Effenev (St Patrick's Emerald) for sharing with us her valuable perspective of her experience teaching in rural and regional centres which formed an integral part of the Breakout sessions at the Summit.

I am very much looking forward to attending the St Mary's Christmas Fair in North Rockhampton tonight and catching up with many familiar members of the school and parish community. I may even be lucky enough to take home a Christmas ham this year! My thanks to all who have assisted in the planning and preparation of this wonderful community event that brings so much joy each year.

Next week, our final *Message Stick* for the year will be issued on Tuesday. I wish you all a wonderful final week of the school year.

God bless,

Leesa



Pictured left Principals at the recent Leadership Induction Day with **left** Leesa.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at **The Cathedral College** recently gathered with College Indigenous Education Liaison Officers, Ms Carmen Anderson and Mr Ron Tasker, Principal Mr Rob Alexander, members of the College Leadership Team and other TCC staff members for the Unveiling of the Yarning Circle. A very moving and meaningful Ceremony was held to Unveil a Yarning Circle. A Yarning Circle is an important part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The construction of a Yarning Circle creates a safe space where harmonious and trusting relationships can be fostered among those who gather there through honest, open and respectful communications. Pictured below TCC Indigenous Education Liaison Officers Ron Tasker and Carmen Anderson with Uncle Wade Mann, Brad Jarro (Indigenous Education Coordinator CEO) and TCC Year 12 students. Please click on the following link to read the full story. <https://www.tccr.com.au/yarning-circle-unveiled/>



Pictured left: Natalie McCosker, APRE St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald was presented with her 2021 Spirit of Catholic Education Award last Friday by Bishop Michael McCarthy.



The Catholic Education Office Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was officially launched by Bishop Michael last Friday as part of the Diocesan Education Council (DEC) Meeting. **Pictured below back row from left:** Bishop Michael with RAP Working Party Members; John Kennedy, Brad Jarro, Mara O'Reilly, Marie Martin; **front row from left:** Carmel Kriz, Kaylene Lillis, Phillippa Johnson, Carmel Dawson, Therese Fitzgerald and Leesa Jeffcoat.



2022 Queensland Reconciliation Awards

This awards program recognises businesses, educational institutions and other agencies who are fostering reconciliation. Nominations close Friday 3 December 2021. For further information please click [here](#)



Employment Opportunities

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

- 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.
- Groundsperson, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, commencing 2022. Applications close 6 December 2021.

Congratulations to

Renee Maliborskij on her appointment as Acting APRE, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela for 2022.

Catherine Mifsud, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clermont, and husband Luke on the safe arrival of Logan.



Pictured left and below at the recent Leadership Induction Day are 2022 newly appointed APs with staff from the Catholic Education Office.



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

Kerri Davidson: Kerri commenced as a Teacher Assistant at Mercy College in 2007 and has remained in this role for the past 15 years. We are most grateful to Kerri for her patient and encouraging nature with students and her great support of teaching staff at the college. We extend our thanks to Kerri for her wonderful service and wish her every blessing in whatever the future holds.



Jennifer Hawe: We welcomed Jenny to Catholic Education in 2004 as a relief teacher serving Bundaberg schools before taking on a teaching role at our Bundaberg primary schools including two years as Acting APRE at St Patrick's. Jenny moved to Shalom College in 2008 where she has taught for the last 13 years. Jenny has served as a Middle Leader as Core Studies B Coordinator. We wish Jenny every blessing in the future and thank her sincerely for her great service to Catholic Education.



Elizabeth O'Sullivan: Liz commenced with Catholic Education in 2005 as a Teacher at St Francis in Tannum Sands, moving to St Patrick's in Emerald in 2007. Liz relocated to St Mary's in Bundaberg in 2011 continuing as a full-time teacher until taking leave over the past two years to volunteer with PALMS in Thailand teaching English in remote villages. We are most grateful to Liz for her years of dedicated and professional service to Catholic Education and for the inspirational example of self-sacrifice and outreach to those in need.



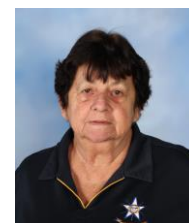
Cajetan Goves: Emmaus College Rockhampton bids a fond farewell to Cajetan Goves this year after almost 35 years at the College. Caj has served as Head of Department of Art since 2002 and has been a Year 9 Coordinator demonstrating compassion and commitment guiding students and assisting them to achieve their potential. We extend our sincere thanks for the many years of dedicated service to Emmaus and Catholic Education.



David Woodland: David joined Catholic Education in 2002 teaching at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Emerald. In 2004 David relocated to Mackay taking up a teaching role at Emmanuel Catholic Primary School before moving to teach at St Patrick's in Bundaberg where he has remained for over a decade. We extend our thanks and appreciation to David for his 19 years of service to Catholic Education and we wish David every happiness in the future.



Shirley Hagerty: Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School in Gladstone says farewell to Shirley Hagerty this year after 22 years as Cleaner at the school. Shirley is well known to the community and has provided exceptional service over many years. During this time Shirley was also Cleaner at the Star of the Sea Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) as well as filling the role as OSHC Assistant. We thank Shirley sincerely for her great service and wish her every blessing into the future.



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

More farewells to long serving staff will be in the final Message Stick for the year.