

# Message Stick

To all members of the Catholic Education family

16 August 2024



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## **Everyone has 'hidden potential'.**

*Author and psychologist, Adam Grant, challenges us in education when he states that what looks like differences in natural ability, are often differences in opportunity and motivation. With the right opportunity and motivation to learn, anyone can build the skills to achieve great things. This isn't easy by any means, and I don't believe we can do this alone. As we work as part of our school teams, may we continue to look for opportunities to recognise and celebrate the growth that our students experience and celebrate the distance they have travelled.*

## **Reflection from Pope Francis**

True faith and prayer open the mind and the heart, they do not close them.

**Please remember in your prayers recently deceased members of our extended Catholic Education family:**

**Penny Cooper**, foundational staff member of The Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

## **Congratulations to:**

**Paul Poutney**, Director, Don Bosco Camp & Centre, Salesian Youth Ministry, Melbourne on his appointment as APRE St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackall commencing in 2025.

**Date Claimer and request:**  
**St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Sarina** Centenary Week, 11 to 17 August 2025. If you know of anyone who may have memories or memorabilia of St Anne's or an interest in recording some history, please contact the school on 4994 8285 or email [sas@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sas@rok.catholic.edu.au)

Dear Colleagues

The rain this week certainly made its presence felt. I hope all in our communities remained safe and my thanks for your extra patience, care and attention during these weather events that can cause such disruption.

This week, curriculum leaders from our primary schools and colleges came together for the annual Curriculum Gathering in Rockhampton. Presentations by Professor Rhonda Farager AO (University of Queensland) on *Universal Design for Learning*, linking curriculum planning to fully inclusive instructional practices, consolidated concepts introduced at the Learning Support Teachers Inservice earlier this year. Lisa Newland and Dr Liz Irwin (Edge Institute) focused on how schools can develop *Cultures of Thinking* through well-established thinking routines. These presentations gave participants much to consider. Thank you to all those involved in planning the Gathering and providing such warm hospitality for all participants.

The two-day joint venture VET Pathways Forum held at the Kevin Castles Centre in Rockhampton early in the week proved highly successful showcasing a range of emerging career paths from drone technology to cybersecurity. With attendees from state, Catholic and independent education sectors, the forum emphasised the diverse opportunities available through VET and the importance of partnerships between stakeholders including education providers, government and industry. My thanks to all involved in the organisation and presentation of this first-time event, especially Marie Martin (Secondary Curriculum Consultant). To view the QCEC VET Forum website story click [here](#)

On Wednesday, I received a very friendly welcome at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Park Avenue. My thanks to staff and students for such an engaging and enjoyable visit.

Our Primary School Staffing conversations for 2025 commence next week and I am aware of the significant work involved in the lead up to this critical planning. I thank Gary Cooper (Employee Support Services Manager) and the ESS Team for the detailed work in preparing data and supporting information for this important meeting. Your prayers for successful staffing outcomes for our primary schools next year would be very welcome.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who assisted with collating the information and documentation required for this year's Non-Government Schools Census, in particular staff members here at the Catholic Education Office. This data provides important information to the Federal Government and is used in determining funding and tailoring policy for Australian schools. I acknowledge the tremendous effort by all to ensure data collected is accurate and provided in a timely way.

God bless

*Michael*

**Where's Michael:** Monday 19 August, Office; Tuesday 20 August, Primary Schools Staffing Meeting; Wednesday 21 August, Office; Thursday 22 August, Primary Schools Staffing Meeting; Friday 23 August, Diocesan Education Council (DEC) Meeting.

**St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston** celebrated their Centenary recently. Pictured below from left are: Indee (school captain), Georgia (youngest enrolled student), Nathaniel Rice (Principal), Mrs Pauline Stevens (nee Doolan – oldest past student, aged 100!) and Harry (school captain). Photo courtesy of Mackay Life



While the eyes of the world have been on the Olympic Games in Paris, students from **Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay** have been training for the 14th Emmanuel Games. The events are not the conventional sporting events of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but rather virtues, qualities and behaviours which are within the potential of every student and which enhance everyday relationships and our call to be all that God created us to be.

<https://www.facebook.com/watcch?v=1571590397073195>

**MacKillop Catholic Primary School, Mackay** celebrated their patron saint's Feast Day last week.



**Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) at St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Gracemere** have been learning about NAIDOC Week.



Many of our schools have connections to the Sisters of St Joseph, founded by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg** has a special connection as Mary MacKillop visited the school on several occasions in 1878 and 1879. Last week the school celebrated St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on her Feast Day with Mass, a Celebration Night, and in many other ways.



The **2024 Social Justice Statement *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*** will be publicly released on 20 August ahead of Social Justice Sunday on 25 August.

Some of the related resources have already been published on this website more information and resources will be uploaded to the website prior to 25 August.

[Social Justice Statement 2024-25 - Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice-statement-2024-25-office-for-justice-ecology-and-peace)



**Assistant Payroll Coordinator,**  
**Catholic Education Office,**  
**Rockhampton**  
<https://applynow.net.au/jobs/CER1064>  
Applications close 16 August 2024

**Assistant Principal: Curriculum (APC)**  
**Marist College, Emerald**  
<https://applynow.net.au/jobs/CER1050>  
*Subsidised housing and relocation available*  
Applications close 19 August 2024

**HR Officer,**  
**Catholic Education Office,**  
**Rockhampton**  
<https://applynow.net.au/jobs/CER1049>  
Applications close 26 August 2024



**Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach** are seeking assistance in finding photos from 1970 to 1980 in preparation for the school's 125 Years celebrations next year. If you can assist, please contact the school on 4994 8375 or email [dianne\\_carter@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dianne_carter@rok.catholic.edu.au)

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