

Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Celebrating with a Joyful Heart



Communities
remember
sacrifices
made



Easter
services
attract
worshippers



Interfaith
activities
unite young
people

HORIZONS is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Grateful acknowledgement to the Catholic Education Office for their contribution to production costs, as well as to our advertisers for their support. Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor.

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Front Cover: Steve Angrisano with young people following his Set Free Concert. Story page 13.

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DEADLINES

Editions will be seasonal.
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FROM THE EDITOR

By Michael Hart

Recently I had the privilege to attend, along with journalists, multimedia experts, bishops and priests from across Australia, the Australian Catholic Communications Congress in Sydney. The theme for the triennial congress was: What is our voice? 'Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.' (Mt 12:34). We were honoured to have the President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, deliver a powerful keynote address on the topic 'The Church in a digital world: communicating the Good News, sharing the gift of faith'. There were numerous plenary and workshop presenters who did an excellent job of providing the

context for Catholic Communications in contemporary Australia.

Overall the Congress was an opportunity for me to reflect on how important the connection between Church, media and culture really is. At the Congress we got to participate in a series of practical media skills workshops and hot-button issue discussions. I was struck by the need for our voice, the voice of the Church, to be an authentic expression of a Christian perspective in what can be a hostile and adversarial environment.

Currently the Church is being challenged because we are taking a countercultural stance on issues which many perceive have majority support within our contemporary

society. Taking the unpopular position doesn't make it wrong and I am sure each of us has experienced that in our own lives. Let's hope the debates can happen in a civil and mature forum without name calling and labeling.

My final thought comes from Archbishop Celli who implored the Congress delegates to "...rediscover the capacity of art, music and literature to express the mysteries of our faith and to touch minds and hearts. Just as the stained glass images of the medieval cathedrals spoke to an illiterate audience, we must find digital forms of expression". How do we express the mysteries of our faith and to touch minds and hearts? [\[1\]](#)

**OOOPS,
WE MADE
A MISTAKE...**

We wish to apologise for the following errors in Horizons Issue 37 and make the following corrections:

- On page 20, it was Feed Central's Management Team who approached the local St Vincent de Paul Group about giving a donation.
- On page 32, the incorrect text was included with the story. A corrected version has been reprinted in this Issue on page 31. [\[2\]](#)



DON'T MESS WITH MARRIAGE



From Bishop Robert McGuckin

There is much talk lately about so-called "marriage equality" or "same-sex marriage". Many think that by opposing single-sex marriages you are denying persons of a basic right and discriminating against them.

The Catholic tradition teaches that every human being is a unique and irreplaceable person, created in the image of God and loved by Him. Because of this, every man, woman and child has great dignity and worth which can never be taken away. This includes those who experience same-sex attraction. They must be treated with respect, sensitivity and love.

It is not denied that those who have

entered into same sex unions might want legal protection of civil rights, but to call such unions "marriage" does injustice to the institution of marriage.

Advocates for same-sex marriage rarely focus on the real meaning and purpose of marriage. Marriage is the union between a man and a woman, for the good of the spouses and for the creation, the good and the upbringing of children.

Fashions may change but "marriage" isn't a word that can be applied to all types of relationships.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have issued a Pastoral Letter to all Australian on the "Same-sex Marriage"

Debate. A copy can be downloaded from our website www.twb.catholic.org.au. I encourage you to read the letter and redouble your support for the institution of marriage in our community. I particularly ask you to make your views known to your parliamentary representatives.

With you and my brother bishops I indeed pray for a right understanding of the meaning of marriage and the requirements of justice; and for an increasing openness to the powerful witness of married couples in our world.

Bishop Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba
June 2015

BISHOP TAKES ON NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

At the recent Australian Catholic Bishops Conference new membership to each of its commissions were appointed.

Bishop Robert McGuckin was elected as the chairman of the Bishops Commission for Canon Law

and appointed as a member of the Bishops Commission for Health and Community Services. Bishop Robert was also appointed Catholic Co-Chair for the National Dialogue between the Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches.

We congratulate Bishop Robert on his appointment to these important positions and recognise this achievement as an acknowledgement of the ongoing leadership he provides at the local and national levels of Church.



GERALDINE DOOGUE VISITS TOOWOOMBA

By Sr Pat Quinn mss



Geraldine Doogue speaking to the crowd assembled for the John Wallis Memorial Lecture.

There was much excitement in Toowoomba on Tuesday evening of 31st March when Geraldine Doogue spoke on "The Australian Spiritual Search – a complex and beautiful thing". Geraldine delivered the John Wallis Memorial Lecture which was sponsored by the Missionary Sisters of Service and the John Wallis Foundation (named after the founder of the MSS).

Over 350 people crowded into St Theresa's for the lecture which was open to the public. The audience was greatly appreciative of Geraldine's presentation and there were excellent thought provoking questions following her lecture. The vice-chancellor of USQ, Professor Jan Thomas delivered a beautiful response to Geraldine's talk. Liz McAloon, the Melbourne based executive officer of the John Wallis Foundation, spoke of its establishment and of the projects funded by the Foundation for needs in local communities. She spoke of upcoming projects in Roma and Warwick districts. The Toowoomba branch of the Foundation, along with the Sisters, organised Geraldine's visit to Toowoomba. The response to this event exceeded all expectations.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL



Bishop McGuckin with some of the staff and volunteers at the St Vincent's Hospital Foundation Day celebrations.

Staff at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba were recognised for their dedicated service during the hospital's annual Foundation Day on May 26. Bishop Robert McGuckin and Hospital General Manager Carl Yuile recognised the valued contribution of over 70 staff members and volunteers by presenting them with special certificates and badges. St Vincent's annually commemorates the laying of the foundation stone on the hospital site by Archbishop Duhig on 22 May, 1921.

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS



George Keryk, Executive Officer Professional Standards and Employment Relationships, presenting at the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Workshops.

Since the launch of the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy in December last year there have been a number of Deanery Information Workshops held throughout the diocese including those in Toowoomba, Pittsworth, Roma and Dalby. Attendees at these workshops have identified how important and helpful the presentations have been in sharing the key messages contained in the Policy and the accompanying Resource document.

DIOCESAN INSERVICE



Fr Justin Driscoll sharing his message at the Diocesan Inservice.

On Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 March over 100 members of the Diocesan community gathered at St Anthony's Parish for the annual Diocesan Inservice. This year's Guest Speaker, Fr Justin Driscoll presented an inspiring and reflective workshop which challenged those present to think deeply about pastoral ministry and spiritual development. Sr Elaine Morzone shares some of her insights gained from the presentation: "Anyone who was hoping that Fr. Justin would provide a step-by-step solution to how our parishes might be renewed may have felt disappointed to be left with as many questions as answers. His contemplative retreat-style approach challenged a mentality preoccupied with 'doing' which tends to keep our experience of church at a functional level. Imagery and song were directed towards helping us rediscover our 'missional imagination' and to enter into the Mystery which is both our mission and motivation. While Fr Justin left us with much to reflect upon – the futility of promoting structural change without nurturing cultural change; the importance of communal discernment; the need to listen to those whose voices are currently not heard; the creativity of neglected biblical images of being church such as light, salt, leaven, mustard seed, city on a hilltop etc. – what I valued most of his presentation was the experience of being in the presence of Mystery which touched my inner being. What was very much affirmed for me through this in-service is the conviction that unless Christians of the future are mystics, there will be no church at all. Mission and spirituality are two sides of the same coin." Sr Elaine and members of the Mission & Ministry team are coordinating follow up workshops throughout the diocese as a way of sharing the key messages from the Diocesan Inservice. [H](#)



Oil for the Holy Chrism is presented to Bishop Robert.



Fr Merv Ziesing with Bishop Robert McGuckin viewing the ANZAC display at Lourdes Home.



Lourdes Home residents and staff created a special display of ANZAC memorabilia in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing.

Continuing the Family Tradition of Care...



Kevin and Jacaline McGrath (now retired)



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun

Judith, daughter of Kevin and Jacki, is proud to continue the family tradition of caring for the Catholic Community in Toowoomba and region, with compassionate, personal care and service. Contact Judith at Australian Heritage Funerals.

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Fr Michael McCarthy
now Bishop of Rockhampton
(on the funeral of his mother)

AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE
FUNERALS

STOP THE CLOSURE OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

By Toni Sagiba-Gebadi



Members of the Toowoomba Community gather in opposition to the closure of Aboriginal Communities in WA.

Megan Gorringer,
Toni Sagiba-Gebadi,
Mia Wright and
Mark Copland.



This speech was given by Toni Sagiba-Gebadi, a student at St Saviour's College. She addressed members of the community who gathered 30th April at the Bishop Kelly Room at the Shrine to show their concern about the closure of Aboriginal Communities.

My name is Toni Sagiba-Gebadi. I am 13 years old and I come from Maningrinda Community in the Northern Territory. I am a descendant from two tribes, these are my mother's tribe – Anbaietd Conbardal and my father's tribe Garmui.

I am here today to address the topic of the community closure (forced) in Western Australia. I would like you to think about a few details. I attend St Saviour's College here in Toowoomba in school term. I am privileged to do this. I enjoy this opportunity to take my knowledge back to my community and show the younger generation what


they can achieve. When I return home to my community, I spend time with my elders and learn the lessons of life that they have lived, from hunting to family ceremonies. Listening to stories from the past and we reflect on their past – this is my culture.

Communities are our homelands, we don't own the land, the land owns us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to look after the land so the land and sea will look after us. The lands where communities are built on, have kinship system and mortals like we native, being the humans and animals, we are all connected. When the land or animals of the land are hurt or destroyed, physical connection to the sovereign people gain the same effect.

That is why it's important for traditional landowners to remain on their lands and look after countries. I wonder for the pain and suffering

and hurt of the stolen generations, their descendants, and their families they left behind – they said sorry. Why say sorry to the mothers, the fathers, the brothers and sisters for breaking up their community when now they are just going to close the door on many generations.

There was once a powerful statement. It said "It was a future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-indigenous to close the gap that lies between us". Please tell me where this or how this is happening by closing down our past, present or future community.

My final statement for this topic is the Parliament once said that they resolved the injustices of the past and it must never happen again. What are they doing now? Isn't this just repeating the past? 

CARITAS THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ONGOING SUPPORT

By Robyn-Anne Lovell

Caritas Australia recently launched an emergency appeal for the victims of the catastrophic earthquakes in Nepal. In February, Toowoomba played host to one of Nepal's Caritas field workers, Prakash Khadka, who has registered as 'safe' and has been busy distributing blankets, sleeping bags, water and food to the homeless. Caritas Australia is working closely with Caritas Nepal and has already supplied over 100,000 people with immediate food supplies, non-food items, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) kits. Please pray for their recovery and don't forget that donations can still be offered at any Catholic church or at www.caritas.org.au/donate.

In March I was invited to be guest speaker at the Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Mary's Church in Warwick. This was a great honour for me and I spoke about Catholic Social Teachings and linked these principles to the prayers and readings prepared by the ladies of the Bahamas. A wonderful morning tea was provided by the Warwick ladies in the church hall after the service.

Young Catholics in collaboration with the Toowoomba Islamic Faith




St Ursula's College presents their Project Compassion funds to Robyn-Anne Lovell.

Centre organised an inaugural Interfaith Soccer Match, held at the USQ oval on the afternoon of 25th March. There was a big roll up of young people from both faiths, along with Bishop Robert McGuckin, who sported a personalised football guernsey emblazoned with the words, 'The Bish'. The Caritas team was the runner-up to the tune of a \$300 donation for our work for the poor. Many thanks go to Sarah de Byl, Mark Copland (who was MC), Concannon College students and the Islamic Faith team for a successful event that emphasised love, peace and harmony for all.

Recently I attended St Ursula's College Assembly and Mary MacKillop School at Highfields to collect

funds raised by the students during Project Compassion 2015. These dedicated students and their teachers have made an amazing effort in contributing to the urgent needs of others, but also by raising awareness of the work of Caritas and learning about the significance of humanity through the lens of social justice.

Thank you to the parishes and schools who have sent in their collection money for this year. For those who have not yet had a chance to send in donations, it would be appreciated if you could send them in or contact Robyn-Anne on 4638 7977 before the end of June. Thank you to everyone for your support of Project Compassion this year. 

THE CALL OF YOUNG MEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD







PASTORAL STATEMENT BY BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

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PO Box 32, Dalby, Qld 4405

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Phone 07 4622 1075
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PO Box 119, Roma, Qld 4455



Catholic Diocese of TOOWOOMBA

SPRED APPROACHES SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE

By Loretta Coman

Next year SPRED will acknowledge a special milestone in its history – 30 years in the Toowoomba Diocese. In 1986 SPRED was established in Toowoomba on the wave of great change and opportunity for people with disabilities. The Disability Services Act was introduced that same year and since then there has been significant development in how both society and the church view people with intellectual disability. Our perceptions of how we should or shouldn't interact with them, and indeed what we think is possible for them has also changed. The need to focus on the person first rather than only seeing the disability continues to shape and guide all organisations that support people with disabilities.

SPRED has always recognised that a friendship with someone with intellectual disability when based on mutuality and reciprocity is a very special gift; it is a relationship that recognises, knows and appreciates



L to R: Debbie Gerrard, Sr Monica McNamara and Geoffrey in the mid 1980's when SPRED first started in Toowoomba.

that our Friends with disability have as much to offer us as we have to offer them. When faith communities fail to plan to include people with disabilities as equal and active participants in parish life then we are all the poorer for it, for to be truly representative of the Body of Christ then all the baptised should be given the opportunity of taking their rightful place. For the



Geoffrey with Bishop Robert at the James Byrne Centre.

Body of Christ to be whole then the full participation of people with disability, their families and friends in the faith life of our churches must be encouraged and promoted.

Integral to the mission and vision of SPRED has been to encourage and assist faith communities in Toowoomba to discover and celebrate the beauty and strength of the Body of Christ and to facilitate and support the creation of opportunities for participation in which everyone is valued, gifted and acknowledged. This is evidenced in many of our parishes across the Diocese where at any weekend mass you will find our Friends confidently and proudly contributing and participating in the life of their church community.

This past 30 years has seen more than 120 people with intellectual disability and over 300 volunteers grace the SPRED ministry with their life and love, sharing their faith and growing together in their love for God. SPRED Friend Geoffrey Dent and his family have been part of that story from the beginning.

His parents, John and Rita, were both foundation members having trained with Sr Monica McNamara CSJ

as part of the first group of SPRED volunteers in 1986. Then, in 1992, when he was 17 years old, Geoffrey also joined SPRED as a member of the Tuesday Evening Group and he's been there ever since. Quietly spoken and with a wicked sense of humour, Geoffrey is well known in his parish of Holy Name where he is a regular altar server. Within the safety and context of the SPRED community and his parish, Geoffrey, his family, and his SPRED Friends and Volunteers come to recognise and rejoice in each other's gifts and weaknesses, and through mutual giving and receiving in both good and bad times, realise their potential of 'providing real liberation and freedom through the Body of Christ.'

"People with disability and their families discover their authentic and visible place within the Body of Christ through the call and discovery of their own unique gifts. When our gifts and our weaknesses are acknowledged and freely shared, we empower each other to live out our Baptismal promises to evangelise, to love and to tell our Good News." Toward a Theology of Disability by Patricia Mowbray [\[1\]](#)

REMEMBERING FR BRIAN DORO CSsR

By Fr Brian Connolly

At the Funeral Mass of Fr Brian Doro at the Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth on 27th February 2015, Fr John Hodgson (originally from Wallangarra) spoke eloquently of Fr Brian as a Redemptorist who "lived a life of incredible giving and left a deep imprint on the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate to meet him."

Brian Doro, the second child of Roy and Mary Doro of Dalveen, was born in Stanthorpe on 21st March 1941. He was baptised in the Thulimbah Church and was educated at the Dalveen State School and by the Sisters of Mercy at St Joseph's. Inspired by a Redemptorist mission in Stanthorpe in 1956, he left home at 16 to complete his high school at the Redemptorist Junior Seminary in Galong. He professed his first vows as a Redemptorist on 25th February 1961, completed his Seminary studies and was ordained on 15th December 1966.

Fr John Hodgson spoke in his eulogy about Fr Brian's fruitful ministry in Malaysia and Singapore after learning to speak Mandarin


in Taiwan. From 1984 for nine years he was Chaplain in Changi prison, Singapore. Fr John said, "His ministry to those about to be executed became a specialist ministry that only very few others could ever understand or appreciate". He served twenty-three years in South-East Asia, sixteen of them with drug addicts and prisoners. "He was full of mercy and compassion for the most abandoned, especially prisoners and those addicted to heroin. He turned no one away who came to him for help and to those about to be executed he would say, 'Tell God, I love Him'."

With his health seriously affected, Fr. Brian returned to Australia in 1993. In 2003, he joined the Redemptorist community in Perth where his health deteriorated and since 2010 was cared for by the Little Sisters of The Poor.

"Fr. Brian will be remembered as a Redemptorist with a full-on personality and both charming and witty. He was an incredibly hard worker, a devotee of



Chinese culture, a gifted linguist and artisan, and enthralling storyteller and writer. He loved the Granite Belt."

Some in the Toowoomba Diocese would remember his sister, Sr June Doro rsm, who served in our Diocese for many years. Brian Doro came from our Diocesan family and went out to the peripheries, as Pope Francis encourages us to do. In death, he is remembered in Stanthorpe and by those who may care to pray for him. May he rest in peace. 

Each year the Diocese of Toowoomba reaches out to parishioners asking them to contribute financially to the SPRED Ministry. A letter endorsed by Bishop Robert McGuckin has been sent to donors already. To those who have contributed, many thanks for your support, your donation is received with gratitude. If you

have not received a letter and would like to support SPRED, you might like to fill out the donation slip provided. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. For those unable to contribute at this time, we ask that you keep the Ministry of SPRED, the SPRED Friends, volunteers and staff in your prayers. Thank you.

Yes, I would like to support the great work of SPRED

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WORLD RENOWNED SINGER AND COMPOSER VISITS TOOWOOMBA

By Sarah de Byl and Ingrid McTaggart



From Sunday 17 May to Wednesday 20 May accomplished singer, songwriter and speaker, Steve Angrisano visited the Toowoomba Diocese for a series of workshops, school events and a concert. It was a treat to have a visitor of Steve's calibre perform in the Toowoomba Diocese. He is undoubtedly one of the most effective and versatile ministry leaders in the Church today. Steve has been a musician, music director and youth minister for over a decade and his focus has always been about being a witness of the love and life of Jesus. While here Steve facilitated music workshops and featured at two GoMAD (Go Make a Difference) leadership days as well as performing some of his more popular hits at a free concert held at St Theresa's Church.

CELEBRATE WITH A JOYFUL HEART WORKSHOP

Fresh off the plane on Sunday afternoon, Steve facilitated a music workshop at Our Lady of Lourdes

Parish, Toowoomba. The group was treated to Steve giving an intimate performance of some of his songs as well as imparting useful tips on how to integrate music into Mass and liturgy. Through stories and practical examples Steve showed the group how music can help the flow of the Mass and be an uplifting experience adding to the experience of Church without detracting from the Mass. After the workshop

Steve and workshop participants were invited to attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. This was an opportunity to demonstrate some of the tips given in the workshop as Steve played with local musicians and singers. Thanks goes to Damien Mollison who assisted with sound and lighting, as well as staff and parishioners from Our Lady of Lourdes who helped prepare the school hall for the workshop.





GOMAD SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DAYS – DALBY AND TOOWOOMBA

Steve along with other guest speakers Br Damien Price, Stephanie Reed from St Vincent de Paul and Hannah Mathewson from the University of Southern Queensland presented two leadership days for senior students. Organised by the Catholic Education Office in conjunction with Young Catholics, the theme for the leadership days were “Go Make a Difference”. Students were treated to a day of fun, laughter, learning, faith and moments of quiet reflection on how they can make a difference in the world around them. In addition to the speakers and Steve’s performance, students could visit stalls run by various Diocesan and Church Agencies as well as purchase items from The Trading Circle.

The first leadership day was held at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Dalby and was attended by over 200 students from Dalby and St John’s School Roma. Fr Michael Cooney and Fr Jamie Collins provided prayerful reflection to start the day, with singers and musicians from Dalby performing “People Get Ready” with a modern

twist to get the crowd going. MCs Mariah Thom (Roma) and Madeleine Wunsch (Dalby) kept the day going. In the spirit of friendship and getting to know others, the students stayed on for team sports and activities with Roma students staying overnight in Dalby.

The second leadership day was held at the Alison Dickson Lecture Theatre at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba. Over 300 students from St Ursula’s College Toowoomba, Assumption College Warwick, St Joseph’s School Stanthorpe, St Mary’s College Toowoomba, St Joseph’s College Toowoomba and St Saviour’s College Toowoomba attended. Fr Ray Crowley guided everyone assembled in prayer, with MCs Sophie McHardy (St Ursula’s College) and Nick Joy (St Mary’s College) keeping the energy of the crowd up.

The speakers proved to be popular and struck a chord with both groups. Stephanie (St Vincent de Paul) shared her own personal story of growth, talking about her journey from not knowing what to do as a school leaver to being focused on how she could impact others in a positive way. Her powerful tale of ups and downs was relevant to the students who were themselves getting ready to start their own life journeys. The University of Southern Queensland was a major sponsor of both the leadership days. Hannah from USQ spoke about the important step a lot of students will take after high school, university. Hannah gave a brief insight

“I found the day to be very moving and made me much more aware of my role in making a difference in our world. Br Price’s questions still remain clear in my mind.”

Sarah Saxby, St Joseph’s School Stanthorpe

into university life and what USQ has to offer, telling the assembled students that education is powerful and can be used for making a difference in the world. Br Damien engaged the assembled students with his strong, if sometimes surprising, stories of people he has helped through his work. Coming down off the stage to pace up and down through the crowd of students and teachers, his message resonated with everyone, “If not you, who? If not here, where? And if not now, when?”.

Of course the highlight of the day was the performance by Steve Angrisano. Steve broke the ice with a game of “Simon Says”, whittling down both gatherings to a handful of people to face off and ultimately crowning a champion! The students were inspired by his stories which told of moments of grace in some of the darkest times in his life. His message of God’s love for all and strong faith shone through in his stories and songs. But not all was serious and somber; everyone enjoyed joining in with singing and actions with some of the songs. Even some of the USQ helpers on day two joined in up the front for one of Steve’s biggest hits “Trading my Sorrows”.



SET FREE CONCERT


On the Tuesday evening, Steve performed an intimate concert at St Theresa's Church. The crowd was treated to a similar show to what the students enjoyed over the past two days. Yes, even songs with actions! The audience got into the mood of the performance and delighted in the group participation songs – or as Steve describes it “Catholic Aerobics”. The audience was captivated by his stories of faith, love and hope. At the end of the performance many stayed to get CDs, an autograph and photo with Steve. Thanks to Michael Gatt for assistance with sound and lighting for the concert, Max Borserio for helping on the night and St Theresa's staff for setting up the Church for the night.

SCHOOLS MUSIC WORKSHOP

On his final day in Toowoomba, Steve offered a workshop for students and teachers at the Charnley Street Catholic Education Offices. Steve shared some insight on choosing appropriate music for school Masses and how to encourage students to sing and partake in the Mass. Participants then learnt one of Steve's newest songs “Rightful

Place” and got the opportunity to jam with Steve and make the song their own.

Young Catholics is so excited to have been able to share such a rare talent with the Toowoomba Diocese. Thank you to everyone who supported or helped with the 2015 Steve Angrisano Tour. Particular thanks to Gerard Hore, Angela Travers and Tony Worner from the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office who assisted with organising the School Leadership Days and Schools Music Workshop. Thank you to APREs, teachers and principals from the schools for participating and getting their

students to and from the Leadership Days and Workshop. Thank you to all the vendors who participated in the Leaderships Days – Anita from Edmund Rice Camps, Kattie and Chrissie from Fair Trade Association and The Trading Circle, Jon and Geraldine from Rosies, USQ, Steph from St Vincent de Paul and Catherine from Catholic Mission. Thank you to Michael Hart for sound and lighting at each event and Ingrid McTaggart for photos. A special thanks to Sarah de Byl from Young Catholics for arranging for Steve to visit the Diocese during this tour of Australia. 

WEENGALLON CHURCH

CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

By Fr Michael O'Brien



Parishioners gather to celebrate 60 years with Fr Adam Woch and Fr Michael O'Brien.

On the 6th March 1955, a lovely blue cloudless day, Bishop William Brennan travelled the dusty roads to open the rural church of Our Lady Queen, Weengallon. A then thriving little township including a school, store, hall, tennis courts and now a church for the faithful to gather and give thanks. Saturday the 7th March this year saw the celebration of 60 years from this humble beginning. While the numbers are not the same, the spirit of hospitality and concern for each other is still very evident. It was

a great celebration, beginning with the 6th decade of the celebration of Mass, followed by the same number of cuppas afterward where the world comes to Weengallon. The celebration cake was cut by two of the oldest parishioners, Tom Turvey and Thea McNulty (nee Russell). It was also an opportunity to farewell Fr Michael O'Brien, as Weengallon and Daymar will now be pastorally cared for by Fr Adam Woch and Sr Beverley Lewis from St. George. May God bless the next 60 years at Weengallon! [H](#)



Tom Turvey and Thea McNulty cut the celebration cake.

PITTSWORTH LAY

LEAD LITURGY FORMATION

Some of the participants in the Lay Led Liturgy Workshop held at St Stephen's Pittsworth, Sunday 17th May. Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, John Schick, John Briffa, Bill Sullivan, Kaye O'Connell, Sue Lissimore, Michelle Arnold, Sr Di Phillips, Laurel Hearn and Joy Cridland. [H](#)



CHARLEVILLE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE

By Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe rsm



Ann Russell placing a wreath from the St Mary's Parish Community.

Holy Week began in Charleville with an Ecumenical Service in the Anglican Church celebrating Palm Sunday. This was followed on Holy Thursday by the children at the school presenting a very moving interpretation of the story of Holy Week and Easter for the both the school and parish community. This began with the children welcoming Jesus, played by Joseph Shaw, into Jerusalem while waving their branches of gum leaves. This was followed by a re-enactment of Jesus washing the feet on Holy Thursday. Two community members, two of his fellow students, Principal Louise Pfingst and Fr Peter Doohan had their feet washed as part of the Service. Good Friday brought student Zoe Radnedge and teacher Tim Ludlow, processing in with the crown of thorns and the cross. This was followed by the angel carrying in Jesus's burial cloth representing his resurrection. The Easter season also saw us welcome two new members into our Catholic Community.

Anzac weekend was a double celebration for us in Charleville. Not only did we commemorate

the centenary of Anzac but we also celebrated the resilience of the Charleville community as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 1990 flood which caused such massive damage to the Charleville community. The weekend commenced with a lantern parade and fireworks on the Friday evening. The lantern parade was significant because it was one of the community activities that had helped the community to regroup after the 1990 flood. During the previous week various community groups and the schools made their lanterns for the parade.

Saturday was a more sombre celebration as we joined with the wider Charleville community to commemorate Anzac Day. Each year the students of St Mary's School, their teachers and some of the parents join the procession. This year some went to the trouble of dressing for the occasion in the period of the time. Our school leaders also placed a wreath and addressed the assembled crowd.

Sunday we were back to celebrating the flood again with a



Reenacting the washing of the feet.

display of memorabilia in the town hall which brought back many memories, both good and bad, for those who had lived through the trauma of the flood. Sunday evening saw us sitting out under the stars at the racecourse enjoying a concert by local group Ned and the Kelly's and by British artist Leo Sayer. The racecourse had been the site of one of the evacuation points at the time of the flood. All agreed that the atmosphere was very different from when they had gathered there in 1990. [H](#)

FAREWELL FOR SR ANNE MCDONNELL RSM

By Narelle McIntyre

It was with great sadness that St Joseph's Parish and the wider Dalby community said 'good-bye' to Sr Anne McDonnell with a function in the Parish Centre on Sunday 26th April.

Together with Sr Mary Scanlan, Sr Anne responded to an invitation by Fr Hal Ranger to live and work in Dalby. They arrived in early February 2001 and Sr Anne brought many gifts and great experience to the local community after 17 years of working as a community nurse in Ethiopia, the Philippines and New Guinea.

Sadly, Sr Mary passed away in 2005 after battling cancer, but Sr Anne continued to live and work in our community until this year when she decided it was time to 'retire' to a unit in Nudgee.

During Sr Anne's 14 years of living and working in our Parish and community she touched the lives of so many through her gentle, cheerful and humorous outreach. All these qualities



Presentation of farewell gift, Sr Anne is pictured with parishioner Barry O'Shea, Fr Michael Cooney and Pastoral Care Worker, Meg Doyle.

were recalled with much fondness and gratitude by those who spoke at the farewell function. A framed photo of significant landmarks was

presented to Sr Anne as a memento of her time in St Joseph's Parish.

Everyone wished Sr Anne well for her retirement in Brisbane. [H](#)

Oakey Parish PASTORAL COUNCIL FORMATION

By Oakey Parish

With the resignation of some parish pastoral council members, St Monica's Parish Oakey began a process of searching for new membership. On the evening of 21 March, Sr Elaine Morzone was invited to speak at the parish family Mass about the role of the parish pastoral council with the aim of encouraging parishioners to consider serving on the parish pastoral council as a way of living out their baptismal vocation. Following this, parishioners were asked to nominate persons they felt could use their gifts for the life of the community in this leadership role. Sr Elaine was later invited to facilitate the discernment of new membership of the parish



L to R: Mirna Sleba, Gerard Donohoe, Sr Elaine Morzone, Barbara Barnes and Anne Teakle.

council on the evening of 20 May. Gerard Donohoe (Chair) and Anne Teakle (Secretary) welcomed two new members – Mirna Sleba and Barbara

Barnes. Roland Pouton (School Principal) and Fr Thomas Areekuzhy also serve on the parish pastoral council as ex-officio members. [H](#)

Oakey Helps Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

By Oakey Parish



Bill and Marie Reen with members of the Oakey Parish and Frs Mick Carroll and Thomas Areekuzhy.

Bill and Marie Reen celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a Parish Mass early in March. After Mass

they received a blessing and a scroll inscribed with the blessing from Parish Priest Fr Thomas Areekuzhy

and Fr Mick Carroll. At a morning tea later, the Parish Ladies presented them with flowers and a gift. [H](#)

SACRED HEART PARISH CELEBRATES THE MONTH OF MARY

By Emilie Yu-Yap

On the occasion of Pentecost Sunday, the 24th May, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Wilsonton gathered in the church's newly-built Garden of Meditation for an afternoon with Mary.

In weather that couldn't be more perfect, the event began at 1:30pm with a hymn, followed by children processing to lay flowers before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Various Marian groups from the parish took turns reciting a decade of the Rosary, beginning with the Legion of Mary, then by the Marian Movement of Priests, Schoenstatt Movement, the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena Filipino Group, and the Children's Group. An afternoon tea prepared by the parishioners followed right after.

This event is one of a series planned by the parish for the month of May in honour of the Blessed Mother. Initiated by Parish Priest Fr Roque Maguinsay to encourage people, especially young children, to have a deeper devotion to Our Lady, the celebrations include



Children lay flowers before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima after mass.

children offering flowers to Mary at the end of every Sunday 8am mass in May.

May is the month which the Catholic faithful over the course of many centuries has dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. It begins with the feast of Mary, Queen of Heaven, on the 1st May and culminates with the feast of

the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 31st May. Fittingly, bookended by these two great feasts, faithful from all walks of life hold various devotions throughout the month. The May celebrations culminate in the May crowning, which is the crowning of the statue of Mary with flowers. [H](#)

INCLEMENT WEATHER FAILS TO DETER WORSHIPERS

By Patti McNaught

On Good Friday morning worshipers flocked to Peacehaven Park once again for the Ecumenical Stations of the Cross. It was believed that it may be cancelled due to the inclement weather, but Fr Brian Noonan was keen to continue with everything. On our arrival it was still raining and there was doubt that it may continue but people arrived in numbers with umbrellas ready to take part in this special Easter ceremony.

Peacehaven Park is a beautiful location in Highfields and the rain and fog almost made this a fitting backdrop for this solemn occasion, and before too long we had started on "The way of the Cross". Parish Priest Fr Brian Noonan and Rev Stephanie Patching from the Anglican Church led the crowd with prayer as we moved to each station, represented by banners held by the Ryan boys. The boys were to be commended on an excellent job holding them



Just like a miracle, the sun started to shine as we moved towards the end of our journey.

high for each of us to see and reflect upon Christ's suffering.

When we arrived at each station, we all prayed together as one in worship and as we moved on to the next station we sang "Were you there when they Crucified my Lord". Sandy Whybird from the Highfields Anglican Church does a wonderful job every year, providing music with her acoustic guitar which adds a

special touch to the ceremony.

Towards the end of the ceremony, just like a miracle, the sun started to shine upon all of us and the fine weather continued for the rest of the day. Thank you Fr Brian and Rev Stephanie for this wonderfully moving experience again this year. It just goes to show you that in rain, hail or shine there is no stopping those who truly want to worship the Lord! <#>

ALLORA CONGRATULATES SR MONICA CAVANAGH RSJ

By Robyn Phelan

Allora Parish is proud to call Sr Monica Cavanagh "one of our own". The parish recently presented Sr Monica with a framed photo of St Patrick's Church, Allora in celebration of her appointment as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart – Josephites (RSJ). Sr Monica grew up as the third of ten children of Ned and Ilma Cavanagh on their dairy farm at Berat, attending Mass at St Patrick's Church and undertaking her primary education at the Parish School. It was fitting that the presentation was made at a Family Mass with the St Patrick's School children in attendance. Sr Monica stated that she will proudly hang the photo in her office at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

Professed as a Sister of St Joseph

in the Allora Church in 1973, Sr Monica has since responded to God's call as a teacher and a faith educator and facilitator. She was the Josephite Co-ordinator for World Youth Day held in Sydney and a key facilitator in the preparations for Mary MacKillop's Canonisation. With her special interest in the life and spirituality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Sr Monica wrote the book "Mary MacKillop – A Window of Hope". Sr Monica served on both Provincial and Congregational Leadership Teams before becoming the 15th successor of Mary MacKillop as Congregational Leader of the Josephite which was founded in 1866 by Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Woods.

Sr Monica considers the Allora Parish and community as a significant



Sr Monica and her gift from Allora Parish.

part of her life and we are delighted that she will join us on the weekend of 12th/13th March 2016 for the Centenary of St Patrick's School. <#>

PARISH VISIT TO HISTORICAL CHURCH AT BELL

By Cathy Morris

On Thursday 12th March Our Lady of Lourdes Parish took a busload of parishioners and friends to Bell to visit the historic Catholic church and famous Biblical Gardens. Meg Cullen met the group at the Church and gave us a guided tour of the church and grounds. The Biblical Gardens were created in 2012 to mark the Centenary of the Church. They depict the Stations of the Cross using sculpture and hardy plants such as native plants, geraniums and succulents, many of the plants have a biblical significance. This was followed by lunch at local café Pips and Cherries. After lunch we returned to Toowoomba via the new



Parishioners enjoy a break during the day trip.

Airport at Wellcamp where the group were given a guided tour of the facility by Mr Dennis Wagner and were able to ask numerous questions. It was a lovely day and the office is fielding

enquiries as to when the next bus trip will be. To register your interest or find out more, please contact Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on 46341453 or lol.parish@bigpond.com. #

JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS IN STANTHORPE

By Fr Brian Connolly

Stanthorpe Parishioners helped Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly celebrate his 70th Birthday in February with a Parish Morning Tea following the 8.30am Mass. Parish Secretary Dorothy O'Reilly organised a framed collage of photos recalling memorable moments in Fr Brian's life, which was presented to him at the Morning Tea by Steve Kay, Chair of the Pastoral Council.

The Easter Vigil Mass was an even more joyous celebration with the Sacraments of Initiation for Lorraine Ashcroft. Lorraine joined the RCIA in Wynnum the previous year, before relocating to Stanthorpe where she was welcomed into the Parish Community to continue her journey into the Church.

Having been a Chaplain on a number of Harvest Pilgrimages over the last ten years, Fr Brian Connolly is again leading two Pilgrimages, The Visitations of Mary and The Graces of France, from 9th October to 1st November. The Pilgrimage group will be in Avila, Spain for St Teresa's



The Three Saints Procession.

feast day in this the fifth centenary of her birth. Anyone interested in joining one or both of the Pilgrimages can contact Fr Brian on 4681 2157 or Harvest Pilgrimages on 1800 819 156.

Bishop Robert McGuckin was a special guest for the first time at the Three Saints Festival in Stanthorpe on Sunday 3rd May. Earlier in the day, Bishop Robert celebrated Confirmation in Killarney, coming to Stanthorpe to preside at the 1pm Mass at which Fr James Spence from the Archdiocese of Brisbane was the Principal Celebrant. The Mass was

concelebrated by Fr Brian Connolly, Fr Lino Valente and Fr Don Murray. The Mass was followed by the Procession along the streets surrounding the Church in honour of the three brothers Filadelfo, Alfio and Cirino who were martyred for their faith on 10th May 253 in Lentini, Sicily. The festivities included spectacular fireworks, Sicilian food, music and dancing. Next year's Festival will be held on Sunday 1st May 2016. All are welcome to experience this unique festival. For information contact the Parish on 46812175 or Nita Gasparin on 4681 2175. #

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

By Rebecca Lynch

As Part of the Lenten Season, All Saints Parish gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches. Our church was a spectacular reminder of this event.

St John's School students did an outstanding job in the choir. A big thank you to Bridget Treasure,



The Church decorated with Palms created a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Rachel Brennan, Melody Carroll, Adrian Marcel, Janice Golder, Caitlin Taylor, Logan Connell, Annabelle

Lynch, Christine Avancea, Anea Fernandez and Eden Pavia. Let's celebrate the miracle of Easter! <#>

PARISH EXPLORES PRAYER

By Roma Parish

Parishioners of All Saints Parish recently took time out to experience prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. Peter Webb from Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Brisbane, facilitated a two day workshop titled Teach Them to Pray: Tasting 5 Styles of Prayer.

Participants discussed settling into quiet time: how to get ready for prayer, the Examen, Lectio Divina – Praying the Scriptures, Praying with Images, Taize Prayer, and Liturgy of the Hours. Lovely morning teas and shared lunches were a chance for conversations with the presenter and with one another. <#>



Roma Parishioners enjoying the recent Prayer Inservice.

SPRED REACHES OUT IN ROMA

By Anne Moloney

A group of very dedicated ladies from All Saints Parish in Roma have had a great start to their year at their shared SPRED mornings. They enjoy time spent together with young ladies from the Endeavour Foundation on engaging craft activities, reflective prayer sessions and a social finish to the morning with 'Agape'. <#>



PARISH COMMISSIONS

NEW PARISH LEADER

By Bevan Devine



New Parish Leader Michael Bermingham with his wife Vivian and daughter Alyssa with Sr Patsy Grundy.



Bishop Robert McGuckin with Priest Director Fr Peter Dorfield congratulate Michael on his new role.

On Sunday 1st March, St Thomas More's Parish, Toowoomba commissioned a new Parish Leader. Towards the end of 2014, Sr Patsy Grundy moved on from the position after a memorable 12 years to take up a leadership role in her religious congregation, the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The new Parish Leader, Michael Bermingham, is a local having grown up in the beautiful surrounds of Greenmount and spent 5 years as a boarder at Downlands College during his high school years. Michael, his wife, Vivian, and their two children, Julian and Alissa, joined St Thomas More's Parish in 1998. Both Julian

and Alissa are past students of St Thomas More's Primary School and St Joseph's College.

Michael comes to the position after more than 20 years in the Queensland Public Service including 17 years in various management positions. Since 2005 Michael has worked in the area of Youth Justice, most recently as the Business Manager at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre at Wacol in Brisbane.

Michael studied at the Yarra Theological Union during the 1970's and holds a Bachelor of Theology Degree through the Melbourne College of Divinity. As well as his years in the Queensland Public Service, Michael

brings a range of life experiences to the position including some years spent in the Philippines in the 1980's and a number of years spent, in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, assisting newly arrived migrants to this country.

Michael brings to the role a keenness to continue and build on the good work already happening in the parish, a commitment to nurture the leadership developed during Sr Patsy's time in the Pastoral Leader's role, a willingness to listen to, and learn from, members of the parish, as well as an enthusiasm to build the spiritual and community life that are the established strengths and hallmarks of St Thomas More's Parish. [H](#)

St Thomas More's

MACKILLOP CLUB

IN CROWS NEST

By Sr Di Phillips rsj

A MacKillop Club has been formed in Crows Nest with Ben Brennan as the mentor. The children are of primary school age and come from the town. On the feast of Pentecost members of the Club celebrated Eucharist with the parish community and afterwards flew kites they had made. The children had not flown kites before, so members of the parish

community were quick to help and mobilise those well decorated kites. The wind was tricky, blowing in gusts, making it difficult to get the kites up. However, when they flew everyone was elated. The fun that everyone had was certainly in the spirit of Mary MacKillop who once wrote "find happiness in making others happy" (Mary MacKillop 1899). [H](#)

MacKillop Club members ready to get their kites flying.



Crow's Nest

LOTS HAPPENING AT ST THERESA'S

By Regan Kama

The Lenten preparation went very well for St Theresa's with a few Lenten groups and Masses during the Lent were especially designed to encourage and allow for reflection during this special season of the church. The Easter Masses continued the theme of "Rich in Your Mercy".

This year the parish conducted a Mass for ANZAC day. The commemoration of this event has been gaining more importance in recent years and St Theresa's contributed by placing a poppy in the sacred space and reflecting on the past through footage prepared by Kay Gleeson.

Mothers' Day saw all mothers gain recognition. However, we know that even though some ladies do not have their own children, they still mother in many different ways and so all were included.

Music is an important part of any Mass and so to assist with this some members of Mater Dei have joined our music group. One of these groups is with Elizabeth Stewart, Fran Gregory and another with Mel Philp, teachers at Mater Dei, we thank these teachers for volunteering their time and assistance for our children to participate in our Masses.

Chairman Ray Taylor, Kathy Doherty, David Rogan, Regan Kama and Fr Brian attended the Recasting the Nets seminar in March with Rev



Volunteers serving lunch after the healing Mass.

Justin Driscoll. The aim of this was to re-invigorate faith and participation, particularly by young people.

A healing Mass was held on May 14. This is always a popular event. It was followed by a catered lunch and good fellowship was enjoyed by all present. We thank our Care and Concern committee for their wonderful work in our parish.

On March 31 the parish centre hosted a very well attended presentation by Geraldine Doogue of national acclaim. This event was organised by the Missionary Sisters of Service, an Order that has undertaken very valuable work in our diocese for decades. Geraldine spoke on the theme of Spirituality in our time and she provided much input for us to contemplate.

The parish has completed an evening workshop on Child Protection and protecting the vulnerable. This also included information on elder abuse and provided strategies for how we could best and appropriately respond to any situation.

The Steve Angrisano concert on May 19, was a fantastic event, the concert attracted over 60 people from all walks of life. We thank the Toowoomba Diocese for using St Theresa's for such a great event.

A number of our council members attended the "Development Day for Parish Pastoral Councils" on Saturday June 13. It is a day where members to reflect more deeply on their role of leadership in our Parish. It is also a time where they can network and interact with other Parish's in the Diocese. [H](#)

MILES COMMUNITY FAREWELLS SISTERS

By Sr Di Phillips rsj

On Sunday the 26 April Sisters Angela and Pam were farewelled from Miles. The parish had given them a gift when they left at Christmas, however, this was a chance for the whole parish to thank them for their presence. It was also an opportunity for the MacKillop Club to give them a gift and thank them for their interest and presence in their activities. Sisters travelled from Brisbane, Toowoomba, Quilpie and Pittsworth for the event.

The MacKillop Club does small acts of service within the parish context. That Sunday they divided into two groups and swapped activities from time to time. One group made wrapping paper for the Sisters' gifts while the other worked on an old wooden table that has served the parish at barbecues and other outdoor functions. It may have been a teacher's table in the days when there was a Catholic School in Miles. The linoleum

that was glued on top was coming off. Under the guidance of Mrs Kylie Bourne, the children made a mosaic of tiles on the top to replace the linoleum.

Meanwhile the gift paper for the presents was made and gifts were finally presented by the children to Sisters Pam and Angela. After Mass there were reunions, sharing of memories and plenty of conversation over a wonderful evening meal. [H](#)

SPIRITUAL CARE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015

By Lyn Cash

For trained pastoral carers to be effective in their ministry to the sick, they need to be 'grounded' in their own particular faiths, spiritual roots, traditions and practices. In light of this, the organizers of the recent 2015 'Spiritual Care Australia National Conference' chose the theme 'The Ground of our being' – (Heritage, Identity and Connectedness). The Conference was held in Hobart, Tasmania and was attended by seven Toowoomba pastoral carers representing the Toowoomba Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital and Blue Care.

During the Conference presenters assisted and challenged participants to explore where they were 'coming from' as well as inviting them to look at what it is that informs their practice. Most in attendance would share the presenter's opinion and knowledge that without this clear understanding it really is more difficult to fulfil the role of spiritual caring. We were assured for example, that being grounded in one's own faith tradition, helps one therefore to be more open to the tradition of another and allows for effective sharing with each other.

Today we pastoral carers find in healthcare facilities that there is a diversity of people and faiths that we minister to. It is this rich diversity that is our strength. For this reason each pastoral carer is continually invited to continue to dig deep into the heritage of his or her own faith tradition in order to find strength and to have a solid foundation for his or her ministry.

As pastoral carers our spiritual wellbeing is dependent upon maintaining the connection to what it is that sustains us. So for three days each pastoral carer was challenged to reflect on and connect to the heritage of their faith tradition and its practices that have proven effective over the centuries - be it prayer, meditation, sacred texts or theological reflection, as means of recognizing the deep underlying essence. This practice therefore will and does ground us to be able to support another in our care.



Pastoral Carers from Toowoomba at the opening of the Spiritual Care Australia National Conference.

PARTICIPANTS CALLED TO LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

By Patricia Langan

Reflecting on this year's magnificent Hobart conference, one face and voice that springs to mind immediately is Robyn Moore. Robyn was a keynote speaker at the conference and perhaps most famously known as the voice of Blinky Bill. Robyn has a gift for story-telling and jokes, along with her genuine fun-filled presence which provided an energy, spice and joy to the conference.


Robyn lived up to the conference's promise to be "challenging, stretching and enthusing us with diverse perspectives, insights and experiences". As one to whom God has given a 'laughing heart', her belief is the power of words is a force for healing and transforming lives where there is pain and suffering. Adding this her exuberant faith in Jesus she is unafraid to say that name 'Jesus' with a message that "My God loves you, and you don't even have to believe in him"!

Her talks were filled with encouragement for our ministry, describing Pastoral Carers as insightful people whose task is to move people from head to heart and gut. Recalling a message of Catherine of Sienna's "Being who we are meant to be – to set the world on fire", exhorting us to find a way to connect with people. We are called to have the courage to

name who we are, to 'be' our value audaciously. She wants us to live life to the full, with an "urgency as though it's an emergency", passionate, never tepid. Adding if not, then we're frauds!

Robyn offered glimpses into her own sometimes sad and tough childhood experiences, and shared coming to terms with her Mum's journey with Alzheimers. Her 'laughing heart' revealed truth about each situation, sometimes bringing us to tears of joy or tears of sadness. She reports a conversation with her mother one day when she tells her she is her daughter, her Mum's reply was "Oh I knew I loved you, I just didn't know who you were"!

Finally, in Keynote 8 we were introduced to her chosen approach to daily difficulties, at perhaps her funniest, revealing the value of making choices for life – are we willing to allow something or someone to take away our humanity? At her most encouraging, she tells us when things go wrong, we can transform ourselves. When we feel stuck in such times, we should ask what benefit do I get out of remaining in this uncomfortable space? Then warns that the answer may shock us!

A well-known and beautiful poem by Marianne Williamson, "A Return to Love" seems to sum up Robyn's passion about making good choices, thereby transforming our lives, "Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us." 

CELEBRATING A CENTENARY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CUNNAMULLA

By Sr Maureen Andrews mfc



Students Maypole Dancing as part of the Centenary Celebrations.

In March of this year Sacred Heart School celebrated the centenary of Catholic Education in Cunnamulla. One hundred years ago the Sisters of Mercy accepted the challenge to educate young people of the west. When they left in 2007, one hundred sisters had taught at the school.

Planning for the three day celebration involved school, parish and community members attending meetings since late 2014. Festivities started with a Fete on Friday 13th March, this community is not superstitious! Visitors, parishioners and students enjoyed walking around the stalls, watching the chocolate wheel and being entertained by the students. For their presentation, the

students and teachers chose dances through the ages. The audience laughed, sang and clapped along with many old favourites. After the performance the children enjoyed rides on the gentle Shetland pony or the more exhausting Jumping Castle. The latter was quite tiring for the adults in supervisory roles! Wiser people moved on to sit outside and enjoy a barbeque in the cool of the evening.

Saturday 14th March was dedicated to school activities and presentations. There were visitors from as far away as Mildura, Victoria and Denmark, Western Australia. Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Peter Doohan, Current Priest Director, Fr Rod MacGinley (the last resident priest in Cunnamulla)

also attended. Visitors were eager to speak with the Mercy Sisters who once taught at the school who also made the journey to attend. The meet and greet continued through the morning as people chatted over cups of tea.

Maypole dancing was performed by Grade 5 and 6 students coached by Wendy McKellar, a teacher aide at the School. As they moved around the pole the dancers intertwined their ribbons to make a plait around the pole. To unravel the ribbons the dancers retraced their steps. Remember when this dance became the repertoire of physical education, especially for girls, in the 1950s?

Val Bucholz, resident historian and fashion icon of the town, conducted



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Sisters of Mercy who have taught at the school.

a fashion parade. It began with students Paige and Gemma Mills modelling historical school uniforms and culminated in a finale of vintage of wedding gowns borrowed from the women of Cunnamulla. For those looking for outdoor entertainment, old school yard favourites of marbles and ball games were available as well as a tug-o-war competition.

Grade 5 and 6 students were tour guides for visitors interested in photos and memorabilia presented in the old convent building or the school library. Gabrielle Saide, Toowoomba Diocese Archivist, provided some very precious memorabilia for the day. People also searched through the old registers of communion, confirmation, marriages and deaths. Souvenirs of this special occasion were on hand to purchase as a memory of a great three days.

That afternoon, teachers and volunteers prepared for a formal dinner for 460 people decorated with white bougainvilleas. The dinner was the brain child of Chris Mills, who organised the celebrations for the 80th and 90th anniversaries. Peieta Mills generously lent us her chef from the Boutique Hotel and Donna Anderson, a former chef turned police officer, coordinated the serving.

After the welcome, Josephine Birch entertained the crowd with her rendition of John Denver's song Coming Home Again. Bishop Robert said grace and we were ready to begin. John Borserio, Director of Toowoomba Catholic Education, presented the School with the SPERA award won by the school in 2014. Bernie Holland, the



The Lolly Stall at the Fete proved to be popular.

school's first lay principal, entertained us with his memories of Cunnamulla. Bishop Robert also spoke and Cara Haig, current Principal of Sacred Heart, delivered an inspirational speech.

Before dessert was served the oldest pupil, Bob Poncho, and the youngest, Chloe Tuckwell, cut the cake which was made by Carmel May, who also made the cakes for the 80th and 90th celebrations. This one was exceptional as it displayed the school crest with branches of wattle on either side.

The celebrations continued on Sunday for Mass. A banner inscribed with "100", painted by Neil Spence and decorated with the handprints of all students, reminds them and us that we are here to serve the community. After

communion the children delighted the congregation by singing If I were a Butterfly to a church filled to capacity.

After Mass a Commemorative Plaque for the Sisters of Mercy was unveiled at the front of the school. One hundred sisters have taught at Sacred Heart School and the community owes these loyal and committed women of the west a debt of gratitude. The ten Sisters who attended the celebrations crowded around to see their names. We now have a permanent reminder of the sister's time in Cunnamulla. A morning tea was served and after some time of sharing, we sadly farewelled each other remembering to "Look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, embrace the future with hope." ■

ST MARIA GORETTI BENEFITS FROM ST JOSEPH'S GENEROSITY

By Mandy Mead



Students from both schools enjoying the rugby session.

Manual arts students and teachers from St Joseph's College in Toowoomba have returned to St Maria Goretti in Inglewood to make some additions to a project they began last year.


Last year the St Joseph's manual arts faculty coordinated the building of storage shelves for the students' sport's shed. This community initiative was

such a hit that an encore performance in 2015 was a welcome proposal.

The students built and installed the shelves before bunking down for the night in one of the school's classrooms. The following morning the students put some of the primary students from St Maria Goretti through their paces with a skills based rugby league session.

The students thoroughly enjoyed

the experience of working with the St Joseph students and it was evident that the feeling was mutual. Plans are already afoot for a return visit next year to add to the storage room in the sport's shed.

It is safe to say that both groups of students witnessed firsthand the joy that comes from the fostering of community. 



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GENEROSITY FRIES ON FISH FRIDAY

By Kristy Cameron



Some of our happy volunteers.



Students enjoying their fish and chips.

St Joseph's School, Millmerran held a "Fish Friday" for the school during Lent on 27 March. A small group of volunteers cooked fish and chips for the staff and students, raising close to \$500 for Project Compassion. This money, along with classroom donations and Easter Raffle proceeds

organised by the school leaders, has proved to be the most successful fundraising year yet for St Joseph's. Fundraising for Social Justice has been fun and tasty and has empowered the school as a whole! Students have been enthusiastic about their fundraising efforts.

"Caritas is a great cause to fundraise for and Fish Friday was delicious too!" said student Abi. "Good Fundraiser, good idea, good food, fantastic price for Caritas!" praised Aidan. And student Abou said, "Fish Friday was great! What a great fundraiser, especially during Lent." 📧

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST MASS AT CHINCHILLA

By Michelle Nitz

On Saturday the 11th of April, 15 candidates received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist from Bishop Robert McGuckin at Our Lady Help of Christians' Church in Chinchilla. We thank Bishop Robert for visiting our Parish and celebrating the Mass for us. The children enjoyed supper after the Mass with their families and sponsors. Thanks to the sacramental team of parishioners and school staff who prepared the candidates for the lovely occasion. 📧



Candidates with Bishop Robert McGuckin and Fr Jim Cronin.

TAROOM PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL SPORTING GATHERING

By St Mary's School



All the students showing great sportsmanship and comradery towards each other.


When Taroom and its surrounding area were the Taroom Shire, the small schools of the district combined to form the LINKS team for sports. This would be for athletics, swimming, softball, football and netball. Originally there were 5 small schools—St Mary's Taroom, Cockatoo, Peek-a-Doo, Grosmont and Guluguba. The children grew up, as they do, and the number of children in certain areas declined and Cockatoo and Peek-a-Doo were forced to close its doors a number of years ago. 3 schools remain, those being St Mary's Taroom, Grosmont and Guluguba. Sadly St Mary's also faces closure on the 26th June this year. Despite our small numbers the companionship and support shown by the children and parents of all small schools is very strong.

Students from St Mary's Taroom, Grosmont and Guluguba came



St Mary's winners Fletcher Alyssa and Josh.

together on Thursday 14th May to compete and have fun. The children participated in the LINKS Cross Country event and were cheered on by staff and parents from all schools.

The great sportsmanship shown by all the children on the day made it a fun and memorable event. We're proud of all our students and those who won ribbons on the day. 



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SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATES AND PREPARES

By Janice Moore and Angela Gilbert



Miss Kristin Byrne playing "The Last Post" while Major Niall Ryan salutes.

During Holy Week, students at Our Lady of Lourdes presented the Stations of the Cross for the whole school. Each class reflected on one or two Stations and presented their interpretation through prayer, verse and song.

The Year 5 students prepared a moving liturgy to commemorate ANZAC Day, with special guest Major Niall Ryan sharing his thoughts on the ANZAC tradition. Each student in the school coloured a poppy which was used to create a backdrop for the sacred space. The Last Post was played beautifully on the flute by teacher Kristin Byrne.

The parish also held a moving ANZAC Day Mass at 10am on Saturday. The Mass was followed by a delicious morning tea of damper and ANZAC biscuits.

The Toowoomba SPRED groups



Students presenting the Stations of the Cross.

celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Sunday 22nd May. It was a pleasure to welcome them to our parish and afterwards join together for a shared morning tea in the school hall.

The school is looking forward to celebrating its 75th Anniversary at

the end of October. If you have any stories, photos or memorabilia you would like to share, please send them to OLOL75years@outlook.com. We invite you to also follow the Facebook page 'Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School 75th Anniversary'. 

Allora Convent School 100th Anniversary

St Patrick's Parish, Allora is planning a celebration in 2016 to acknowledge the centenary of its Convent School, St Patrick's School Allora. The celebration will also recognize the arrival of the Sisters of St Joseph in Allora in 1916 and their contribution to the life of our School and Parish. It is planned for a booklet to be published in conjunction with the centenary. Photos or any relevant memorabilia would be most welcome by **30 June 2015**. For further information, please contact Catherine Cowley, 995 Dalrymple Creek Road, Allora, Qld 4362 or lentara3@bigpond.com.

ST GEORGE COMMUNITY FAREWELLS FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

By Debbie Bradfield

It is with sadness, that we bid farewell to Fr Michael O'Brien. Fr Michael, along with his dog Rosie, who has been an integral part of our school community over the past four years assisting us with the spiritual and faith development of our community. Fr Michael became the Priest Director of our Parish at a time when there was a shortage of priests. This added to the travel and time commitments of the large St Mary's Parish in Goondiwindi. Our communities have been blessed by having Fr Michael minister to us in his own unique style through his participation in games of handball, organising competitive running races with Rosie, his friendship and most importantly, leading us in very creative, meaningful and



L to R: Student Charlotte Hersey, Principal Lesley Jarrett, Fr Michael O'Brien, APRE Majella Morris and Fr Adam Woch.

child friendly liturgy. Thank you so much Fr Michael! All families were invited to join us in farewelling Fr Michael at a celebratory Mass and welcoming our new Parish Priest

Fr Adam Woch, who recently came to the Toowoomba Diocese from Poland. As a parting gift, the school presented Fr Michael with a photo on glass of the Balonne River. 📷

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

By Debbie Bradfield

St Patrick's School at St George was a mass of green! Students made a donation to Project Compassion for the privilege of not wearing their uniforms. The children were surprised by the teachers' performance of the classic children's book 'Where's the Green Sheep?'. Principal Lesley Jarrett read while teachers in costume acted the story out. The children had a fantastic time and really enjoyed their teachers' performance. After a beautiful Liturgy, the students participated in a range of fun games



Teachers perform "Where's the Green Sheep?".

such as sponge throwing, water slide, slime and parachute games. The

children, families and Parish members also shared a picnic lunch. 📷

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

By Debbie Bradfield

The children of St Patrick's School St George recounted and reflected on Jesus' journey and days between Palm Sunday and Good Friday in moving presentations during the last week of Term 1. The preps began the celebrations at the

beginning of the week with Palm Sunday and the Year 6's concluded the week with the crucifixion.

When we returned to school from the Easter holidays the Year 3 students presented a recount of the Resurrection. 📷



Year 6 class acting out the crucifixion.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2015

By Steve Moyle

Mary MacKillop Catholic College and Community have been raising funds for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. On Monday, 18th May \$4000 was presented to Toowoomba Diocesan Director Mrs Robyn-Anne Lovell for Caritas at the College assembly.

With the focus "Food for Life" funds were donated by students through activities and initiatives to build awareness and raise money for example, "Food for Life" money boxes, lunchtime rice days and wear green free dress day. Individual classes also raised funds with a focus on what they have, rather than what they don't have. Donating 5c for every shoe owned or water taps at home by Year Six and Year Two even went a whole day without watching television.

Each week students listened to Project Compassion stories from around the world, from Eric and Ma in Fiji through to Vinsen in Indonesia. Individual classes were awarded the red "Tour de Caritas" shirt for raising and bringing mindfulness to a social justice issue or for raising the most funds. Congratulations to the top three fundraising classes overall: Prep Koalas \$361.00, Prep Possums \$358.40 and Year Four Condamine \$275.20.

At the end of Term 1 the whole school participated in the 'Way of the Cross' remembering the suffering of Jesus and being reminded of the basic human rights to education, shelter and food. "The waste of food is one of the fruits of the 'throw away culture' which



Students present Robyn-Anne Lovell Toowoomba Diocesan from Caritas.


leads to sacrificing men and women to the idols of profit and consumption." Pope Francis, 2013. As members of the wider Catholic Church we are called to give adequate answers to the problems of hunger and malnutrition and to the problems that affect the dignity of every human person.

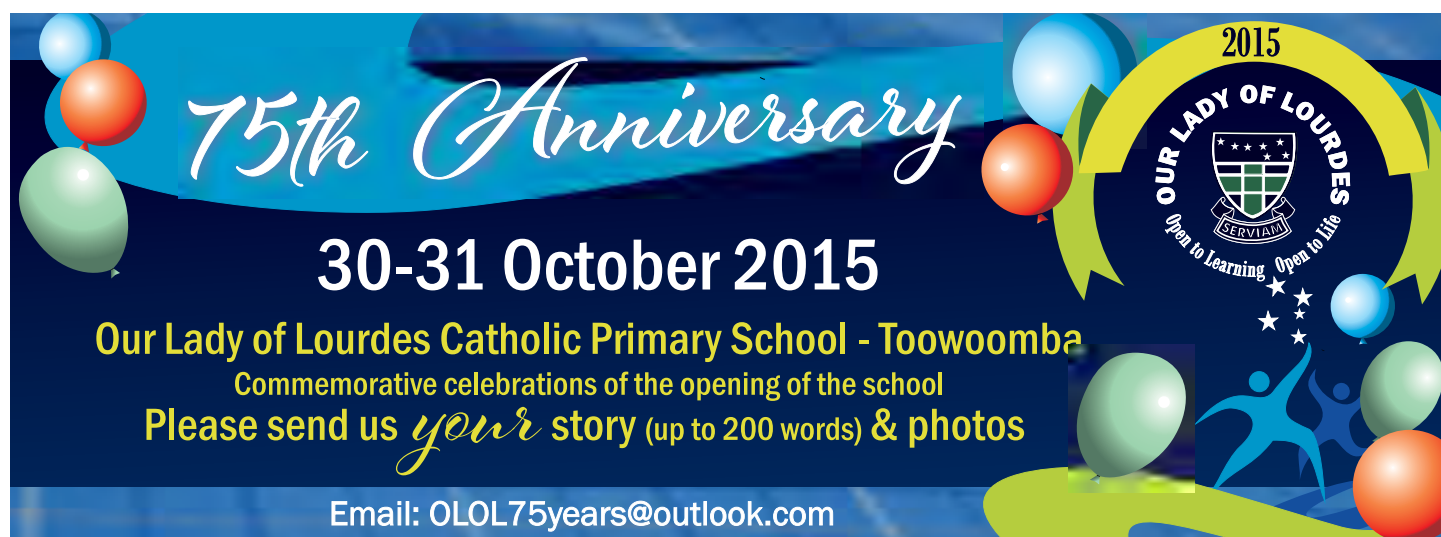
"How can you perform the social justice work of Caritas?" Year 6 leaders were asked this question at the launch of Project Compassions at St Patrick's Cathedral. "I want to be able to show everyone that the money we raise actually can actually change people's lives," said Annabelle McKenzie, Vice-Primary Girl Leader.

Megan Bailey, Year 6 Pastoral

Leader added, "I want to participate in fund raising activities and improve student's understanding of what Caritas means; to show love in both word and action so that we may all have food for life."

"I enjoy helping Caritas because it makes me realise how lucky I am to have such a good education," said Hugh Ford, Vice-Primary Boy Leader.

Bronte Stevenson-Hiley, Year 6 Cultural Leader, said "We have so many opportunities and resources which we can sometimes take for granted. Helping those less fortunate in the world reminds us of St Mary MacKillop's motto to 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' 



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Email: OLOL75years@outlook.com

ADVOCATES FOR A MORE **JUST AND COMPASSIONATE** WORLD

By Kaye Picton



Students participating in the interactive display learn what it's like being a refugee.

St Mary's College, Toowoomba

The Edmund Rice Advocacy for Change (ERAC) is a program that focuses on developing students' awareness about social justice issues. It is based on the charism of Edmund Rice and Catholic Social Justice Teachings. Aligned with other Edmund Rice Colleges throughout Australia, the focus is on developing student-led advocacy campaigns. One such campaign for the St Mary's ERAC student group was an interactive display held at the College on Tuesday, 31st March and Wednesday, 1st April.

Made to look like a maze, students moved through seven different stations that challenged their beliefs about major world issues. "What do you believe?" was the key question posed at the start of the display. At each station, the students engaged with the Year 10 and Year 11 boys as they explored social justice issues and a variety of topics including: racism, third world poverty, hidden homeless in Australia, war as it is in the world today and the Detention Centre experience. Throughout the maze, students were questioned about their beliefs and actions - whether they really were compassionate to everyone including those inflicted with poverty and injustices. At the end of the maze, boys were encouraged to proclaim a pledge to treat everyone, regardless of their background,




As part of the refugee display, students received a passport stamped with refugee status.

with justice and compassion. At its conclusion, over 500 boy's signatures were united in support of a better world of compassion, justice and an end to poverty and violence.

The St Mary's College ERAC student group is made up of a combination of Year 10 and Year 11 boys who are most passionate about social justice issues. The Year 11 boys, comprising of Caleb Thomas, Dan Foelz, Jack Daly, Nick Palmer, James Walters, Larry Alonso and Anthony Szostak, developed the main ideas behind the display and the aim of challenging students to question their actions and beliefs. They then formulated the stations in collaboration with Year Ten students:

Chris Godfrey, Heath Dean, Joel Collins, Finn Coleman, Campbell Nassar, Nick Joy, Caileb O'Neill and Tristan Puhakka. The boys planned the stations to have a combination of audio-visual components and dramatic action with student participation and engagement a feature of each. The enthusiasm of the student presenters was passionate and contagious and the response by the boys who entered into the stations, overwhelming.


The St Mary's College ERAC student group is to be commended for authentically proclaiming, encouraging and exciting other students to enter a journey to create a better and more just world in the vision and charism of Edmund Rice. 

KNITTING CLUB INSPIRES CREATIVITY

By Linda Creedon

The Knitting Club meets every Tuesday in terms two and three in Mary Rose 9. The winter club is organised by Business and Accounting teacher, Mrs Alyson Holmes. They have a number a number of regular knitters and a few knitters who pop in and out of the club over winter. Currently it is a learners club with Mrs Holmes so busy teaching knitting that she doesn't get to do her own knitting; but she said she doesn't mind as the knitters are a happy bunch, always keen to learn. Mrs Holmes also teaches crocheting for anyone who would like to join and prefer to crochet rather than knit. The club has an avid crochet devotee, Aline, who will happily teach any new comers as well.

Once the learning phase is over, the knitters will move on to knitting scarves. Avid knitter, Bridgette has brought along a knitting book that has patterns for stuffed toys. It has simple patterns that involve knitting squares and then stitching them together to make the toys. The knitters will donate these to their Living Crib baskets at the end of the year. Another avid knitter, Jasmine, created a spectacular cake complete with knitting needles for Mrs Holmes' birthday.

Mrs Holmes also has another project in mind; the knitting of poppies for next year's ANZAC day ceremony. She said that the club will purchase red and black wool and start making them soon. The Knitting Club always welcomes new members. 



Hope Anderson.

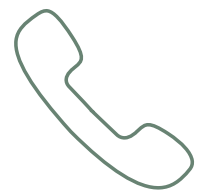
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ASSUMPTION COLLEGE CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY

By Michelle Wacker



The School Community gathers to celebrate Mother's Day.

On Monday 11th May, students and families gathered at St Mary's Church for our annual Mother's Day Mass. A scrumptious Morning Tea followed in the Parish Hall which was bursting with students

and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. It was a delightful occasion and what great pleasure it brings to the community to be involved in such an event as the Assumption College Mother's Day



Sophie & Bradley Grayson with their family.

Mass. Principal Mr Peter Moloney felt honoured to be involved in conversations with families, some of which were represented by four generations of past Assumption College students. [\[4\]](#)

STUDENTS SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN "WONDER OF EXTREME SCIENCE"

By Michelle Wacker

Assumption College is one of just over 40 schools from all around Queensland lucky enough to be participating in an extraordinary science event in Brisbane that will have them meet a Nobel Prize winner and Australia's top innovators.

Our students will be among 200 at the ATSE Clunies Ross Wonder of Extreme Science (WoES) at which students will be learning through hands-on experiments with Australia's top innovators.

Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt, who shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2011 for observations which led to the discovery of the accelerating universe, will address the students. Then there will be short talks from ATSE's Wonder of Extreme Science Young Science Ambassadors. This will be followed with an opportunity to talk with the new top secret 2015 Clunies Ross Awardees and the Young Science Ambassadors in a 'meet-the-scientists' session and



L to R: Madeleine Settree, Hannah Duggan, Dion Firth and Faith De Courcy excited to be attending WoES.

fun, informative workshops.

In recent years the awards, Australia's top awards for mastery of new technology and business expertise, have recognised the achievements of many special people including Dr Fiona Wood, inventor of spray-on skin; Professor Ian Frazer, co-inventor of the cervical cancer vaccine; and Professor Graeme Clark, inventor of the bionic ear.

The workshops are all associated with the field in which the as yet-unannounced ATSE Clunies Ross Award winners have worked – it should be a blast!

"The students are very excited and it's a real privilege for them to get to meet and learn from a Nobel Laureate and Australia's top innovators," said Mr Chris Schultz, Curriculum Leader, Science. [\[4\]](#)

ANZACS REMEMBERED

By Michelle Wacker

On 24 April this year Assumption College took the opportunity to commemorate 100 years of Anzac. Our college teachers and students experienced a moving and emotional tribute to our servicemen and women who gave their lives for us at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

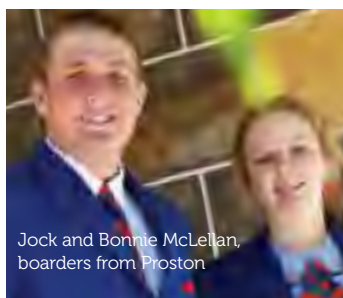
Our ceremony began with the dignitaries being piped into the hall and senior students forming a guard of honour. Mr Andrew Skipper, a teacher at Assumption College and former serving Australian peacekeeper, gave an overwhelming eulogy of Edward Patrick Kelly from the district of Meandarra who was killed in the battle of Messanines on the Western Front, and now lies in Kandahar War Cemetery in Belgium. Margaret Walton of Toowoomba also attended our service as a direct descendent of Edward Kelly.



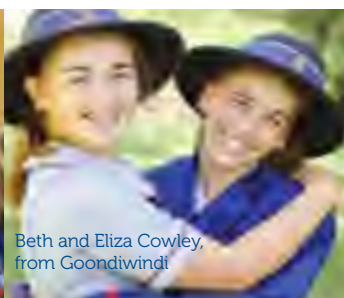
Students marching for ANZAC Day.

Our Senior Students, teachers, and invited guests also wore beautiful hand crochet poppies made for us by Our lady Of Lourdes Craft Group. Margaret Walton also laid a wreath adorned with hand

knitted poppies that she had done. Our drama students dressed in period costume to help make Assumption College's commemoration of this important event in our history even more special. 🇺🇸



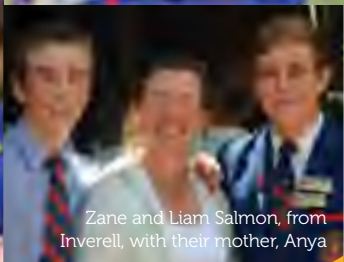
Jock and Bonnie McLellan, boarders from Proston



Beth and Eliza Cowley, from Goondiwindi



Chloe, James and Lizzie Crombie, boarders from Karumba



Zane and Liam Salmon, from Inverell, with their mother, Anya

St Joseph's Tara 50th Anniversary



The school will celebrate 50 years on the Saturday 5th September 2015.

We invite all those connected to the school to attend to help us celebrate this special occasion. A book is being compiled to record aspects of the school's fifty year history.

For details contact the school via Email tara@twb.catholic.edu.au or Phone 0746653259.

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LE VOYAGE D'UNE VIE - THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

By Clinton McGoldrick

St John's School continues to provide excellent life-changing experiences for its students. Twenty-two Year 12 students experienced the journey of a lifetime when they visited France and Belgium in Weeks One and Two of this term, partaking in a 14 day historical, artistic and religious tour of both countries. The journey began with a few days recovery from 24 hours of travel at Normandy. Here, our group engaged in World War 2 history which really contextualised modern day France for the students. Onwards they travelled to The Somme Region where the students stayed in Albert, beginning their analysis of Australian ANZACs' involvement in World War 1. Whilst making a connection here with the Marie Curie Middle School, the students were able to visit the towns of Amiens, Villers Bretonneux and La Hamel. However, the pivotal reason for journeying to this region was to attend the 100 year ANZAC Day Service at Villers Bretonneux,



The three Theresian House Leaders Nicky Wildermuth, Oliver Peak, Lucy Barsby with statue of St Therese in Lisieux.

where four students were directly involved in speaking roles in the ceremony. The touring party braved minus temperatures and constant rain to endure what was an amazing and apt reflection of the ANZAC spirit. The students then moved to Belgium where they visited Polygon Wood, Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery, VC Corner,

Fromelles, Menin Gate and Hill 60. It became very emotional and timely to reflect on the devastating effects and toll of war and the loss of Australian life. After the business end of the trip, students were able to relax, returning to Paris to engage in French culture and unwind from what was a very intense and engaging pilgrimage. [\[1\]](#)

ENRICHMENT NIGHT

By Bernadette Makim & Yenda Emery

On the evening of Wednesday 6th May, St John's School was buzzing with the excitement of over 100 students ready to present their exhibitions of excellence for Enrichment Night. Our school leaders showed wonderful leadership as they hosted the evening, which included presentations from secondary English students, students who attended the trip to France, an art gallery, drama games and an Outdoor Education tent construction race. Dance group Stage Traffic and the primary choir performed beautifully and the passion and knowledge of the students, who had set up exhibitions of excellence on topics of their choice, were inspiring. Judges noted that the standard of work was much improved and were



Teacher Fletcher Casey discussing with students their scientific display "The Good, the Bad and the Fungi".

impressed by the insight of students into their chosen topics, as well as the hard work invested towards creating appealing, interactive and

high quality displays. Thank you to all students, parents and teachers who helped to create the opportunity to showcase our students' brilliance. [\[2\]](#)

EASTER IN THE COUNTRY PARADE

By Carmel Treasure



Teacher Willem Brits with the decorated ute with his son, Will, in the driver's seat.

The St John's School parents, students, friends and school staff made our float look so bright and colourful. We had about 100 people help blow up balloons, tie knots, attach clips to balloons, thread balloons onto wire, place the frame onto the ute, hang the banners on and many more little jobs. Teacher Mr Willem Brits designed and built the framework

for the rainbow balloons. Everyone did an incredible job with absolutely everyone being an important cog in the system! The team effort was amazing thanks to all the families and friends.

Our theme was "We love the Rain in Roma" and rain was provided on Friday afternoon and a small amount on Saturday morning, but not enough to deter all the enthusiasm of the

approximately 120 children who participated in the parade. We had little sheep, dogs, cows, pigs, flowers, plus 80 children carrying umbrellas in the colours of the rainbow. As we walked along the street, the children had much fun doing their special movements with their umbrellas which made St John's a very dynamic, interesting and exciting float to watch indeed. 🌈

YEAR 7 CLASS OF 2014 DONATES FRIENDSHIP CHAIR TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY

By Janine Butlin

St Thomas More's year 7 class of 2014 presented the school community with a 'Friendship chair' at their graduation liturgy on 4th December last year.

This class were the first Prep class to commence at the school in 2007 and the last year 7 class to complete their schooling at St Thomas More's Primary School.

The families of the class all contributed to this wonderful gift which will be a special place for children to meet, rest, chat or read a book.

Mrs Lee Ann Weekes read a poem written by members of the



Abraham Ajak sitting on the Friendship Chair.

year 7 class during the graduation liturgy. The liturgy looked at the journey the students had made

starting out like a tiny seed with hopes and dreams and blossoming into a beautiful strong tree. 🌳

SOCCER MATCH BRINGS FAITHS TOGETHER

By Michael Hart



All the players at the end of the match.

In a great display of shared humanity and compassion, young people of various faith backgrounds took the field for the inaugural Interfaith Soccer Challenge which was held at the USQ sporting fields on Wednesday afternoon.

The central message of the event was that what unites us is stronger than that which divides us. A demonstration of peace and harmony was the objective and that message came through clearly.

The teams were combined with a mixture of both Christian and Islamic players on each side. Dr Sofia Imran shared her thoughts on the event, "It was a fantastic experience where different cultures and religions came together to play for harmony and peace. In particular, I especially enjoyed watching the girls' teams play. All the teams were made up of Christians and Muslims and they gelled together."

Mr Haniff Abdul Razak from Pure Land Learning College spoke of the optimism that he felt after attending the match, "I find joy and confidence in that fact that diversity has a place in Toowoomba. It's not just about football; it's about the building of relationships and trust. There is



Bishop Robert with some of the players.

hope here that the young people present, the men and the women, will take us to greater heights in respect to social harmony." He went on to say the success of the event was due to the hard work of the organisers from the USQ Residential Colleges, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba and the Islamic Interfaith Association of Toowoomba.

Concannon College hosted a dinner for players and officials after the event with nearly 100 people in attendance. Catholic

Bishop of Toowoomba, Bishop Robert McGuckin spoke at the dinner about the powerful uniting catalyst that sport can be. Bishop Robert highlighted the fact that "sport possesses the capacity to unite people together, by fostering dialogue and acceptance."

The spirit of fellowship and friendship was clearly on display throughout the afternoon and into the evening. Organisers are keen to continue to build upon the success of this event. [\[4\]](#)

MOVERS & SHAKERS 2015

By Sarah de Byl



The Toowoomba Diocese group at Movers and Shakers 2015.

Over 30 enthusiastic young people from across Queensland, with one participant from the Newcastle-Maitland Diocese in New South Wales, converged on the James Byrne Retreat Centre in the Toowoomba Diocese for Movers and Shakers 2015. The program organised by the Queensland Catholic Diocesan Youth Co-ordinators, ran from April 7 to 11 and helped young leaders from parishes, schools and other organisations to gain valuable skills and knowledge.

The young people, aged from 16 to early 20's, were challenged both individually and in small groups to work on problem solving, moral dilemmas, teamwork and adventure based activities during the nearly week-long program. The group was also treated to a visit by guest speaker Matthew Ames. In 2012 Matthew became extremely ill with streptococcal toxic shock. While in an induced coma his wife, Diane, with Matthew's family, needed to make a tough decision – let him die, or give him a slim chance of living at the cost of his arms and legs. The decision was made to remove his arms and legs and he ultimately beat the disease (visit <http://renovatingmatthew.com/> for his story). The group listened

to Matthew's inspiring journey of recovery and rehabilitation as well as his disability advocacy work. Matthew also spoke of what it takes to be a strong leader, a good person and what it means to be successful in life.

The 5 day journey finished off with Mass and Commissioning celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin in the Chapel overlooking the Range escarpment. Bishop Robert blessed the young people of Movers and Shakers 2015 and commissioned them with being leaders within their peers, their churches, their schools and within society.

"Movers and Shakers was life changing for myself," says 2015 participant Courtney Hassall. Courtney was one of 3 students from St John's School, Roma. "The values and skills that were built over the 5 days I will cherish and use forever. My authenticity and positivity is something I now value a lot in life." When asked about highlights, Courtney was quick to mention Fr Morgan's speech, "It truly made me look at life differently!" Courtney also said her favourite activity would have to be "chocolate rivers", "Because in that game I feel like we all bonded and

our teamwork and participation all connected, which made us all work together and become very close."

Thanks goes to Dave Jorna from Project Hatch for facilitating the program. Thanks also to Fr Morgan Batt and Adam Burns from Brisbane Archdiocese, Mary McAuliffe from Townsville Diocese, Max Borserio from Toowoomba Diocese and Kea McNeill from Rockhampton Diocese who helped as Coordinators. A big thank you to the Small Group Facilitators as well. Special thanks to Sarah de Byl from Toowoomba Young Catholics who put in a great amount of time organising this year's program as well as being a Coordinator. Another special thanks to Donna Longland from Brisbane Archdiocese who helped with the administration and preparation.

Movers and Shakers will be run once again in 2016 on 29 March to 2 April. Promotional material will be sent out later in the year to parishes and schools. You can also contact Sarah de Byl on 46324277 or youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au if you would like to receive this material. Visit www.moversandshakers.org.au for further information on the Movers and Shakers Program. 

YOUNG CATHOLICS GETS INVOLVED IN MULTIFAITH ACTIVITIES IN TOOWOOMBA

By Sarah de Byl



Experiencing Harmony Day.

YOUTH HARMONY DAY DINNER



Sophie and Yentle enjoying the Harmony Day Dinner.

20 March saw young people from diverse backgrounds gathering to share dinner and friendship in support of Harmony Day. The event jointly organised by Pure lands Learning College, Young Catholics, Anglican Church Southern Queensland and Islamic Interfaith and Multicultural Association of Toowoomba started out with games and icebreakers. The young people enjoyed talking to each other, meeting new friends and sharing a meal. Attendees at the dinner were entertained by talented youth from each

of the individual groups and our very own Sophie Rangiira treated the group to a mash up of "Have a little Faith" and "Waiting on the World to change".

To see the video of Sophie's performance or more photos from the dinner check out Young Catholics website www.youngcatholic.org.au or Facebook page.

EXPLORING AND EXPERIENCING MULTIFAITH HOSPITALITY

On 8 May, young people from grades 9-12 joined together to learn about other faith traditions and experience their hospitality. Participants visited the Garden City Mosque where they heard about the Islamic Faith and what it means to be a young Muslim in Toowoomba, this was followed by morning tea and participants having the opportunity to try on some traditional dress and have their names written in Arabic. Next participants were treated to an amazing vegetarian lunch, a youth perspective on Buddhism and Walking Meditation

at Pure Lands Learning College. The day finished at St Patrick's Cathedral where participants were welcomed and given a brief history of the Cathedral by Fr Peter Dorfield. Fr Dorfield then lead participants on a search for faith symbols within the Cathedral challenging participants to find the butterfly. Participants got a youth perspective on what it means to be a Young Catholic and where then given the opportunity to ask a panel of Faith leaders questions about each ones individual faith as well as the stance their faith takes on different topical issues facing society today. The day ended with afternoon tea provided by Rosies on the greens of the Cathedral. It was a day enjoyed by all and it gave the young people who participated the chance to be exposed to and form a greater appreciation for the diverse faiths and cultures in Toowoomba.

Currently Young Catholics along with Pure Lands are organising a multifaith climb up Tabletop Mountain. If you are interested in joining the climb keep an eye out for details on the Young Catholics website www.youngcatholic.org.au or Facebook page. <#>

"CONCANNON HAS BECOME MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME THIS SEMESTER"

By Kimberley Kerslake

Mackenzie Davies arrived in Australia from the United States of America in February to begin studying at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). Mackenzie is participating in a study abroad/exchange program at USQ while she completes her second year of a Civil Engineering degree. Mackenzie has travelled all the way from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas however she is originally from Murrieta, California.

Mackenzie arrived at Concannon College in Toowoomba after many long hours of travel. She was unsure of what to expect at University or at the USQ Residential Colleges. Now however after living at Concannon College for 4 months Mackenzie is glad that she chose to live and study here.

During her short time here she has already immersed herself in the wider Toowoomba community. Over the Easter break Mackenzie was also able to do some travelling and spent time in Kingaroy, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Fraser Island. Mackenzie loves enjoying new experiences.

At Concannon College, Mackenzie enjoys that she isn't treated any differently as an international student. She says, 'the atmosphere on Concannon is welcoming and personal, and at the same time, we




Mackenzie playing in the Residential Shield T-Ball game.

have a small, tight-knit community. Even after knowing the students at Concannon for only a little while, it has become my home away from home for this semester.'

Mackenzie experienced firsthand why some people say that 'we live in a small world'. On her first day of classes at USQ, she walked in to her Construction Engineering class only to find that her teacher Professor Bob Ayers is the father of her LeTourneau University Civil Engineering Professor and Academic

Adviser, Dr Stephen Ayers.

When Mackenzie returns back to the US in July she will have two more years of study to complete. She is looking forward to returning to the Women's Varsity Volleyball team for a third year at her US university. She hopes to graduate in the spring of 2017 and go to work as either a Structural or Demolitions Engineer.

For more information about the University of Southern Queensland and Concannon College, visit www.usq.edu.au/accommodation 

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How do you make a difference in your Community?



Andrea Gormley:

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

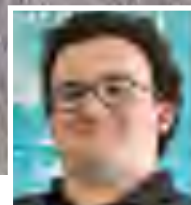
It is my belief that Social Justice is the responsibility of all. In my role as Assistant Principal Faith and Mission, I encourage our staff and students to find ways in which they can be of service to others, through prayers, fundraising for community charities and donating their time to the marginalised, including the elderly and disabled. Through their participation, students not only gain insight into the lives of those less fortunate but also come to realise how blessed their lives really are. My hope is to challenge them to "Be the change they wish to see in the world" (Ghandi) , beginning with themselves, their College and our wider community.



Angela Travers:

Catholic Education Office

Every day I work with many teachers and APRE's in catholic schools across the Diocese in developing engaging, inclusive and holistic units of work in Religious Education. So hopefully some of my work reaches out to our wider Diocesan community. I try to empower and support those I work with to feel confident and inspired to make a difference in their schools. Away from work, it's in the everyday interactions of my life – greeting people, offering hospitality, feeling empathy for those who are marginalized and advocating for them and most importantly, looking after my family, that differences can be made.



Max Borserio:

St Theresa's Parish, Toowoomba

As a Christian, I try to make a difference in my local community by being understanding and respectful of everyone that I meet. I also try to be an open and happy presence, in the hope that this rubs off on others in a positive way. In terms of my specific church community, I try to make a difference by contributing my gifts and talents as much as I can, in the hope that this will prove some small benefit to my community.

Photo taken near Texas by Fr Ted Hanlon.



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