

# Horizons

FREE Publication of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba



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**Front Cover:** Bishop McGuckin confirming Mia Lewis at Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields. Story page 9.

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**DEADLINES**

Editions will be seasonal.  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

By Michael Hart


Once again I am struggling to come to terms with how much is happening within the Diocese. As I have watched article after article come flooding in it is hard to imagine how much pastoral activity is going on that doesn't get reported on. With every edition of Horizons I gain more insight into the scope and scale of pastoral activity and the incredible commitment it takes to rise to the challenge of 'being' Church in our contemporary society. I make this observation with the full knowledge that some communities are doing it tough and they might not feel that there is much happening for them. I acknowledge that we shouldn't look at our current situation with 'rose coloured glasses' but that we need a realistic

view of what is and isn't working.

I feel that I am in a privileged position in that people come to me with their stories. Sure, most of their stories are good news stories because that is what people want to share in a magazine like 'Horizons'. When you read these stories you quickly realise that there are no good news stories without hard work and determination. In this edition we have a special focus on Catholic Education Week and it is clear to see that our Catholic Schools are blessed to have teachers and administrators that work tirelessly for the educational and personal growth of their students. The creative and innovative projects that many of our schools run seek

to engage students in a range of academic and social disciplines.

Another area which gets a mention in this edition of Horizons is Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato Si* (Praise Be To You): On Care for Our Common Home. The encyclical will be unpacked at our next Diocesan In-service later in September and I encourage everyone to grasp this opportunity to explore this important document. Pope Francis' challenge is refreshingly honest and humble and he acknowledges the long tradition of ecological awareness that exists within our Catholic tradition.

So much has happened so far this year and we are only just over halfway through 2015. God bless! 



# PRAISE BE TO YOU



From Bishop Robert McGuckin

Pope Francis has issued his first encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to you) on care for our common home. An encyclical letter from a Pope is an important teaching letter. His letter is addressed not only members of the Church but to all people of goodwill (#64). It is a long letter, having 246 specific paragraphs and runs to 191 pages in booklet form.

"It especially calls on those of us living in wealthy countries to address a culture of consumerism. I would encourage everybody to take the time to prayerfully read and reflect on this encyclical. It is a document that has a message for the family community as well as the national and international community."

Some of the themes addressed in the encyclical include:

- The intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
- The limits of technology
- The conviction that everything in the world is connected
- The call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress

- The value proper to each creature
- The human meaning of ecology
- The need for forthright and honest debate
- The serious responsibility of international and local policy
- The throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle

Catholic Earthcare, an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops, has prepared a list of actions that everybody can take in response to the encyclical. These can be found at <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/ecological-encyclical/take-action-today/>

Over the next few months there will be events and opportunities to deepen our understanding of this "game changing" document. As Pope Francis reminds us we are surrounded by beauty. "The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God". It is our common duty to protect our common home.

When I was recently interviewed on ABC local radio I was asked how

will this encyclical impact upon the church in the Diocese of Toowoomba. My response was that this important document will need to be studied by small groups from parishes and deaneries around the diocese to come up with practical ideas that we can begin to implement.

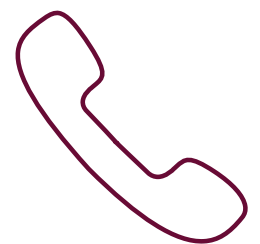
At the July meeting of our Diocesan Pastoral Council we resolved to encourage people from parishes to attend the next diocesan in-service on 22-23 September which will have the encyclical on the care of our common home as a focus. We will also look at our own carbon footprint and endeavour to use less and recycle more. Resources will be made available to parishes and schools so that together we can move forward.

We walk this land with many people. We have to take into consideration how our behaviour impacts upon others and how do we plan to pass on our common home to those who come after us.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**August 2015**



## STAY IN TOUCH



with news from across the Diocese

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Bishop McGuckin ordaining Pio Yong Ho Jang and Thomas Thien Hien Bui to the Priesthood in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION



Bishop McGuckin with Fr Pat Hall who celebrated his 60 year jubilee of ordination to the Priesthood.

On Monday 22 June a Mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 11:00am to recognise the Jubilee Celebrations of Presbyteral Ordination for priests within the diocese. Fr Pat Hall celebrated his 60-year jubilee. Bishop McGuckin was joined by many priests from across the diocese to mark this important occasion. After the Mass an informal gathering and meal provided an opportunity for clergy, family and friends to share fellowship.

## VOCATIONS DINNER



(LtoR) Fr Jamie Collins, Fr Michael Cooney, Bishop McGuckin, Jacob Saal, Tom Duncan.

On the evening of 5 August Bishop McGuckin hosted a dinner for a small group of young men from across the diocese. Bishop McGuckin was joined at the dinner by the diocese's two Seminarians, Jacob Saal and Tom Duncan, and Vocations Directors, Frs Michael Cooney and Jamie Collins. The Vocations Dinner was a chance for the young men to network and get to meet like minded people who were interested in how God is active in their lives. The night was a great success that provided a relaxed opportunity for the Bishop and the Priests who were present to share the story of their vocational call.

## BISHOP ORDAINS NEW PRIESTS

Bishop McGuckin was the ordaining Prelate at the Ordination to the Priesthood of Pio Yong Ho Jang and Thomas Thien Hien Bui on Wednesday 24 June in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. The moving ceremony was live streamed and viewed by many family and friends via YouTube.

## MUSIC COPYRIGHT WORKSHOP



Michael Mangan facilitating the Copyright Workshop.

This workshop provided parish secretaries, music coordinators and diocesan school staff with everything they wanted to know about music copyright but were afraid to ask. The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network put together this session on copyright which was facilitated by Brisbane based musician and composer Michael Mangan. The workshop was held on Tuesday 9 June from 2pm - 4pm at St Thomas More's Church and participants left with many answers to those questions they came with.

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop McGuckin has made the following clergy appointments:

- Fr Adam Woch appointed as Parish Priest of the Parish of St George-Dirranbandi
  - Fr Gonzalo Duran as Associate Priest of St Mary's Parish, Warwick
- We wish them all the best for their ministries in their new roles. [H](#)

# BUILDING A MORE HONEST ECONOMY

By Mark Copland

Acting as Chair of a Board of a local company might not seem to fit the profile of a Church based Social Justice advocate, but it is where I find myself at the moment. I am on the Board of Ability Enterprises. Ability is a Toowoomba company which is also a social enterprise. A social enterprise is a business set up to deliver a service or produce a product with a social dividend. An estimated four to six percent of Australians experience chronic or persistent poverty and half a million children live in families where parents have no job. Those with barriers to work include people with a mental health diagnosis, Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, older citizens and those from a refugee background.

Ability Enterprises has over 40 employees, 75 percent of whom have some barrier to employment. As a not for profit company, the dividend we seek is new positions for people who would otherwise be unemployed or on a disability support pension. So when Toowoomba Regional Council uses your rates to provide a friendly face on one of the gatehouses at all of the waste facilities they are doing more than providing a service.


They are deliberately acting to create jobs for people who may otherwise have no way into employment. When government and businesses choose to use social enterprises they are actually addressing entrenched social disadvantage.

Each one of these jobs represents a life changed, not just a statistic. One of our Ability employees started out sleeping in his car parked outside the gatehouse at one of the regions tips. He now has his own secure rental property, he supports others in need and has confidence that enables him to now do tasks that he once would never have considered. There are stories of Ability Employees taking a holiday for the first time in their lives, purchasing a car, creating and sustaining family relationships and moving off the disability support pension. All incredible milestones. The beauty of social enterprises is that they benefit everybody, the employee wins, business wins and government wins.

Social enterprises represent part of what Pope Francis recently called, "a new form of co-operation". In a speech to the Italian Confederation



Brent Staggs and Joshua Lurton doing great work with Ability Enterprises.

of Co-operatives in February of this year the Pope criticised "a certain liberalism", which "believes it is first necessary to produce wealth—and it does not matter how—to then promote some state redistribution policy". He exhorted the co-operative movement to join the global economy to promote both "an economy of honesty" and "a healing economy". He urged them to exercise "the courage and the imagination to build a just path, so as to integrate development, justice and peace in the world". Social enterprises such as Ability have the capacity to promote this "economy of honesty". Profit is not the goal of a social enterprise, instead at their very heart is the dignity and full participation of the human person. 



Kevin and Jacaline McGrath (now retired)



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun

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**Fr Michael McCarthy**, now Bishop of Rockhampton, (on the funeral of his Mother)



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# DUAL CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PROFESSION

By Sr Mary Cleary mss

On Saturday, 15th August, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Toowoomba, Srs Nancy Doyle and Mary Cleary of the Missionary Sisters of Service celebrated their Golden Jubilee of Profession. During the Eucharist, which was celebrated by Bishop William Morris, Frs John Quinlan, John Dobson and Mick Carroll. More clergy names to come possibly, the Sisters renewed their vows. There was an apology from Bishop Robert McGuckin who was attending the Executive Meeting of the Federation of Bishops Conferences of Oceania in Noumea. Bishop McGuckin sent his blessing and sincere good wishes.

A large crowd of parishioners from various Toowoomba parishes together with Nancy's family from Beenleigh, Gosford, Coff's Harbour, Griffith and Ariah Park and Mary's sister, cousins and friends from Brisbane as well as friends from Warwick, Jandowae, Dalby were present to celebrate this milestone in Nancy and Mary's lives.

Nancy is the daughter of William and Florence Doyle (decd) and grew up in Wallaroobi near Ariah Park where she attended the local school before going to Wagga Wagga to Mount Erin College. On leaving school Nancy worked as a governess at Peak Hill and in retail and Medical Benefits in Sydney prior to joining the Missionary Sisters of Service.

Mary grew up in Warwick, the eldest daughter of Jack and Dorrie Cleary (decd). She attended St Mary's Primary School and had two years at All Hallows School, Brisbane. Mary worked as a public servant in the Forestry



Srs Nancy and Mary cut the cake after Mass.

Department in Brisbane before being transferred back home to Warwick for 6 years. It was in those years that Mary was very involved in NCGM/YCW to which she attributes her vocation.

Over these 50 years, Nancy has ministered in the Hobart Archdiocese, at Whyalla in Port Pirie Diocese and as Pastoral Leader in Giru, Townsville Diocese. Nancy was the first religious Pastoral Leader of a parish without a resident priest at Oatlands, in the Hobart Archdiocese. Nancy worked in the Caloundra Parish, residing at Landsborough and ministering to

the rural communities for 13 years.

Mary has travelled widely in her ministry in the Wilcannia/Forbes, Port Pirie, and Toowoomba Dioceses as well as the Hobart and Melbourne Archdioceses. She was a Pastoral Leader for 8 years in Beaconsfield, Tasmania on the retirement of the parish priest and at Jandowae, Queensland for over 12 years.

Nancy and Mary now live in Toowoomba and are involved in voluntary work and other activities in the city. 📧

*Rosary  
in the  
Park*

**You are invited to join with us on Saturday 10th October**

from 2:00pm until 4:00pm to pray the Rosary in Queens Park, Toowoomba to honour the final apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima. This public Rosary will be celebrated nationwide across Australia and is the incentive of Australia Needs Fatima, ([www.fatima.org.au](http://www.fatima.org.au)).

If you live outside Toowoomba and it is too far to travel to join us, why not organise a public Rosary in your own town?

**For further information contact Theresa on 07 4564 9805, Mob: 0434 528 904 Email: [ther.b@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ther.b@optusnet.com.au)**

# BRIAN AND AILEEN CELEBRATE

By Nell Macqueen

On 12 July Bishop Bill Morris came up to Millmerran to celebrate Mass with us all and especially to celebrate Brian and Aileen Taylor's sixtieth wedding anniversary, what a milestone! At the end of Mass, the Taylors renewed their wedding vows made on that momentous day, 16 July 1955, when Fr Leslie Shuhkraft presided.

Bishop Bill in his homily drew on the blessing of Jacob on the sons of Joseph, a wonderful and powerful blessing when Jacob crossed over his arms and unexpectedly blessed the younger over the older boy. Situations happen that are not expected. Sharing is the key to coping, sharing in marriage as in the long union of Brian and Aileen, sharing in our communities, sharing and not competing for priorities.

After Mass there was open day out at the Taylor's home, Wingarie Park,



Brian and Aileen Taylor with Bishop Bill Morris after Mass.

for all who wished to visit for a cuppa and a chat and a sharing of a huge cake decorated with an image of their wedding photo from 60 years ago.

On the Saturday there was Family

Day with 70 family members present representing four generations. They came from places as far afield as Innaminka and Cairns to celebrate with Brian and Aileen. [B](#)

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*Trevor & Don Burstow*

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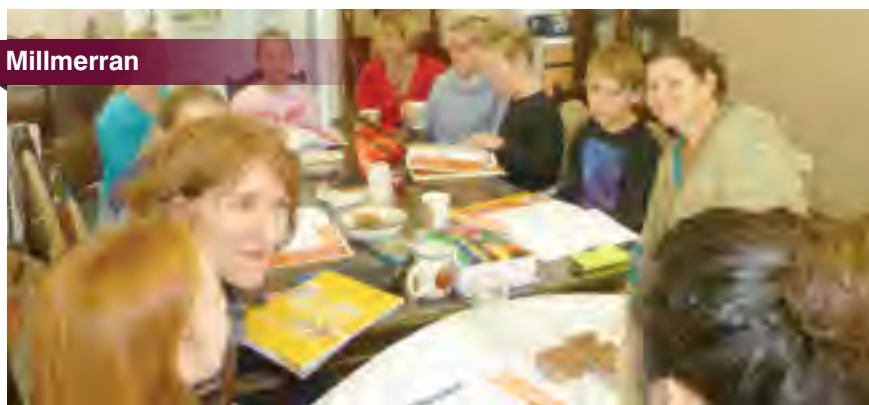


# MILLMERRAN CONFIRMATIONS

By Nell Macqueen

In Millmerran this year there are just five children who are working with their mothers towards receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We have as well two young Philippino students who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion in the Philippines, but who are celebrating their Confirmation with us. This happy group is being guided by Nicole Farrington and Pat Taylor, ably assisted by the APRE of St Joseph's School, Kristy Cameron. They meet after Sunday morning Mass or before Saturday night Mass in Penola House, the Parish Centre. This year the preparation involves working through the books

Millmerran



Confirmation preparation underway for Millmerran.

produced by the Diocese of Broken Bay. And of course there is always a cuppa and a Tim Tam involved!

Confirmation will be on Friday,

18 September, at Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin. Eucharist will be on Saturday, 19 September, with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy. [E](#)

Dalby



Bishop McGuckin, Father Michael Cooney and the 38 children who were Confirmed on Thursday evening 18 June. Photography by Karen Gillespie.

Stanthorpe



Twenty-two children celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Joseph's Church on 14 June. Fr Phillip Marshall (Vicar General of Adelaide), Fr Lino Valente, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Fr Brian Connolly with the children following the Confirmation Mass.



# HIGHFIELDS CONFIRMATIONS

By Patti McNaught

Our Parish Community was delighted to welcome Bishop Robert McGuckin to the Mary MacKillop Centre where he Confirmed 47 children from the Highfields, Meringandan and Geham districts. The Centre was transformed into a wonderful sight, with elegant symbols and beautiful floral arrangements by Andrea Knihinicki and Amanda Dobson.

A slideshow of photos from the Confirmation, compiled by Tamara Silvester, was shown on the Sunday that the children celebrated First Eucharist. It was magic to see the children's photos, what a wonderful sight for their proud parents.


One of the highlights was the gathering of the 47 candidates around the Altar to receive their First Eucharist. A perfect sign of welcoming to these children, our

## Highfields



**Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Brian Noonan and Steve Moyle with 47 Confirmation Candidates at Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields.**

future Parishioners and Parish Leaders. Thanks to Megan Ford, the children were treated to a celebratory cake. Also thanks must go to Fr Brian Noonan, Kev and Beth McCormick and to Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Steve

Moyle who worked tirelessly in the preparation and celebrations of the two Sacraments. We look forward to welcoming these children to participate as Altar servers as they continue their journey as witnesses of Christ. 

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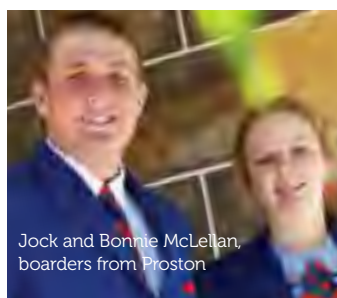
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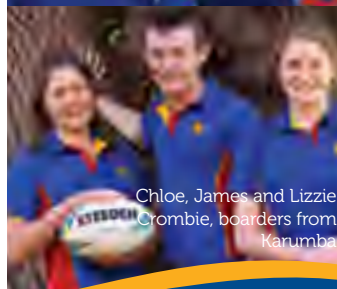
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boarders from Proston



Beth and Eliza Cowley,  
from Goondiwindi



Chloe, James and Lizzie  
Crombie, boarders from  
Kerumba



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

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St Thomas More's



Bishop Robert McGuckin and Priest Director, Fr Peter Dorfield with St Thomas More's Confirmation group on 26 May.

Roma



Bishop Robert McGuckin presided over the Confirmation ceremony of children from Injune and Roma at All Saints on 19 June.

Roma



Fr Jamie Collins enjoyed a post-Mass morning tea with those who made their First Communion at All Saints.



# ECUMENICAL HOSPITAL MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE COURSE

By Lyn Cash



Hospital Ministry Training Course Weekend, students with mentors.

For the past twenty-three years in this Diocese, the 'Ecumenical Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care Course' has provided training in pastoral care for healthcare settings. This course enabled participants to gain an understanding of and experience in pastoral ministry in a healthcare environment and to assist in the development of appropriate personal and pastoral skills for ministry with sick and aged people. Over 200 lay people have been trained during this time and have offered their valued services in healthcare facilities in Toowoomba and the wider region.

The course placed a heavy emphasis on theological reflection and spiritual development. It too had a wider application to pastoral ministry in other settings such as in parishes and nursing homes and mental health facilities.

The beauty of this particular course was the ecumenical nature. We accept ecumenism to embrace not only people from Christian traditions, but also from other faith traditions. It has been our experience that the participants from various traditions worked together so well, that within a few weeks awareness of differences was not an issue.

An overriding emphasis throughout the course has been the personal development of the participants. It was recognised that where a participant has an unresolved personal issue such as grief, or a spirituality which

required further development, that it may interfere with their ability to listen to the feelings and spiritual struggle of the patient being visited.

Co-ordination, supervision and mentoring have been the key to the integration of the theory into practice and the smooth running of same.



Fr. Ray Crowley (Facilitator of Pastoral Care Training) with Lyn Cash (Co-ordinator Pastoral Care Services) and Joan Meston (Pastoral Care Mentor).


The course would not have been as successful as it has been if we did not have the dedicated pastoral care team members who have offered voluntarily their trained supervisory and mentoring giftedness over these many years. For this we are ever grateful.

The 'Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care Course' has been reviewed, renewed, evaluated and updated over the years and now it is time to move on. With new forms of training expected in Hospital Ministry and with the course licence not being

renewed in 2016, I wish to inform you that we have decided to find new ways to equip people in the area of pastoral care ministry-training.

The exciting news is that we are going to continue Hospital Ministry and Pastoral Care training in 2016. This will be with a new educational

provider, Queensland Institute of Clinical Pastoral Education, a world-wide recognized form of training. At present we are negotiating and firming up working relationships. The Course will commence late January and recruiting will begin around October this year. CPE will be advertised throughout Parish bulletins.

As sad as we are that the present course has run its race, the good news is that Hospital Ministry Training will continue in the form of Clinical Pastoral Education in 2016. 

# FR JEFF SCULLY REMEMBERED AS A MAN WHO TOUCHED PEOPLE'S LIVES

By Michael Hart

Fr Jeff Scully, was remembered at his funeral Mass on Monday 29 June as a pastor, a friend and person of the people, qualities that made him a beloved figure in the Catholic and wider community. It was standing room only with nearly 1000 people assembled to pay their respects to Fr Scully. Bishop Robert McGuckin presided at the liturgy which was concelebrated by Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris, clergy from near and far including his seminary classmates.

Fr Frank O'Loughlin, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Sandringham in Victoria, shared his reflections on the friendship he had developed with Fr Scully over 50 years. Fr O'Loughlin and Fr Scully studied together at the University of Propaganda Fide in Rome before their ordinations to the priesthood in 1969. The Words of Remembrance from Fr O'Loughlin painted the picture of Fr Scully as


a great friend whose humility and openness endeared him to all he met.

During the Homily Bishop Morris spoke of Fr Scully's sharp intellect, infectious humour and willingness to speak the truth when it needed to be spoken. Bishop Morris' long association with Fr Scully began when they were classmates at the Banyo Seminary and continued from that time.

After Fr Scully's ordination to the priesthood in St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba by Bishop William Brennan his priestly appointments included the Cathedral, St Mary's Goondiwindi, St Joseph's Dalby, St Clare of Montefalco Tully and St Thomas More's Toowoomba. Fr Scully last appointment was at St Finbarr's Quilpie where he ministered from 1980 to 2007. The people of Quilpie played a special part in Fr Scully's journey through life and those 27 years were full of many memorable experiences.



Fr Jeff Scully with a "neighbour" of Lourdes Home.

Fr Scully, died on the morning of Wednesday 24 June after he collapsed at home. He was 73. His unexpected death left many who had been touch by Fr Scully's ministry wanting to pay tribute to his life and service to the community. Fr Jeff Scully will be remembered for his generous spirit, faithfulness and compassion. 

## REMEMBERING FR JOHN CLANCY

By Ingrid McTaggart

In what has proved to be a very sad time for the Diocese, Fr John (Jack) Clancy was farewelled at his funeral Mass on Wednesday 8 July, he was remembered by many as a hospitable, open, community minded and intelligent man. Fr Clancy was born 31 December, 1931 in Toowoomba to John Clancy and Margaret Logan. He was schooled in Toowoomba at St Saviour's Primary School and St Mary's College. Fr Clancy attended Pius XII Seminary, Banyo and was ordained 29 June, 1956 by Bishop William Brennan DD at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba.

Fr Clancy was in active ministry from 1956 to 2006, serving in Warwick, Charleville, St Patrick's Cathedral, Our Lady of Lourdes, Dalby, Taroom, Oakey and Cunnamulla as well as some time outside of the Diocese at Mt Newman/

Port Headland. In 2006 Fr Clancy retired and was Priest in residence at Pittsworth. In 2011 Fr Clancy moved to Vianney Village at Lourdes Home. He died peacefully 8 July, 2015.


In his words of remembrance, Emeritus Bishop Bill Morris described Fr Clancy as "a silent Pastor who came and went almost unnoticed ... With his generous heart he would silently and thoughtfully try to address [people's] needs without fuss and with great respect." He said, in the words of Pope Francis, that Fr Clancy had "a missionary heart always [doing] what good he could even if in the process [his] shoes got soiled by the mud of the street".

As part of his Homily, Fr Mick Carroll described Fr Clancy as "a master of relationships". "I have experienced



Fr John Clancy

his warm hospitality over the years, as I am sure many of the priests here and elsewhere have. Clance was very conscious of the sacramental bond that unites us," Fr Carroll recalled.

Despite being out of active ministry for a few years due to declining health, it was obvious that Fr Clancy held a special place in so many people's hearts. 



# FOUNDED ON A SPIRITUALITY OF FRIENDSHIP

By Loretta Coman

It is part of our deepest nature to be in relationship with others, it is integral to the history of our species. We're made for relationships because that is how God made us.

Al Etmsanski author of 'A Good Life' puts it this way: "To be isolated is an enormous tragedy for any human being. Yet we cannot force people to love us, to be our friend. We cannot claim it as a right. Government cannot provide it. Money cannot buy it. To be in relationship comes from somewhere else."

Over the past 30 years we have come a long way in understanding and addressing the needs of people with disabilities and there has been much effort in ensuring that the 'basics' of life for people with disabilities are met and planned for. However, attention to the most fundamental of all human needs – our yearning for love and for relationships, has sometimes been sidelined as an 'optional extra'.

When we consider our own personal story, we will discover a story of relationships. We grow, develop and change with others. To live a fruitful and fulfilling life, we require the support and encouragement of family and friends; we require love, respect, belonging, dignity, fellowship, and solidarity to flourish.

If this is true of life in general, then it



Brenda Hammond and Mick Atzeni at SPRED Mass and morning tea.

is also true for our faith life. For no one believes alone. This has been the cry of SPRED for the past 30 years. We need to belong to a group of people who believe if we are to grow in faith, and the human experience closest to the experience of faith is friendship. SPRED Volunteer catechists welcome those with intellectual disability into their midst as loved and valued friends, encouraging and supporting them, walking beside them as faith companions. SPRED friendships are Christ-centred and as such allow us to connect with him in a way that we will not on our own.

Blessed John Paul II taught that to grow communities of Christians, we ought to foster ... "small basic or so-called 'living' communities, where the faithful can communicate

the Word of God and express it in service and love to one another..."

Each week our SPRED Sessions do just this. As members of SPRED we have the opportunity and privilege of making a real and lasting difference in the lives of our SPRED Friends.

SPRED's work is premised on a belief that "the Church, the Sacraments and the Love of God are here for all of us. Every man, woman and child has a right to come into the Church and live its liturgy, experience its rich history and traditions, and feel the presence of God in their lives. It is our obligation as Christians to help as we can to make that right a reality for those with physical, mental, emotional and intellectual challenges." SPRED Chicago Mission Statement. [\[1\]](#)



## EACH ONE, REACH ONE!

During the month of October SPRED is accepting applications for volunteer catechists to begin in February next year. Interested parties are invited to attend an information session.

**WHEN:** Thursday, 15th October 10.30am-11.30 am  
OR 5.15pm—6.15pm

**WHERE:** SPRED Centre, 34 Hume Street, Toowoomba.

Phone or email for more information or to confirm your attendance **Ph: 4632 8427** Email: [spred@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:spred@twb.catholic.org.au)

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SPRED

# JOURNEY TO CONSECRATED LIFE

By Teresa Gasparin

Hello, my name is Teresa Gasparin and I am a new postulant with the Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity in Brisbane. I grew up on my family's farm in Stanthorpe, as one of six children to Joe and Nita Gasparin. I attended St Joseph's School at Stanthorpe from pre-school to year 12. In 2008 I moved to Toowoomba to begin a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Southern Queensland, later moving to Brisbane in 2011 to start my new employment as a registered nurse. World Youth Day in Sydney (2008) and in Brazil (2013) were turning points in my faith journey because I came to more deeply discover my desire to know God and I felt compelled to accept the Pope's invitation to 'encounter' Him. In 2012 I met the Verbum Dei Missionaries in Brisbane. With their guidance, I learnt to pray by dialoguing with the Trinity through the scriptures. It was through this form of prayer that I came to understand God calling me to consecrate my life to Him and His mission.

The Verbum Dei Missionary

Fraternity was founded in 1963 by Fr Jaime Bonet in the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain). The charism of the community is prayer and ministry of the Word with the specific mission of forming apostles and evangelising communities for Christ. As a postulant, I am now dedicating my time to this mission and experiencing what it means to give my life fully to God. I participate in weekly 'School of the Word' prayer meetings, regular formations, retreats and evangelisation opportunities. I have been finding this whole process and experience life-giving and challenging, however it is also a deep source of joy as my relationship with the Trinity becomes more concrete and intimate. It is my prayer in this 'Year of Consecrated Life' that all may be open to listening to God's personal call to each of us to consecrate our lives to him – whether or not it be in the religious life. For as creatures of God, we will not be satisfied until we are united with him. In the words of St Augustine, 'you have made us for yourself, and our



Teresa Gasparin.

hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.' I will be leaving Australia in the coming months to begin my novitiate. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to pray for you and give thanks to God for the blessing each of you have been to me. [H](#)

## Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service **MANAGER – KALUMBURU MISSION**

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist in its important work. The Diocese is currently seeking a Manager for Kalumburu Mission. Ideally suited to a couple, the role requires:

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- Good people skills
- Church commitment
- Practical skills
- Experience working closely with Aboriginal people
- Being prepared to go the extra mile, this is not 9-5 work
- Able to commit to a minimum period of two years
- Package includes accommodation, living costs and a stipend

**You can learn more about  
Kalumburu Mission at  
[www.kalumburumission.org.au](http://www.kalumburumission.org.au)**

For further details, and an application form, please contact:

Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese: 08 9192 1060

**Email:** [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org)

**Web:** [www.broomedioocese.org](http://www.broomedioocese.org)

**Mail:** PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725



# “PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP”

## DEVELOPMENT DAY FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS


By Sr Elaine Morzone MFIC



On Saturday 13 June 2015, approximately seventy-five members of pastoral councils (both diocesan and parish) came together at the James Byrne Centre for a formation day with the theme “Put out into the Deep”. This was facilitated by Fr Philip Marshall, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, whose ability to listen to real life experiences and connect them in a simple and clear manner to the challenge of the Gospel was found by the gathering to be both refreshing and enriching. Fr Philip touched on a number of key concepts such as the importance of joy and why prayer is an indispensable element in nurturing communion, dialogue as a key pastoral method, and our call to be builders of ‘Shalom’. Parish pastoral councils were left with challenging questions to answer

for themselves so that these ideas could find concrete expression and bear fruit. To all of us who might sometimes feel overwhelmed by the challenge of the Gospel, Fr Philip’s four-sentence summary reminds us of the essence of our call.

**Everybody matters, absolutely  
Every broken heart and  
relationship are to be mended  
God’s plan for every person  
is joy and life to the full  
So that creation might be a  
glorious joyful and eternal song  
of praise and love to God.**

The day ended with the celebration of Eucharist during which Bishop Robert McGuckin commissioned parish councils to accept the light of Christ to guide their leadership of service to the parishes and diocese of Toowoomba. 

### DATE CLAIMER

SATURDAY 13 February 2016

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT DAY

(practical workshop style)

Facilitator:

**Sr. Margaret Endicott RSM**



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# WORKSHOPS CONTINUE TO RECAST NETS

By Sr Elaine Morzone MFIC

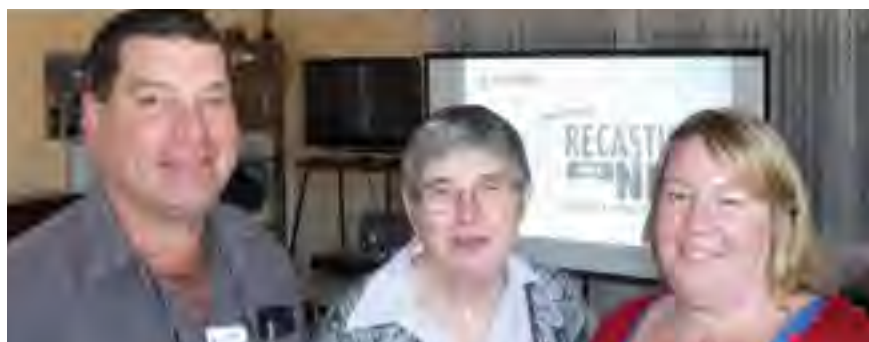


Sr Elaine Morzone presents to those gathered for the Miles workshop.

Following the endorsement of Bishop Robert, members of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team have begun a series of Regional Workshops. These Workshops aim to share more widely throughout the diocese the key messages from the Proclaim 2014 Conference and the Diocesan In-service "Recasting our Nets: Renewing Parishes, Making Disciples" held in March, 2015. As a starting point for engaging with the people of the diocese, three topics summarised from a total of five days of workshop material formed the focus of this two hour workshop. The presenters each focused on the particular topic that related more directly to their specific area of ministry.

As Diocesan Spirituality and Mission Development Officer, Sr Elaine Morzone looked at the theme "Called to be Joyful Missionary Disciples" which highlighted that "Recasting Our Nets" is not primarily a matter of restructuring or coming up with strategies that attract people, but more fundamentally an invitation to embark on a personal and communal spiritual journey where mission and spirituality are two sides of the same coin. In the words of John O'Donohue, "When we are in touch with our inner landscape, what we do carries the fire of passion and creativity."

Sarah de Byl, Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator, presented a profile of the voices we are not hearing and reminded us that "our parish is our postcode" and is not limited to those who attend



L-R John Briffa, Sr Elaine Morzone and Sarah de Byl.

our church services. She highlighted statistics which indicate that many who consider themselves Catholics do not have a sense of belonging to the local parish community. Her challenge was that we "invest and invite", that we put our energies into what is core to who we are and personally invite and welcome those who have been alienated or who are searching to share our experience.

John Briffa, Diocesan Liturgy Officer, focused on how the identity of each local parish could be deepened and strengthened by evaluating how we do the things which make us who we are in terms of our Catholic tradition. Highlighting the gospel text "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35), he drew the attention of the group to those events in the life of a parish where we come into contact with new people. The group was encouraged to explore how we might use these occasions to welcome newcomers

as a starting point to building new relationships and making disciples.

During the regional workshops, the team has valued the opportunity of meeting with committed parishioners from Texas, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, St George, Roma, Mitchell, Wallumbilla, Miles, Chinchilla, Taroom, Dalby, Toowoomba and Jandowae (to date). The sessions have provided a wonderful opportunity to hear voices that are not normally heard. Recognising that there is not one solution to fit all, the intention of the workshops is to encourage further conversation at the parish level which leads to parish action. The hope of the Mission and Ministry Team is to further deepen the dialogue which has just begun.

If you are interested in attending, the workshop will be repeated in Charleville 31st October. For further information please contact Sr. Elaine Morzone on (07) 4632 4277 or email at [emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au) 



# LOVE & RESPECT – EXPLORING THE WORK OF GRATIAN

Talk given by Fr Brian Sparksman to a meeting of the Queensland Community Alliance and the Goodwill Committee of Toowoomba.



The Decretum Gratiani, is a collection of Church law compiled by Gratian, a 12th century monk in Bologna. In big volumes, he reproduced, and commented on, the work of hundreds of spiritual writers.

In 1977 Bishop Kelly asked me to study Church Law. He warned me there would be a class on Gratian where you had to do a presentation on a subject **not** already **treated**, giving me a list of legal subject matters. But they had already been done! Poking around Gratian I had noted references to my favourite subject - **singing**. I also found the subject of singing in church had never been researched before! I can still see the look of horror on Professor Jack Lynch's face when I announced my subject. BUT afterwards Jack shook my hand saying that in 40 years working on Gratian he had never been aware of what I had found. And that it was a great subject for my Licentiate Thesis! With Jack's encouragement [insistence] it developed into my 382 page Doctoral dissertation!

Gratian's work, The Decretum Gratiani, was used by canonists till May 1918, when a revised Code of Canon Law was promulgated by

Pope Benedict XV. But it is not just a legal work. In many ways it is a spiritual encyclopaedia. I refer only to two concepts: **Love & Respect**.

Gratian comments on the entity of 'perfected love', which 'once it is achieved - is never lost.' He also adds "No one immediately becomes the best, but, by leading a good life, **which does not exist without love**, everyone begins at the bottom so that they may reach the top." Further he writes: "Therefore there are degrees not only from one virtue (Gift or Good quality) but also to degrees of living out that gift or quality."

Gratian is addressing a quote from Augustine (354-430) - a theologian/philosopher. In a chapter "*De libero arbitrio*" [Concerning Freedom of Choice] Augustine says 'Love has securely been born in you, but has not been perfected; do not despair, nurture it rather than suffocate it!'

Gratian's treats selections of debates about (a) the subject of virtue [gift] in Christians responding to God's grace, (b) the subject of the very same virtue [or gift] evident in non-Christians, and (c) then how either of these, or these two working together, lead us to the need of love and respect for each other.

Gratian admits that we can all fail, saying: 'We have briefly written about love on account of those who deny that we can be repentant after failure – again and again.' He cautions about NOT continuing to FAIL, stressing the benefits of steadiness in faith and love.

Gratian also quotes Bishop Isidore of Seville 560-636. Isidore stresses the spiritual needs of the people, that it is most important to educate the people – opening out to them the truths of faith. It is imperative that love is accompanied by respect for the people and care for their spiritual needs.

The understanding of LOVE from Augustine, **and** Isidore's stress on respect for the people, give an age-old basis for membership of the **Goodwill Committee**. We, members of that Committee, are called to love and respect for each other - and for the community in general. We work towards the benefit of our people, especially in expanding their knowledge. We need to live our lives with decorum, for our OWN sake and the sake of others. Our individual role is to bring the best qualities of our particular gifts to enhance this role especially for the benefit of our community. [H](#)



# MILLMERRAN ESTABLISHES NEW PASTORAL COUNCIL

By Nell Macqueen

Sr Elaine Morzone came to St Francis de Sales Millmerran one freezing night in July to give the message to inspire our community on the eve of setting up a Parish Pastoral Council for the next term. It was indeed heartening to hear that many small communities experience a time of low enthusiasm for what is indeed the consuming job of running a Parish with all its administrative, practical and religious dimensions; and this is of course on top of the life jobs of each Council member!

Her message was that as a group, the Parish Pastoral Council is made up of a variety of valuable talents. No individual need be expected to have the gifts to fulfil all roles. Sr Elaine concluded with the analogy of the flock of geese. They fly in a V-formation flapping to give the greatest efficiency to the whole flock. If a bird drops out



L-R Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, Sr Elaine Morzone, James, Tessa and Henry Borres.

of the pattern it is "out of kilter" and loses the lifting power of the group. When the lead goose tires it slips back and another slips into the lead position. They honk to encourage each other to keep up! If a goose falls down, two will go with it, till it either recovers or dies, they stand by each other through thick and thin. What lessons for our community groups!

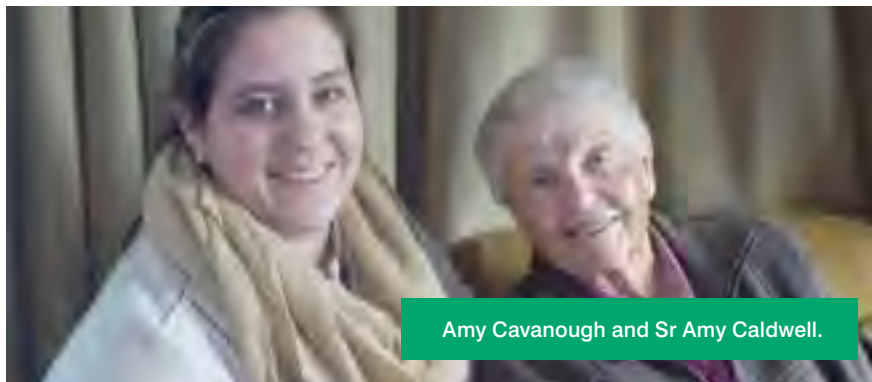
Sister Elaine then returned to Millmerran to discern with those nominated for the new Council. It was a time to be calm and assess the talents available within the group. She has the wonderful ability to reassure and guide. She will return again to guide those in their chosen roles. With prayer and care this new council will be renewed and revitalized! [H](#)

## MITCHELL FRIENDS CATCHUP

By Donna Burke

A small group of parishioners from St Columba's Mitchell recently went to Sydney and caught up with Sr Amy Caldwell, a dear friend of everyone in Mitchell. Donna Burke, Floreen Witt and Amy Cavanough enjoyed spending some time with Sr Amy. She organized a wonderful morning tea and was so excited to catch up with friends. Amy had not seen Sr Amy since she left Mitchell and they were delighted to catch up. Sr Amy took pleasure in showing the group around the local church which had been beautifully restored a couple of years ago.

Much loved, Sr Amy was Pastoral Leader in Mitchell for 12 years and provided outstanding leadership and service to Mitchell and its surrounding community. When Sr Amy was first asked to come to Mitchell, in her usual fashion, she said "I'll give it a go" and what followed was 12 wonderful years. No doubt Sr Amy's immediate response to come



Amy Cavanough and Sr Amy Caldwell.

to Mitchell was nothing short of a miracle, the Lord works in mysterious and wonderful ways. Destined in God's plan to come to Mitchell, the community was fortunate to have been blessed with Sr Amy's all embracing personality and love. She has a gift of reaching out to everyone with such a warm and gentle heart and was a highly valued and respected member of the community.

Sr Amy lives at St Mary's Villa at

Concord and has a very busy life socializing with others and catching up with family and friends. She left Mitchell in January 2010 to return to Sydney where she was born and grew up. Mitchell is dear to Sr Amy's heart and she is always interested to hear about all her friends and how things are going. It was wonderful to see her, she was in great spirits, full of vitality and fun as usual. She is still giving everything a go. [H](#)

# CONNECTING WITH SELF AND SOUL WORKSHOP

By Mary-Anne Driver



Pauline Pickering working on her collage.



Carmel Wooding and Sharon Young enjoying a cuppa and a chat.

In June 14 ladies from Warwick gathered to attend a workshop called 'Connecting with Self and Soul'. This workshop was instigated and supported by the John Wallis Foundation. Fr John Wallis was the Founder of the MSS and the Foundation has been established to carry on the work of the Missionary Sisters of Service.

Counsellors Melissa and Jenny led the group on a journey of awareness into self-care. Self-care spans our physical, emotional, intellectual

and spiritual needs. During the day the group was shown many different forms of relaxation methods including meditation, breathing exercises, mindful eating, whole body listening and contemplation.

Many lively discussions ensued regarding busyness, self-care, and family life. There was also time for delicious food, laughter and connecting with each other. The main thought for the day was 'No one can serve from an empty vessel'. Melissa

likened our body to a cup, when we are self-full and are overflowing we have plenty to give to others, when we are empty there is nothing to give, we still might give, but not willingly or joyfully. Self-care is not being selfish, it is necessary to be able to care for those around you.

Another workshop is organized for October 17. For further information about the Regional Group of the John Wallis Foundation, please contact [johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com)

## THARGO 'TIS TERRIFIC

By Sr Maureen Andrews mfc

Perhaps this is the only town in the diocese where the congregation has more children than adults. The monthly Mass in Thargomindah is a family affair as the two policemen and their wives have seven children between them. We are joined by another child who is preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Communion plus Ide Rush, Fr Peter Doohan and me.

Ide is an important person in our congregation. She and her husband Paul manage the Explorers Caravan Park and where Fr Peter and I stay overnight. Ide can be relied on to ensure that the residents of the town and the tourists are well aware that

Mass is celebrated and that they will be most welcome. Yes sometimes there are more adults than children.

Mass is a joyful affair. When Matilda, the youngest child started to speak she learned to say Amen and would say this randomly through the Mass. Bede, the new policeman and his wife Amy, wanted to be sure that there was a church they could attend before they made the decision to accept the position in Thargomindah.

After Mass Vaughan, the local policeman, and his wife Desleigh, have a huge fire at the back of the police station where we adults can sit and talk whilst we eat our shared

meals telling stories of what special events have occurred in our lives during the past week. The children can climb into the cubby or run around the back yard before tea. Last month the rain drove us inside and we were entertained in Vaughan and Desleigh's home where a baked dinner awaited us. Bede is also a baker and loves to cook and he had prepared a yabby curry followed by a delicious bread and butter pudding. Yes 'tis terrific!

We are grateful for these wonderful people who show us what it means to carry the Eucharist into the community. Truly the kingdom of God is in our midst.

# OLDEST GROUP MEMBER ENJOYS CHARITY LUNCHEON

By Patti McNaught

Some years ago, a group of Catholic Ladies from Mary of the Southern Cross Parish in Highfields decided that they would get together each month to celebrate their birthdays. At one luncheon somebody put forth the suggestion of continuing these fun filled occasions but instead of buying a present for the birthday girl, we would collect the money that we would spend and donate it at the end of the year to a designated charity. The usual procedure is after we have all nominated our preferred charity, Fr Brian Noonan, does the honours of performing the draw and informs us of our charity for that year. Last year we raised money for Fr Ray Brennan's Orphanage in Thailand and this year it will go to Motor Neurone Research.

Over the years we have enjoyed not only the fun of these occasions, but the fulfilment we experience when we know that we can donate to these charities, to help people who may be less fortunate than

ourselves. To make it a little more exciting, the birthday girls have a poem composed for them or, if they have a zero and the end of their age, they are honoured with a special song. The contents of these are about that particular person's life, so that we all can get to know a little more about each other. Some of the things that are revealed are quite amazing, things that we would never have guessed about our quiet unassuming members of our group.

At our latest party, among the four girls celebrating their birthday, was our co-ordinator and organizer extraordinaire, Colleen Weber and also our oldest and dearest member Elda Pez. Elda was a much loved member of our Parish who has only recently retired to Lourdes, she is 96 years young. The look on Elda's face was priceless as she entered the room and saw the faces of her friends from the church. She was presented with a bunch of roses



Elda Pez cutting the cake with Colleen Weber, Marianne Kluck and Coleen Lewis.

and a special handmade card. A beautiful cake was prepared for the girls and enjoyed by all.

If you are ever out our way at Highfields Parish, ask someone about our group. Everyone welcome. #

## FUN WITH THE PARISH COMMUNITY

By Patti McNaught

Mary of the Southern Cross Parish Pastoral Council hosted a trivia night on Saturday, May 23. Although the weather was quite nippy a large crowd gathered to begin what turned out to be one of the most fantastic nights ever. Mal Porter once again was the compere for the night and as usual did an extraordinary job keeping the crowd entertained with his quick witted quips.

On arrival, a question sheet was waiting for us at the table. This was a list of phobias and we had to guess what "fear of what" corresponded with the phobia. What a nightmare! Some hilarious answers were handed in which softened the embarrassment

of our random answers. The answers were recorded on an overhead on the wall, with running scores so that we could see how we were progressing. It was neck and neck for four groups and in the end, after the phobias were corrected and added to our scores, none of the four leading teams ended up taking out the prize money!

The highlights of the evening were: The dancing competition which had everyone in stitches, as one member from each table was nominated to participate. It's amazing how many shy people there seem to be when something like this comes around! The rolling of the coin to see how close they get to bottle of rum

which was the prize attracted a lot of people, young and old. Some of the elderly were very good, getting very close to the prize, but this was eventually won by our wonderful compere. The hundred dollar note and the multi draw were also very popular. To see the stage covered in prizes for the multi draw, which were all donated by Parish Council Members and our Parishioners was a wonderful sight and the generosity of the public is astounding.

Hats off once again to the Parish Pastoral Council for one of the most fantastic nights. So much hard work goes into these events and it was appreciated by all. #



# CHILDREN ENJOY LITURGY IN ROMA

By Anne Moloney



Sandra and Sarah facilitating a Children's Liturgy session.

Children's Liturgy is conducted at All Saints Catholic Church in Roma twice a month during the 8.30am Sunday Mass. The children participating process from the Church to the Justin King Centre, situated a short distance away. An area is set up there for the specific purpose of liturgy. Here children listen to the Gospel and participate in activities that assist in making the Gospel understandable and meaningful for them. They return to the Church to celebrate Holy Communion with the

congregation. The children really enjoy these liturgies and participate fully. They return to the congregation willing to share what they have learned.

On Saturday 1st August parishioners from Mitchell, Roma and Wallumbilla took part in one of the regional workshops that were a follow-up on the March Diocesan Inservice. The workshop was facilitated by Sr Elaine Morzone MFIC (Spirituality and Mission), Sarah de Byl (Youth Ministry) and John Briffa (Liturgical Commission). The session reassured

parishioners in attendance that what they are currently doing is of great value and that there are ways ahead.

A Parish Ministries Inservice about both Reading and Eucharistic Ministries was held in Roma on 31st May and run by John Briffa (Liturgical Commission). Parishioners from Yuleba, Wallumbilla and Roma were walked through the procedures and meanings behind the actions. Those in attendance found it beneficial to refresh and extend their knowledge of their chosen ministries. <#>

## SOCIALISING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

By Angela Gilbert & Janice Moore

Term 2 is always busy at Our Lady of Lourdes. The parish ladies organised a beautiful Cancer Council Big Morning tea at the end of May and it is always well attended. The Year 6 Mini Vinnies Leadership group helped with the serving and clean-up of the morning tea. At the end of Term 2 the school had the pleasure of donating some money to our chosen charities of St Vincent De Paul, Caritas, Catholic Mission and Rosies.

On Sunday 16 August the parish held its annual luncheon in the school hall. 120 parishioners sat down to a two course meal which was accompanied by some great

entertainment. Two Year 11 drama students from St Mary's College Toowoomba performed a skit and 16 year old Connor Sharp, an accomplished saxophonist, entertained the crowd as well. There was a brief appearance from Al Jolson (one of their very own parishioners) and a beautiful meal was enjoyed by all.

The parish will also be running another bus trip on the 22nd October to Abbey of the Roses in Warwick and Leyburn Hotel for lunch. Tickets will be on sale early September from the parish office, phone (07) 46 341453 or email [lol.parish@bigpond.com](mailto:lol.parish@bigpond.com). <#>



Enjoying the annual parish luncheon.

# HIGHFIELDS TURNS THE SOIL FOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

By Elizabeth Findley

Construction of the Secondary College at Mary MacKillop Catholic College is underway. With the current Year 7 students leading the way, the growing excitement within the College Community is undeniable.

The new High School Construction will grow to be a state of the art, full sized school for the region. "This is a masterpiece project for Highfields with some beautiful buildings to continue on from the Primary School. The buildings are purpose built with cutting edge, modern technology," said Mr Barry O'Sullivan whose company Newlands won the contract to build the new school.

Construction will include: Administration, Library, Outdoor Learning Areas, Six General Classrooms and Specialised Buildings for Science, Art, Drama, Industrial Technology, Food Technology and Home Economics. Stage One will be completed by November this year ready for the first Grade Seven and Eight classes in 2016. Specially designed leadership and teaching positions



Bishop Robert with Year 7 Students.

are currently being advertised.

"This is the newest magnificent school building development that the Toowoomba region has seen for some time," Principal Donaugh Shirley said. "Over the coming years the culture which the Primary School is recognized for will be grown so our students continue to learn in a community of care

from Prep through to Year 12".

Recently Bishop Robert McGuckin with the College Community blessed the site of the new Secondary College. On a rain soaked and foggy morning the official party, including Trevor Watts MP, stood in the mud to officially "turn the soil" - a fun way to start the construction and the journey forward. [\[2\]](#)

## MINI VINNIES THUMBS UP TO GIVING

By Elizabeth Findley

This August Year Five Students from Mary MacKillop Catholic College Highfields were excited to present Mr Kevin McCormack the Highfields Conference President for St Vincent De Paul with a ute full of donations for the 2015 St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal.

Blankets, warm clothing, toys and non-perishable food were just some of the goods these young Mini Vinnies collected for those in need this winter. "It's great to see our students being a part of helping others in their community by making

Jesus real in their lives" said Mr Steve Moyle Assistant Principal/ Religious Education. "St Mary of the Cross MacKillop herself said "Never see a need without doing something about it" and as a College we are always on the lookout for ways in which we can help others."

As the ute drove away filled with the donations, Year 5 students smiled and wondered just who would benefit from the items. This winter these Mini Vinnies have one clear message - it's a thumbs up to giving, making a difference. [\[2\]](#)



# NEW UNIFORM TIES

## PARISH AND SCHOOL


By Glenn Roff



Students receive their new uniform ties from parishioners.

St Mary's School this year retained Grade 7 and has added Grade 8, creating a middle school experience. With these significant changes come many innovative and exciting new opportunities. Being separate from the rest of the school, a new look uniform was needed. A major part of the uniform is a locally designed senior tie. The students in the middle school

will wear their tie during the cooler months as part of their winter uniform. Through discussion between St Mary's Parish and School it was decided that no student will pay for a tie. The parish community each purchase a tie on behalf of every new student, then as a wonderful symbol of community and the passing on of the wisdom of the years, the parish member presents

the tie to the student at a parish Mass. This happened earlier this year and was a very emotional and thought provoking event. To see parishioners, aged anywhere up to 96 years old present a tie to a young school student is memorable. It is a wonderful example of parish and school working together and is a tradition that will live on at St Mary's for years to come. 

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# HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

By Mandy Mead

Recently Charleville was visited by the Q150 Steam Train. This brought to mind memories of times long gone from "A Great Traveller on Tour".

The Rev Fr Cashman left Charleville by train for Cunnamulla, thence to Thargomindah by coach, visiting Eulo and all the stations en route. On his return journey the reverent gentleman will spend a few days in Cunnamulla, Wyandra, and Murweh, reaching Charleville for the 17th instant. (Extract from The Catholic Advocate, 9th December, 1911.) Our present Parish Priest, Fr Peter Doohan, is rather pleased that he can travel the same distances today in the comfort of his four wheel drive and in much less time.

Our Prep students tell of their adventure on the Q150 steam train, "I think I can, I think I can. What an awesome time we had on the Q150 train!" With great excitement the children made their way by foot to the train station and even before they arrived puffs of smoke could be seen and the classic sounds of a steam train could be heard. A beautiful old steam engine greeted them at the station and the students climbed into the last carriage which was reserved for them. Once in motion, the children had a great time, waving to the Kindy students and seeing the country side. When they arrived at Arabella, the engine changed to the opposite end of the carriages to take them back home. It was very exciting to see the engine close up, to smell the steam and hear the whistle as it passed the carriage windows. Most of the



Prep Students on their steam train adventure

students wanted to go for another ride the next day! The class climbed the hill in the school grounds just in time to wave one last goodbye to the 113 year old beast as she choof, choofed back toward Morven.

Since the exciting visit by the steam train we have had our athletics carnival. This year Xavier was the winning team and Coolock had to be content with being second and hoping that next year they will be more successful.

Congratulation to our Sr Elizabeth for receiving the "We Couldn't Do It Without You" award from the Toowoomba Diocesan P&C Council. Sr Elizabeth quietly does many vital jobs around our school and community – thank you for everything you do for us Sr Elizabeth.

In week two we celebrated NAIDOC week with the Charleville community.

The week began with markets in the Town Hall gardens and then a Liturgy in St Mary's Church for the entire community. Monday saw the students from St Mary's joining with the students of the State School for the flag raising ceremony. Tuesday the indigenous students at St Mary's lead the school in their NAIDOC Liturgy at which aboriginal elders, representatives from the state schools and parents were present. Wednesday saw the two schools combining for a day of indigenous storytelling, games and art. The week culminated with the NAIDOC street march on Friday when the school joined with the community in processing to the town hall for the closing ceremony and a sausage sizzle. 🍔

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# ST MARY'S RETURNS FAVOUR TO GOOD FRIENDS FROM PNG

By Michael Newman

St Mary's College welcomed Principal Mr Greg Neville, staff and students from OLSH International School and Sacred Heart School, Kavieng PNG who formed a combined Rugby League team to participate in the 2015 Confraternity Shield. These students were the first overseas team to participate in this carnival.

Ten St Mary's College boys visited PNG and the students from OLSH International School during the holidays of Term 1 2015, on an Immersion experience. This amazing experience enabled our boys to be 'guests' to the people of Kavieng, sharing their culture, friendships, ideas and offering some assistance. It was with great pleasure that St Mary's College was able to return their hospitality with a visit to our school and by caring and supporting the boys while preparing for and participating in the 2015 Confraternity Shield.

Teacher Ms Angela Collins, who organised the group of boys who visited PNG students in Term 1 said, "We were thrilled to return the

hospitality and friendship that we were overwhelmed to receive from the boys, their families and the community of OLSH International School".

Many of the boys from PNG, participating in the carnival were from poor villages and families, so such a visit was only made possible through the generosity and goodwill of our students, families and the wider community of both St Mary's College and Toowoomba.


With little publicity, many generous people came to the fore to ensure that this tour became a reality for these boys from PNG. The following business, schools and individuals helped make this possible: Shamrock Engineering, Arnold's Busses (Pittsworth), Digicel PNG, Betros Brothers, Brumbies, Downlands College, Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Ben & Chris Walker, Matt Elara, Trevor Gillmeister and of course the students and families of St Mary's College.

This outpouring of generosity, care, and 'hearty' goodwill was outstanding. St Mary's Principal,



Trevor Gillmeister with St Mary's College students and staff and students from OLSH International School and Sacred Heart School, Kavieng, PNG.

Mr Michael Newman, said, "It makes you so proud to belong to the St Mary's College family and the wider Toowoomba community, where people generously donated travel, food, time, expertise, accommodation and gifts to make the boys' stay, one that they will not forget."

The presence of OLSH International School and Sacred Heart School is a great blessing for St Mary's College and the boys involved. Many life long friends have been formed, lessons learnt, ideals shared and hearts opened. 

## GRANDPARENTS' MORNING TEA AT ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE


By Linda Creedon

On the Tuesday of Catholic Education week St Saviour's College celebrated the gift of Grandparents at our annual Grandparents morning tea. The day started with our grandparents gathering in the Callaghan Centre with their granddaughters. After a welcome by our principal Mrs Margaret Battle, our Assistant Principal, Mr Danny Carter with the help of some of our students conducted a Liturgy that celebrated the gift of grandparents. This was followed

by a session on, 'Memories from your schooling days', where teacher Mrs Barbara Wuerschling invited some of our grandparents to recall their school days. This is always an entertaining part of the morning.

Year 12 student Cynthia Jiang then played two songs on the piano before our grandparents moved out for a tour of the College and to purchase goods from the year 9 Business Venture stalls that were set up in Dublin Place. The Business Venture is an initiative by Business teachers;

Mrs Alyson Holmes and Mrs Sharon Currie, where groups of students plan and execute a business as part of their studies. Grandparents were able to purchase gifts from the stalls.

Our grandparents then headed back to the Callaghan Centre where they were served morning tea by the hospitality students under the guidance of Mrs Wuerschling. Whilst enjoying morning tea they were entertained by a number of performers. The morning concluded around 11.45am. 



# DANCE TROUPE SUCCESS

By Emilee Nichols

Months of hard work paid off for the St Ursula's College Senior Dance Troupe when they placed second at the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod. The Dance Troupe led by teacher, Mrs Emily Whiting and choreographed by Louise Smith, Artistic Director of Lucid Dance Company in QLD, created a performance about the efforts of nurses during World War I, in particular their heroism, wisdom and support of our troupes. With teamwork and determination, the students set their sights high and took their performance to a larger audience and competed in the Sydney Eisteddfod.

Dance teacher Mrs Emily Whiting said "The Sydney Eisteddfod is one of the most important and prestigious competitions in Australia, and St Ursula's College was immensely honoured to send our students to compete amongst the best in the nation. The opportunity to perform at the Eisteddfod was a unique opportunity to perform publicly and receive valuable feedback




St Ursula's College Senior Dance Troupe excited to perform in Sydney.

on their skill development."

Commenting on this Sydney Eisteddfod Dance Group event, CEO Piroozi Desai-Keane OAM reflects "In 2009 Sydney Eisteddfod established a 'Travel Assistance Fund' to help subsidize travel costs for talented young performers who, like St Ursula's College Dance Troupe, reside in distant areas and yet want to compete on the Sydney Eisteddfod stages. This fund was originally established by generous sponsors, The John Lamble Foundation and McDonald's Australia. We congratulate this talented troupe

on their excellent choreographic forms and great team work. Well done!"

On return from their success in Sydney the girls were able to perform at the Toowoomba Eisteddfod in front of their family and friends where they placed first with the same performance. Dance Captain Adrianna Williamson said "Performing our dance routine in front of our local community, family and friends was a wonderful experience. We were so grateful to be awarded first place and I am so proud of all the effort our team put into both competitions." 

## AU REVOIRS, GOODBYES AND WELCOMES

Sr Maureen Andrews mfc

It was a sad time for the church and school community when we said au revoir and goodbye to Sue-Ellen Hazelman, Acting Principal, and Polly Crawford, APRE. Both of these women gave of their gifts gladly for the good of the children they taught and served. We are all the richer for having them in our midst and they have a special place in our hearts. Sue-Ellen started her teaching career in Cunnamulla and has been acting in the Principal's position whilst she was on maternity leave. Polly has been in Cunnamulla for three years. Her family arrived from Murgon to help her pack and to join in the celebrations.

The farewells continued for a week, with the final liturgy at the weekly assembly being written and


conducted by the Grades 5 and 6. It was wonderful to notice how confident the children were in conducting the prayer. We look forward to further gifts emerging under the guidance of their teacher Mrs Philips.

Cara, our Principal, was welcomed back into the school at the beginning of the term. One could understand that it was difficult to return and leave her new daughter, beautiful Brooke with shining blue eyes, in the care of others for the day. We thank you Cara for returning to Sacred Heart and thank you for your belief in the teachers and students.

We welcomed into the school Tom Luxford from Brisbane. This will be a challenge as Tom leaves behind the rush of the city for the

red sand, blue sky and learning to be alert for roos, emus and goats. Tom entered the classroom with enthusiasm and we wish him every success in this new adventure.

The parish celebrated NAIDOC with a liturgy on the 'We Walk on Sacred Ground' theme. Wendy McKellar had a sacred path leading the dot painting the children had completed. Above the painting was a rainbow serpent created by the Preps. The poster of hands was created by Polly's class for the school liturgy during the week. There were lots of footprints up the sacred path even some made by Minnie the dog.

The parish held a memorial service for Fr Jack Clancy with his memorabilia arranged around the altar as well as a watercolour painted by Peta Warner. 

# THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

By Sue Higgins

In this, the year of the Anzac Centenary, the community of St Patrick's, Allora is busily planning for a Centenary celebration of their own. 2016 marks one hundred years of schooling for the St Patrick's Parish and it seems that the more things change, the more they stay the same!

It's a great time for sharing memories – the old buildings, the school balls, the different nuns and teachers over the years, but it seems that sport has always played a huge part in the culture of the school.

In the living memory of the past-pupils and parishioners, the Sports Houses at St Pat's have undergone at least three name changes with perhaps the most significant occurring just this year. During the 70's the red and white Waratah did battle with the green and gold Wattle. This soon gave way to Wombats and Koalas in the 90's but in 2014, outgoing Principal Margaret Grew, saw the move of the Year Sevens to high school as the perfect time affect change in the proud sporting tradition of the school. After great debate and much research, 2015 sees not only a change to the names, but also two houses becoming three.

Seeking the input of the school families and parishioners, it was local history buff and parent, Phill Higgins who provided what seemed to be the perfect dovetail



Year 6 students, Imogen Philp, Anna Morris and Matthew Higgins proudly sporting the blue, green and red of the new Sports Houses.

solution in this special centenary year: The surnames of the WWI fallen from the St Patrick's Parish, immortalised in the unique Shrine which is built on the school grounds.

With the help of the local Historic Society, the decision was made to name the new houses Rynne, Hughes and Lynam.

The following Sporting Creed has been developed, along with a torch, to be read out by and handed on to one of the current families before each major sporting event so that the significance of the names is always remembered and that their fighting spirit lives on.

## St Patrick's Sports Creed

Today we battle on the sporting field under the banners of Hughes, Lynam and Rynne. May we do honour to these families, (as well as to the Collins, Morrissy, Dunne and Warfield families) whose sons left Allora to fight in WWI and never returned. May we compete in a spirit which shows our respect and gratitude for their sacrifice. We thank them today and always that we can play, learn and grow in a peaceful community. 🇮🇪

**St Patrick's  
School  
Allora  
Centenary**  
12 – 13 March 2016

Also recognising the arrival of the Sisters of St Joseph in the Allora Parish and their contribution to the life of the School.

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# CENTACARE TRAMS 11TH BIRTHDAY AND REFUGEE WEEK

By Geoff Argus



L-R Hannah Belesky (TRAMS Coordinator), Gul Jana Abdula (TRAMS client from Afghanistan), Sr Deidre Gardner, Nargis Abdula (TRAMS client from Afghanistan). Photo by David Martin.

Previous TRAMS client Lucy White. Photo by David Martin.



On the 18th of June, Centacare's Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) service celebrated its birthday during Refugee Week. TRAMS has been operating for 11 years and began with community members volunteering their time to provide support to newly arrived Australians and was originally run from St Anthony's Parish.

Now operating from Neil Street behind the Cathedral Centre, over the years TRAMS has become an important part of the Toowoomba community and is highly respected as the "go-to" place for people from a refugee and migrant background. TRAMS is held together by the valuable support of dedicated volunteers and staff who provide their time, kindness and support to members of our community who have come from all parts of the globe.

The celebration began with a

speech by Centacare Director, Geoff Argus. "Refugee week is a time when we reflect on the plight of people who have been displaced from their homes. Who have experienced unimaginable hardship, trauma, discrimination and life events that those of us born in a Country such as Australia can never truly comprehend. And it is also a week of celebration. We celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that people from all nations bring to our community. And we offer thanks to those who have come across the seas for the rich opportunities for learning and understanding that they bring to our community".

"In 2013, Toowoomba was declared a Refugee Welcome zone. TRAMS is a place that epitomises this declaration. It is a place where people are welcomed with open arms. It is a place where diversity is embraced.

Where people are accepted regardless of belief, race, culture, background and individual circumstances".

"TRAMS represents the heart and soul of an Australian culture that is welcoming and accepting of all. Where kindness and concern for our global brothers and sisters is at the forefront of our minds and hearts".

Since the beginning of TRAMS, a welcome candle has been lit every year during Refugee Week celebrations. The candle was made by Sr Patricia MacGinlay, one of the founders of TRAMS. It has been TRAMS tradition to have the candle lit by one of its newest clients and was this year lit by Gul Jan.

The ceremony was well attended by TRAMS clients, staff, volunteers and community members and concluded with traditional dances and food from across the globe made by TRAMS clients. [\[2\]](#)

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2015

By John Borserio

As the Executive Director, one of the most heart-warming parts of my role has always been visiting schools and listening to the voices of the students. They share openly the thrill of learning something new, spending their days with their friends, and making a difference in their community through a range of activities. They are sharing how their minds are engaged, their hearts ignited and they serve others... and in 2015 we celebrated Catholic Education Week under this very theme: Engaging minds. Igniting hearts. Serving others.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Catholic Education

Week celebrations. Each year these celebrations grow and our communities come together in larger numbers. Through the stories that are recalled in the pages that follow, you can see for yourself how communities from across the Diocese have come together to celebrate.

This is my final Catholic Education Week as Executive Director of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers who have chosen Catholic Schools; I thank you for the privilege you have given to Catholic educators as they walk alongside you

to educate and care for your children.

To Catholic education staff and their communities, I express my gratitude to you for making a difference in students' lives - by challenging them to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society.

I hope that you to feel the joy of the life-giving work of our Catholic education community and that your heart is ignited by the knowledge, love and service of our young people. <#>

## SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

As Assistant Principal Religious Education at St Saviour's Primary School, Mrs Judy Smith knows a thing or two about pastoral care and caring for her students and their families. As a result of her exceptional work, this year Judy was awarded the 2015 Spirit of Catholic Education Award for the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Judy has Catholic education in her DNA. She started school at Holy Name, then went onto St Ursula's for her secondary education. Following on from this Judy studied teaching at USQ, when it was the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education. In 1983, Judy travelled for her first teaching role at St John's, Roma, then worked at Holy Name School followed by nearly 17 years at Sacred Heart in Toowoomba. In 2004, Judy was appointed as a classroom teacher at St Saviour's Primary School where she has been ever since.

Judy is a quiet achiever who is very humble when it comes to acknowledging her talents and gifts. It is her personal attributes and the special empathy she has for others that make her exceptional and so loved by the St Saviour's community.



**Judy Smith with the Governor General of Queensland His Excellency Paul de Jersey receiving her award at the State Launch of Catholic Education Week in Brisbane.**

Judy has a gift for making everyone feel valued, whether it be by remembering their birthday or checking up on how they are going. She is always the first to offer help to a student, parent or colleague and willingly contributes to organising whatever is needed to make life easier.

Donna Muir, Principal of St Saviour's Primary School, said of Judy, "She has introduced many great initiatives at our school during her time here. The two most substantial in the lives of our children and families are Sunday Children Masses and the Pastoral Care Program."

Judy also naturally connects

her school, the parish and wider community – she is active in the liturgical and sacramental teams of her parish and is a member of the Catholic Education Board.

Judy's school community said on nominating her, "Thank you, Judy, for being you. Thanks for making us stay calm and think the best of others and for helping us, through your example, to 'walk humbly, act justly and love tenderly' just like Jesus did".

Judy attended the State award ceremony in Brisbane and was presented with her award by the Governor General of Queensland His Excellency Paul de Jersey. <#>



# SR JO CARMICHAEL MEMORIAL AWARD

Each year during Catholic Education Week employees of Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education nominate a staff member to be the recipient of the Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award. This year's recipient was Peter Moloney, Principal of Assumption College, Warwick.

Peter has committed his career to Catholic Education and when Peter's nominator for this award, John Coman (Senior Education Officer, Catholic Education Office), met him some years ago, he was the Career Guidance Officer at St Mary's College and an invited member of the College Leadership Team.

"Peter's wisdom and experience were very valued by former Principals of the College and as the new Principal I could see why. During his time at St Mary's College, Peter was appointed to the position of Assistant Principal Curriculum before moving to his current role as Principal at Assumption College, Warwick," said John Coman. "Peter is a man, committed to his faith. Over the years, his strong faith has grown, and he is now seen very much as the faith leader of the



Peter Moloney at the Catholic Education Week Launch in Warwick.

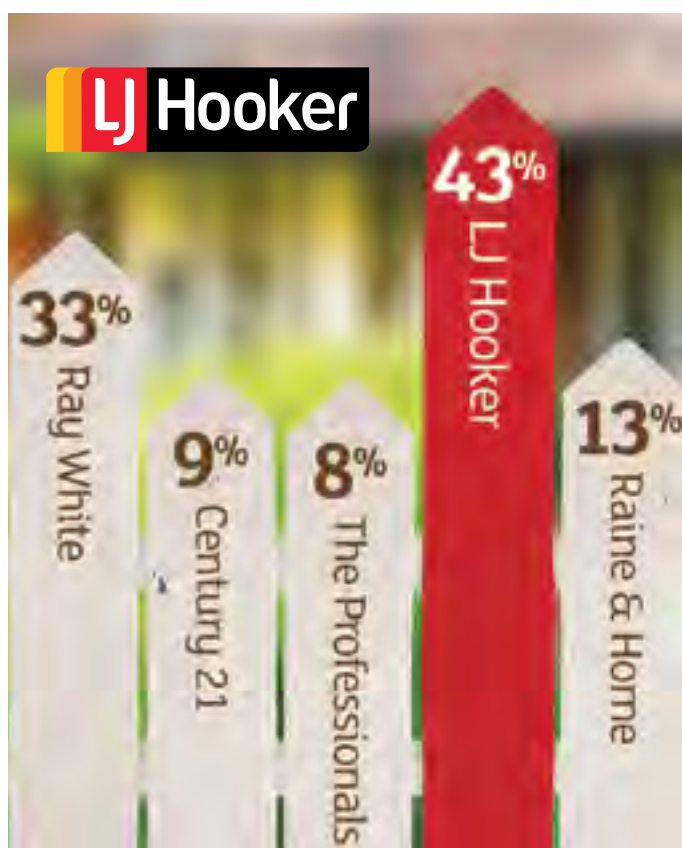
Assumption College community."

Peter has always been well liked and respected by his students and this is evident in the number of weddings of his past students he has been invited to attend. His interest in their individual stories and their lives have formed the foundations of learning and preparing them for active citizenship and participation in church and wider society.

In responding to the announcement that he is the recipient of the 2015 Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award, Peter said, "It is very humbling. I need time to just to take it in. At this stage, I can't say it was excitement but I felt very humbled to not only be nominated but to win it."

As a leader, Peter's personal and leadership qualities have built Assumption College into the very strong position that it currently occupies. Peter's attention to detail in curriculum and resource provision; backed up by his time commitment is above and beyond the call of duty, and is well known and recognised.

"As Peter takes long-service leave at the end of this year to spend quality time with his grandchildren. It is only fit that he takes this leave with the acknowledgement of his peers and colleagues as the very worthy recipient of the 2015 Sr Jo Carmichael Memorial Award," said John Borserio, Executive Director Catholic Education Office. [E](#)



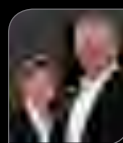
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# LAUNDRY FOR THE HOMELESS INSPIRES OUR STUDENTS



Nicholas and Lucas, founders of Orange Sky Laundry, with Peter Moloney and Warwick Students.

On Tuesday 28 July, Warwick warmly welcomed students from ten Catholic Schools to St Mary's School to celebrate the start of Catholic Education Week.

St Mary's School and Assumption College co-hosted 900 plus students, staff, family and community members from across the Diocese with students travelling from Stanthorpe, Clifton, Inglewood and Toowoomba. They were all there to launch the week of festivities and were keen to hear the story of State Ambassadors for Catholic Education Week, Lucas Patchett and Nicholas Marchesi of Orange Sky Laundry.

"The Student Launch provides a unique opportunity for Catholic school communities across the Diocese to gather in one place and celebrate what makes Catholic education great," said Margaret Grew, Acting Principal of St Mary's School, Warwick.

This year's launch included stories from three charities that work to create communities of care – a key feature of Catholic schools: St Vincent de Paul, Rosies – Friends on the

Street and Orange Sky Laundry.

Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, founders of Orange Sky Laundry shared the story of how two newly out of high school 'dudes' had an idea only 10 months ago and made it happen. They now travel around the country with two washing machines in the back of their van, washing homeless people's clothes.

Nicholas said of visiting Warwick, "I have enjoyed meeting the students today and sharing our story. In talking with some of the Secondary Colleges, I think we will be back to visit their schools in the future, and I look forward to working with them."

Jon Martlew from Rosies - Friends on the Street and Cassandra Bull, State Youth Manager for St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland also inspired those in attendance.

John Elich, President of the Toowoomba Diocesan Council of St Vincent de Paul Society said, "We need to continue to build our connections with the students as they keep the St Vincent de Paul dream alive. They do great work through

Mini Vinnies, and I look forward to having our Youth Coordinator develop these connections even more in the coming year. Thank you to Catholic Education for your ongoing support."

The Parent & Friends Executive and School Board of St Mary's School were on hand and had organised volunteers to cook the 1600 sausages needed to feed the hungry crowd. Three fathers even took a day off work to start cooking on the frosty Warwick morning.

Current parent Mrs Joanne McNally, who is also a local Councillor for the Southern Downs Regional Council said, "My children attended St Mary's Warwick and now attend Assumption College. Celebrating Catholic Education Week with them makes me proud as a parent and as a councillor."

Dave Carr a long-standing member of the St Mary's teaching staff said, "It is such a wonderful idea to bring students together from across our Diocese for a launch event in a school. To have the ambassadors share their stories is also great. The Orange Sky Laundry boys are an inspiration." <#>



# SPORTING EVENT BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER



Mary MacKillop Catholic College Year 6 Team.

The spirit of competition is strong across the diocese and the girls netball team from Mary MacKillop Catholic College was geared up to take out the Year 6 trophy again this year at the Catholic Schools Touch Football and Netball Competition. A number of primary schools from across the Toowoomba Diocese, from as far afield as Roma, Warwick and Dalby, came together for the event in Toowoomba. To encourage participation, both competitions for Year 5 and 6 offered two divisions for participation – competitive and non-competitive.

Netball coach and Year 6 teacher for Mary MacKillop, Rebecca Morgan said, “I just think today is a great opportunity for all the schools to come together. A lot of the girls at our school, have been training from the start of the year and they don’t actually get a lot of opportunities to play games – so it is wonderful to

go for the day to compete against different schools in the Diocese. It gives teachers a chance to meet up in a different setting as well.”

Michaela Reik a student at Mary MacKillop said, “I’ve never played netball before, and I thought it would be a good experience just to try something new.” While Molly Knight-Adcock said, “I’m looking forward to meeting other people and learning more how to play netball.”

Brendan Redinger, Deputy Principal at Holy Name said, “Through sport, it is a great vehicle to promote Catholic Education in order for the students to make friends and show compassion for others. To align with our theme this year, what a great way to serve others and ignite hearts through teamwork.”

The spirit of the day perhaps was nicely summed up by Donaugh Shirley, Founding Principal of Mary MacKillop Catholic College when she said, “Well, it’s all about relationships isn’t it really,



Holy Name Grade 6 Team.

the basis of Catholic Education – it’s the relationships that we have with each other, our faith relationships, and this is just another way of developing relationships between schools.” [H](#)



# KICKING OFF FESTIVITIES IN A FUN WAY

By Kate Cullen



**'Mother Superiors' ready to guide their team.**

On Monday 27th July, to celebrate Catholic Education Week and acknowledge the Mercy Sister and Christian Brother founders of Assumption College Warwick, students eagerly participated in the annual 'Mercy Dash' and 'Rice Bowl' obstacle course relays.

The 'Mercy Dash' is led by a Senior student armed with a loudspeaker and dressed as the 'Mother Superior' for their House team. Using only their voices, the 'Mother Superiors' guide their blindfolded team members through a challenging obstacle course. The first part of this course involves blindfolded team members selecting their correct House coloured ball from the ball pit. Competitors

are then given their 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary' prayers which they then carry over and deposit into their House tube which have been termed 'Rosary Cannons'. This is all carried out not only under the guidance of their 'Mother Superior' but also with the help of their very vocal peers on the sidelines who enthusiastically get into the spirit of the event.

The 'Rice Bowl' event involves students firstly collecting rice from a bowl using a teaspoon in their mouths. Once the student has the correct coloured piece of rice for their House, they then race across the field to deposit it into another bowl. At all stages, students are not allowed to use their hands to hold

or guide the spoons. In the second leg, students eagerly bowl rice bags at a set of bowling pins in a race to win. Students are guided the whole way by their 'House Brothers'.

Congratulations to Donovan House on winning the 'Rice Bowl' and to Romero House for winning the 'Mercy Cup'. Well done to all competitors and Mother Superiors – Sophie Grayson, Zoe Bowerman, Olivia McCluskey, Liam Duncan and Brothers – Riley Williamson, Andrew Ryan, Quinton Mauch and Alexander Stewart.

These 'House' challenge activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all students, spectators and participants alike and are a fun way to celebrate Catholic Education Week. [E](#)

## KINDNESS FLOWS IN MILLMERRAN

By Kirsty Cameron

Students and staff strive to make a difference in the lives of those not just in our school but also in the wider community by living the message of Jesus as compassionate and life-giving members of society. The generosity of our community shone through with our Acts of Kindness

during Catholic Education Week. Approximately 150 tins of food were collected by our Mini Vinnies group to be distributed locally by St Vincent de Paul and lots of clothing items were sent in for Yallambee Boutique in support of our local retirement village, Yallambee. [E](#)



**Mini Vinnies Reps - Abou, Hayley, Amity, Bethany, Abigail and Larni.**

# SCHOOL'S PARTICIPATION BRINGS OUT THEIR BEST

By Angela Gilbert & Janice Moore



The Year 5 Netball Team  
with their Trophy.

At the beginning of Term 3 we celebrated Catholic Education Week. We began the week with our School Musical called "Wonderland". The Year 4 to 6 classes were prepared and directed by Mrs Lucy Andreas, our speech and drama teacher, to perform an entertaining story about the life of a musical family entertaining a group of retired teachers. Lots of laughs were enjoyed and the talent of our children was amazing.

A big thank you was extended to the school staff and families who supported this endeavour with costume, backdrop and encouragement. Fr Quinlan and the parish thanked the teachers at the 9:30 parish Mass and morning tea on the Sunday 26 July.


The school celebrated a whole school Mass on Wednesday 29 July where each class contributed to the prayer space by decorating a small heart to put on our Inspiration Tree.

Throughout Catholic Education Week different classes participated in a variety of activities. The Prep classes celebrated the letter P with a pyjama



Students with the Inspiration Tree.

party and they made pizza, popcorn and watched Peppa Pig. The Year 1 classes encouraged the school to participate and dance in their photo story video of "Live Louder" which can be seen on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-O8h6H6RN4>. Year 2 talked about the many ways they could demonstrate "Being Catholic".

The Year 3s played some games and then made their own to share with their classmates. Year 4s used their mapping skills to locate the many schools in the diocese. Year 5 and 6 went to the annual Netball and Touch Football Carnival. Congratulations to our Year 5 Girls Netball Team who won their division for the first time in 24 years. 



# LANTERN WALK SHINES LIGHT ON REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKERS' PLIGHT



Students gather to walk in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees.

St Joseph's College, Toowoomba in conjunction with the Toowoomba Diocese Social Justice Commission invited Catholic secondary schools across Toowoomba to challenge themselves and sacrifice 45 minutes of their time on a chilly winter's night.

Over 150 students, staff and community members answered this call and journeyed with the Just Joeys social justice group from St Joseph's College to walk in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees from across the world.

Candles, lanterns and torches glowed in the early evening the group travelled in procession along Lindsay St and Margaret St, in a moving lantern parade.

"Following the success of last year's event Just Joeys decided to continue to hold another lantern parade as a part of Catholic Education Week," said Julieanne Rasmussen, Assistant Principal Faith and Mission from St Joseph's College.

"Catholic Education Week this year is about Engaging Minds. Igniting Hearts. Serving Others. and at Catholic Schools we teach and learn about the principles of social justice. So having this parade



Mark Copland, Social Justice Commission, Allie Tiernan, Brian Maguire members of Just Joey's and Julieanne Rasmussen, St Joseph's College.

as a part of Catholic Education Week is the best way to show what Catholic Schools are teaching. This parade is one way our students can continue to raise awareness and clarify the facts around asylum seekers that social media continually bombard us with."

Brian Maguire, a student of St Joseph's and a member of the Just Joeys group said, "I think our college motto 'Serving Others' should mean something. This event means I have an opportunity to help."

Sophie Rangiira, from St Ursula's College explained to those gathered, "Sadly in our world, refugees and asylum seekers do not have the same opportunities to live life in its fullness and so the walk tonight is a walk in solidarity with them and an opportunity to commit ourselves to justice and equality."

This year as part of the parade, each person who attended was given a little flame to take back to their school or local communities. [H](#)




# Oakey Celebrates the Role of Grandparents

This year's theme Engaging Minds, Igniting Hearts, Serving Others, was embraced by the staff, parents and grandparents of St Monica's School, Oakey as the school recognised and celebrated the contribution grandparents make to the daily routine of the school.

Grandparents' Day was an opportunity to thank those special individuals who contribute to the smooth running of the school community.

Annie Murphy, Year 2 Teacher at St Monica's said, "Grandparents' Day is an opportunity for grandparents to come to the school, sit in the classrooms, and see how different today is from when they were at school. Classrooms today are filled with technology from interactive whiteboards, to iPads, to computers and laptops."

Visiting grandparents Brian and Lyn Jorgensen travelled from Westbrook and said of the day, "It is great to see what the grandkids are doing and to meet and mix with other grandparents. We have two grandkids at St Monica's, Emily and Sean, who are in Grade 5 and 3. Our eldest grandson, Josh completed his primary schooling here at St Monica's and has now gone to Downlands for his secondary schooling."

Roly Poulton, Principal of St Monica's School said of Grandparents' Day, "It's an opportunity for us to acknowledge the role many grandparents play in the formative years of our students as they begin their life-long journeys. Grandparents are a key element of our community of care. Drop off and pick up times would not be the same without the gentle influence of grandparents." 



Brian and Lyn Jorgensen with their granddaughter Emily.

## Putting Service Into Action

St Saviour's Primary School is brimming with action and Alex Gannon, Grade 6 teacher, is helping lead the way with the students creating bookmarks and letters for the elderly. As part of Catholic Education Week, the fruits of the students labour is going to be delivered to hospitals and care facilities.

APRE Judy Smith said "You hear of people in hospitals who don't have visitors, and in the past during Catholic Education Week a random act of kindness was a theme that we used and that came up again. An act such as this, it's just an unexpected kind thing that the children are doing for a stranger. I think it's a great habit, great practice for them to just be aware of other people less fortunate who maybe having no one to say something nice to them."


"I just felt that it was really important that children learn and have an opportunity to do these things. Life's so busy now – days so many families don't engage in Service like people did in the past. It also connects back to some



L-R Judy Smith, Alex Gannon, Charlotte Ballard, Lainey Currie, Loris Robinson.

of the things the Year 6s are going to be looking at next term in our Health Unit, which is our own well-being and part of own well-being relates to giving to others as well," said Alex.

Donna Muir, Principal of St Saviour's Primary School, said of this program, "I think it's wonderful that Alex has come up with the idea for Service in our wider community. It certainly flavours the whole idea of Catholic Education Week where we step out into

the community and actually touch the lives of other people, visit the nursing homes, and service our parish right across the road from our school. A simple gesture of baking a cake, and providing morning tea for people certainly gave a lot of joy, and I think our children also enjoyed that too. So congratulations to Alex as a classroom teacher, coming up with this great idea, and thinking about how we can ignite many hearts in our community." 

# PITTSWORTH APPROACHES EDUCATION MILESTONE



**Students busy with clues in the Scavenger Hunt.**

The celebration of Catholic Education Week at Stephen's Catholic School, Pittsworth had special significance this year. St Stephen's is only a gentle nudge away from clocking up 100 years of spiritual, emotional, academic and social nourishment of the youth of Pittsworth. As a result, the school's Catholic Education Week activities this year have centred upon the history of the school.

"The reason for this is to enlighten students, staff and parents about the colourful characters and symbols that have formed the fabric of our wonderful school. Another reason for this exploration of the school's history was to promote a sense of pride and dignity within our students. They need to understand that we are all only travellers passing through the school and we all must become custodians of the school

for future generations," said Mr Keith Blaikie, Assistant Principal Religious Education at St Stephen's.

Catholic Education Week celebrations commenced with a whole school prayer celebration. Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, Parish Priest, was honoured during the prayer celebration as he celebrates 20 years of Ministry in the Toowoomba Diocese. Parents and community members were then able to tour the school and participate in lessons during the Open Classrooms program.

The entire school participated in a Scavenger Hunt based around the history of the school with each year level having 30 minutes to find answers based on cryptic clues and take photographic or written evidence of their answers.

"Every past student, teacher, parent or parishioner has a story to

tell of our beloved school; and we were keen to hear stories and save those memories for future reference. We have asked people to put pen to paper and send us their memories and insights about special times at St Stephen's. Having this scavenger hunt has sparked some more stories and memories," said Mr Blaikie.

"The school has such a tremendous history! As a part of the celebration next year, our organising committee are keen to establish a vault of historical memorabilia. If anyone in the community has something to share, we would be happy to scan or copy any precious photos for safe return.

"It will be a great celebration on 6 and 7 of August next year and this year's Catholic Education Week celebrations have helped to grow that excitement," said Mr Blaikie. [\[2\]](#)

# WORKING TOGETHER AND HELPING ONE ANOTHER

By Tyronne Maher



Students creating their mural.



Prep Students with their prayer chain.

Catholic Education Week kicked off at St Francis de Sales in Clifton with a lovely family mass on Sunday afternoon. As well as celebrating Father Rod MacGinley's birthday, the school community and other parish members also reflected on the year so far and celebrated how St Francis de Sales school represents the theme of Catholic Education Week 2015; Engaging Minds, Inspiring Hearts and Serving Others.

On Monday students, staff and friends of the community were treated to a prayer service by the year 1 and 2 students. As part of the prayer service, the students lead us in an

up-beat reflection song based on Jesus' Parable of the Lamp found in the Gospel of Matthew while handing out beautiful handmade paper lanterns. 'Cute factor' is always a winner and Miss Rebecca Nystrom's class did not disappoint.

Following the prayer service students watched the YouTube movie *The Coat: A Story of Charity*. Students reflected on the kindness portrayed in the movie before creating a prayer chain where students wrote on each link as to how they were going to be kind to one another.

Throughout the week students were engaged in learning experiences

focused around prayer, meditation and being good friends. The Prep, year 1 and year 2 students culminated the week's activities with the creation of a beautiful mural depicting the things they like about going to a catholic school. Included in the mural were pictures about learning about Jesus, going to church and playing with friends. The Prep students formed a conga line and marched their beautiful masterpiece to its final resting place, the school's front fence. A display of teamwork befitting of what Catholic Education is all about - working together and helping one another. [H](#)

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL REACHING OUT DAY

By Kristy Cameron

St Joseph's School, Millmerran gathered as a community during Catholic Education Week for an Outreach Day. As a community member, the school wanted to invite the local community to the school for the morning and give them a glimpse of what it is to be a St Joseph's student.

The morning began with a prayerful Eucharistic Celebration led by Fr Thomas Areekuzhy and the Year 5/6 class. Following Mass close to 120 people shared morning tea at the school including parishioners, parents, staff and students.

Many visitors stayed to join the children in rotational activities around the Catholic Education Week

theme "Engaging Minds, Igniting Hearts and Serving Others".

"There were four activities for everyone to participate in and students were encouraged to take a leading role. The activities ranged from hearts woven with coloured ribbon, dance, puzzles, mobilo and prayer and meditation encompassing the theme from scripture "Let Your Light Shine" Matthew 5: 16," said Mr Luke Barrett, Principal.

Mrs Pat Taylor, who is both an active parishioner and grandparent in our school said, "What a wonderful day. The interaction between the parish and school was lovely to see. The children were delighted to have parishioners,

parents and community members

join them for prayer, morning tea and to help with their activities."

Mrs Kristy Cameron, APRE, said, "The day was a great success in bringing the parish and school community together to celebrate the special ethos of our small school. We are extremely lucky to be making a difference by challenging our young people to live out the message of Jesus."

Other activities for the week at the School, included making class sets of Joey Rosary Beads and going for daily visits with Yallambee residents. [H](#)



Ben Cameron and Coby Taylor.



# NEW MISSION STATEMENT KICKS OFF CELEBRATIONS

By Kate McGilvray, Tahni Davies and Hana Doherty (Year 6 Students)

St Thomas More's celebrated Catholic Education Week in a variety of ways. We began the week with a liturgy, this year's theme was "Engaging Minds, Igniting Hearts, Serving Others". During the liturgy we launched our new mission statement based on John 10:10, "Live life in all its fullness". Each class brought forward a cross that had been beautifully decorated depicting the school mission statement.

On Tuesday, the school invited Grandparents to come and enjoy a morning of entertainment, class visits and shared morning tea. Performances included a year 6 liturgical dance choreographed by Mrs Sanders, presentations by string instrumentalists conducted by Miss Lawrence, wind instrumentalists conducted by Mrs Williams and Senior and Junior choir items also conducted by Mrs

Williams. The Grandparents then headed to the classrooms to join in a variety of activities from making pom poms to maths rotations.

On Thursday the years 5 and 6 attended the Catholic Netball and Touch Football Carnival at Nell E. Robinson Park and Kearney Springs. Many parents came to support their children and to help referee. Congratulations to the winners of the carnivals and to everyone who participated. That evening, the choirs went to Mater Dei to participate in a Performing Arts Showcase. Both of these events were a way to get together with other catholic schools.

On the last day of the week, while most of the students were enjoying their day off, 6 representatives from our school sang at the St Saviours Bishop Inservice Day. The singers



**Mikayla Burgess and Emma Schuh at the Netball carnival.**

were Jocelyn Smith (Year 6), Tahlia Curd (Year 5), Ruby Wilkes (Year 5) and the Lutvey sisters, Hayley, Imogen and Caitlin (all in Year 4). Thank you girls for giving up your time.

St Thomas More's has enjoyed participating in, and hosting these events. [H](#)

## GOONDIWINDI BRIDGES GENERATIONS

St Mary's School Goondiwindi believes in the mutual benefit of different generations mixing and listening to each other. It begins in the parish with Fr Michael O'Brien organising lunches for the "oldies" in the parish with students from the school simply being with their senior citizen and of course there is always entertainment: indoor bowls, choir performances, poetry recitals, public speaking and mischievous games.

At special masses, Fr Michael ensures that the seating plans see the elderly intermixed with young students; often holding hands and talking animatedly. The school has, for many years, visited the aged at Kaloma Village in Goondiwindi. Small groups of students are rostered to visit on a fortnightly basis. Fr Michael and Karra Nosworthy, Assistant Principal Religious Education at St Mary's, transport students to the Village.



**Sharing a story at Kaloma Village.**

"The students put up their hands to go – not just because they are shouted an ice block at day's end, but because they enjoy the time with the elderly in Kaloma," said Mr Glenn Roff, Principal of St Mary's.

While at Kaloma, the students attend Mass, perform for, talk and listen to the residents, play games and read stories.

"These days are always days of mutual respect that is greatly appreciated by the Kaloma community and our students. This is Jesus stuff. There are few greater gifts than giving one's time and listening - really listening - to the stories of others – and especially from those who have lived long enough to have a big book," said Mr Roff. [H](#)

# VOLUNTEERING – BRINGING CONCANNON COLLEGE CLOSER TOGETHER

By Kimberley Kerslake

Madison Jensen is studying sport and exercise at USQ and is a Resident Advisor at Concannon College for 2015. This year, in her second year living at Concannon, Madison thought it would be nice to help the wider community and organised for Concannon residents to volunteer some of their spare time working with Rosie's Friends on the Street.

Madison had never volunteered with Rosie's before but felt that it was a fantastic way to contribute to and impact someone's life, "I think Rosie's is a wonderful experience to help someone else in need. It truly is a great thing to give back to your community and to be able to impact someone's life so greatly by showing a little bit of kindness." The volunteer program has gained popularity with Concannon residents and Madison hopes it will expand to the Steele Rudd and McGregor College Communities by next year.

While the Concannon residents have only been volunteering with Rosie's for a short time, they have already gained so much from the experience. First year student Anthony Hughes explains, "Rosie's has really shown me how quickly you can turn someone's day around, I try my best to smile to people on the street, but

Rosie's has let me see how much a little bit of friendliness can take someone's day from bad to good."

Alice Galea described her experience volunteering with Rosie's. "Participating in Rosie's outreach program is a highly rewarding experience, providing members of the community who have faced great adversity to gather socially and maintain friendships within their Rosie's community. By volunteering, you too can be a part of this community," she said.

Stephanie Weber also shared her experiences of participating in the program, "I basically jumped at the opportunity to become a Rosie's volunteer because I've always wanted to have the opportunity since high school. After my first outreach, it was definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made because Rosie's not only gives you the opportunity to help others in need but to enjoy yourself and make friendships with the wider community."


When asked if the experience had impacted college life, Madison explained, "it has created new friendships and enhanced the existing ones. It is great to know that the college can come together as a small community



Madison Jensen, Sarah de Byl and Stephanie Weber.

to help the wider community."

All residents who have been involved in the program agree that it is a rewarding experience. Stephanie encourages everyone to volunteer, "If you are thinking about becoming Rosie's volunteer, I'd say take the plunge because you will certainly not regret it."

The Rosie's volunteer program is just one of the many initiatives and activities that Concannon residents can participate in each year. For more information about the University of Southern Queensland and Concannon College, visit [www.usq.edu.au/accommodation](http://www.usq.edu.au/accommodation) for information on Rosie's and how you can get involved, visit [www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au) 

## Think University Think Concannon College

Concannon College is a residential college managed by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) and owned by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba.



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# CONCANNON COLLEGE 30 YEARS YOUNG

By Sarah de Byl

In 1985 there was an acute accommodation problem at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (DDIAE), now known as the University of Southern Queensland. Bishop Edward Kelly MSC recognized this need and put forth a proposal to establish a residential college on Diocesan land adjoining the DDIAE.

The proposed college was to provide accommodation for Catholic students, both male and female, from country areas of the Diocese. The living standards would be comfortable and there would be a good study environment as well as spiritual guidance for all students.

The foundation stone of Concannon College was blessed and laid by Monsignor Edward Concannon, P.P., V.G., on the 11th May 1985. The College began with A and B Blocks accommodating 50 residents and was officially Blessed and opened by Cardinal Sir James Freeman D.D., on the 28th July, 1985, which was the International Year for Youth.

Concannon College was jointly named to honour the four Concannon brothers, who served as priests in the Toowoomba and Brisbane Dioceses, and to especially recognise Monsignor Edward Concannon for his work and devotion to youth and education throughout the Diocese.

2015 marks 30 years since Concannon College was opened. Students past and present, the Concannon College Council and University staff joined with Bishop Robert McGuckin at the annual Bishop's Dinner to celebrate the college's great history and service to USQ students.

Past alumni and guests were given a tour of the facilities and shared what it was like to live at the college when it was first built. Tom Swanton, an 1985 alumni, shared his personal collection of memorabilia from his time at Concannon.

Bishop Robert spoke about the history of Concannon, the ways the Diocese's involvement in the college



Students check out 30 years of Concannon Formal photos. Photo by USQ Photography.



L-R Fr Ray Crowley, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Peter Albion, Majella Albion and Fr Peter Dorfield pose for a selfie. Photo by USQ Photography.

has evolved over the years and how the College continues to be an important connection with young people. Bishop Robert also used the night as an opportunity to thank leaving Concannon College Council members Pat Nunaan, Peter Albion and Fr Peter Dorfield for their work with the college and on the council.

Past Alumni Jason Nash gave the students a very funny "Buzzfeed" style talk on surviving and thriving

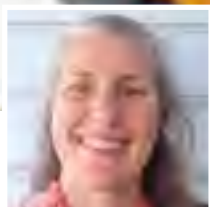
on Concannon College and his experience of college life. Guests were then given a picture of what college life looks like today from current student Ashleigh Hyland. Thanks go to Thomas Higgins for being a wonderful MC on the night and Amaia Licciardello and Eve Hibbarb for sharing their musical talents.

The night concluded with birthday cake for dessert, merriment and selfies with Bishop Robert! [27](#)





# How relevant is the voice of the Pope and the Church on this issue of the environment?



## Anne Moloney:

All Saints Parish, Roma

Hearing the Catholic Church's perspective, particularly voiced by our faith's leader, Pope Francis, is valuable reinforcement to our young people of the scientific necessity that we are all stewards of God's creations. The children in our parish witness plants they have planted around our church grounds developing with nourishment just as their faith grows.



## Fr Peter Dorfield:

Administrator, St Patrick's Cathedral

Francis is writing to all people of good will, inviting all of us to a conversion of heart and mind in our relationships with one another and our common home, the earth. He is teaching us that mindfulness and care of the environment is no longer a fringe issue but central to Catholic Social Teaching - calling us to attend to the crisis of global climate change, reminding us bluntly that it is the poor and marginalized who bear the brunt of this crisis. These words of Francis are a wonderful gift to our time!



## Andrea Frost:

Social Justice Commission

In addressing an issue that affects all of humanity beyond any religious divide, Pope Francis, I believe has given the Church renewed relevance in the global context. He has successfully reminded us that there is a very spiritual and therefore human angle to an issue that sometimes risks being reduced to politics & economics.

**Pat, Kelly, Taryn, Addison & Aiden McCosker and their dog Jim enjoying the recent snowfall near Stanthorpe. The photo was taken by Pat's father Robin McCosker.** If you have an image of the Diocese you would like to share please email it to [horizons@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:horizons@twb.catholic.org.au) with the subject "Views of the Diocese".



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