

TERM 1
2014

Diocese of Townsville

Catholic
Education



THIS EDITION OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IS DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LATE MOST REV BISHOP MICHAEL PUTNEY, BISHOP OF THE TOWNSVILLE DIOCESE, 2001-2014.

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

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WELCOME

Dear friends

Townsville Catholic Education has a strong commitment to Aboriginal and Torres St Islander Education. As we start another year, I would like to acknowledge the great Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education initiatives happening across our Diocese. In term two we are proud to be presenting our first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference, 'Strong Partnerships for Strong Futures' on May 8 & 9 at Jupiter's Townville.

The aim of the conference is to foster strong working relationships and genuine partnerships between school leaders, teachers, Indigenous staff, students, families and communities. Many schools are formalising these processes through a school Indigenous Education team. These 'teams' have representatives from all groups with the aim of working together and learning from each other to ensure best outcomes for Indigenous, and all students. Indigenous Education is about ensuring school success for Indigenous students, but also about ensuring all students are learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures. The conference will offer these teams two days of professional learning across the broad areas of effective school practices, Indigenous Histories, Cultures and Spiritualities.

The conference will also support schools across the diocese to continue their work in implementing the TCEO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategic Plan 2012-2016. Genuine partnerships with families and

communities are key strategies included in this Plan. Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) are a great example of these partnerships. The aim of the PLP process is to develop relationships between the student, the family and the teacher/s. All three parties meet to get to know each other, discuss student strengths, agreed upon areas of need and key strategies for each party to enact over the term of the PLP to meet set goals. Some schools have built PLPs into their usual assessment and reporting processes, and have found them so effective, that they know do them for all students in the school!

Please enjoy reading about all the wonderful work happening in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education across our Diocese.

God Bless

ERNIE CHRISTIE

DIRECTOR - TEACHING, LEARNING AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY



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THIS SECTION OF THE OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE IS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED AS A HIGHLIGHT FEATURE TO CELEBRATE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ACROSS OUR DIOCESE.

Townsville Catholic Education acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

STAFF PROFILE:



ROSLYN BIRSE

LIBRARY ASSISTANT - RYAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

My name is Roslyn Birse and I have worked at Ryan Catholic College for 13 years as a Library assistant. I was born in Cloncurry, many, many moons ago and I belong to the Kalkadoon tribe. I come from a large family of seven sisters and two brothers, most of which live in Queensland and two reside in the USA.

I have lived most of my life in Richmond where I met my husband who stole my heart and I later married at 25, he has always been my rock and voice of reason, and we have two really great kids who are loved very much. We have a son that is 22 and our daughter is 14 and attends Ryan Catholic College.

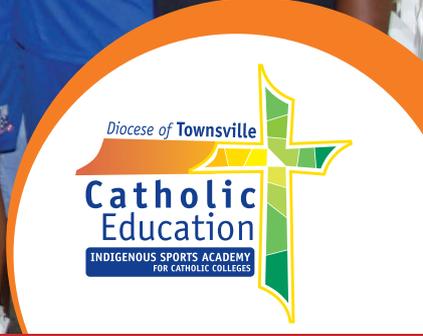
I have to say I really love my job, as every day is different and you get to see these kids grow up into young adults and achieve so much. The year 12's last year were my first pre-schoolers when I first came here and to watch them grow up and graduate was quite moving and I did wonder where do the years go, and how time is precious but like they say time really flies when you're having fun. So I have said, Ryan is an awesome school with lots of really great kids, the staff are fantastic especially the ladies I work with who are smart, thoughtful, caring, loving and are really great to have a giggle with, having said that I guess will be sticking with them for a few years yet!! I love being me.



QATSIF

LEFT | St Margaret Mary's College has four student recipients of the QATSIF Scholarship - Eileen Brown, Darryl Anderson, Anneleise Nogar and Montana Willis-Puruntatameri, all in Year 11.

The students were presented with their Certificates of Recognition at a whole college assembly on Friday, 7th March.



INDIGENOUS SPORTS ACADEMY 2014

TOP | The 2014 Sports Academy was launched in Townsville in Term 1 with 72 students participating in this year's program from Catholic colleges throughout the Diocese.



Ignatius Park College



Burdekin Catholic College



St Margaret Mary's College



Gilroy Santa Maria College



Columba Catholic College



Ryan Catholic College



St Teresa's College



St Anthony's Catholic College



St Patrick's College



LEARNING & TEACHING

LEARNING IS DEADLY AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Indigenous students from Years 5-7 at Good Shepherd Catholic Community School have begun planning for this year's Deadly Learners group. The group has discussed what they want to do in the program this year and have begun planning activities.

The students are really interested in learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and are looking forward to being involved.

TOP | Good Shepherd's Deadly Learners: [Back] Naqiyah Reuben, Jade Kemp; [Front] Ethan Dawson, Mr Neil Sabatino & Jo Maher.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENROLMENTS INCREASE AT ST FRANCIS

Over the past two years, St Francis School in Ayr has doubled its Indigenous student enrolment. Supporting early literacy development has been a key focus and school officer, Mrs Rachel Sticklen, has been employed to work with children to practice and track their learning of sight words, letters and sounds.

Short targeted sessions, several times across the week are helping students to not only experience success but to also enjoy reading.

RIGHT | School officer Rachel Sticklen with Year 2 students, Graycee Watego-Messer and Mia Wilesmith.



ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLUMBA BOYS

Columba Catholic College boarding students Nathan and Aaron Lanskey have been awarded scholarships by the Board of Engineering Aid Australia to help them with their education expenses for 2014. These scholarships will also be extended should the boys decide to study engineering or an engineering related course at university.

The boys attended the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School at the University of Sydney in January which is a six-day live-in summer school and gives students a taste of engineering as a university course and career. It involves hands-on and challenging activities within the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies as well as site visits to engineering companies.

Nathan and Aaron are very worthy recipients of these scholarships as they are conscientious in their application to study as well as being genuinely lovely boys.

ABOVE | Nathan and Aaron Lanskey have received scholarships from the Board of Engineering Aid Australia.

LICENCED TO SUCCEED

Five Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students from St Patrick's College, Townsville undertook the Learner Driver Program, delivered by Barrier Reef TAFE at William Ross State High School in February.

The program was sponsored by Queensland Coal and Gas. As part of the students' participation in this program they have forwarded their resumes to the sponsor company where their names have already been placed on a potential employee list.

Upon completion of the course, students sat the road rules written test, which was conducted by the Indigenous Driver Licencing Unit of QLD Transport and Main Roads.

All five students were successful on their first attempt and now hold their Learner Driver's Licence.

BELOW | St Patrick's College students, Litiana Tabua, Janet Toby, Makaila Binsiar, Reslie Marou & Alex James.





CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

By Francesca Adams - Indigenous Education Support Officer

On Friday, 21st February, four Indigenous students from Years 11 and 12 at St Margaret Mary's College attended the NQ Constitutional Convention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the James Cook University.

The Zone School Constitutional Convention involves senior students from all school sectors - state, catholic and independent. Thirteen schools participated, seven from the Townsville district and six regional schools including Ayr, Home Hill, Bowen, Ingham, Abergowrie and Charters Towers.

The convention promotes an understanding and informed discussion amongst young Australians about the Australian Constitution and system of Government.

The main aims were:

- To provide an opportunity for senior students to explore constitutional issues;
- To encourage students to become better informed about the Australian system of government and how the Australian Constitution provides the framework for our democracy;
- To encourage senior students to take an active interest in the traditions, processes and practices of government.

The students listened to guest speakers from the University and staff from the Queensland Parliament outlining the difference between statutory and constitutional recognition of right and how rights are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people presently recognized in Australia.

Student delegates provided a speech on the topic of: 'An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective on a Bill of right for Australia: Constitutional, Statutory or Not at All.' At the conclusion of these speeches an overview of voting procedures was provided by Mr Patrick Higgins of the Australian Electoral Commission. The election process was carried out in the format of an official election with the use of ballot papers and a ballot box. Three students were elected as delegates to participate in the National Convention in Canberra in March.

TOP | St Margaret Mary's College students - Tayla West-Chong, Montana Willis-Puruntatameri, Ashlee Major Hoey & Anneleise Nogar.

MALAIKA IS AN APPRENTICE WITH CLASS

St Patrick's College student, Malaika Stokes, is looking forward to completing Year 12 this year, when she will trade her pen for spanners, with a light vehicle mechanical apprenticeship with Honda in Townsville.

Malaika began her apprenticeship with Pickerings Motors after she completed work experience with the company. Her enthusiasm and application impressed her future employer and, with cash incentives from Extrastaff Apprenticeships for taking on apprentices, Malaika will leave school with her future already in the making.

During the school term, Malaika works one day a week, and takes on a weekly work load during school holidays. By the time she graduates at the end of 2014, Malaika will have almost completed her first year of a four-year apprenticeship, with incentives to support her through the rest of her training.



ABOVE | Malaika Stokes from St Patrick's College, Townsville.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AT SMMC

The Indigenous students at St Margaret Mary's College have thrived with their academic achievements already this year.

Four students received Awards for Academic Improvement showcasing that they have improved with certain subjects in Semester 2 last year. These students were: Tamara Hussey (Yr 9), Tasia Kyle (Yr 10), Ashlee Major Hoey (Yr 11) and Tayla West-Chong (Yr 12).



Also five students are recipients of Certificates for Diligent Work Ethic for their academic effort throughout Semester 2 last. In order to receive this certificate, students needed to have an Industry comment on their report of "Very Hard Working" or "Hard Working" from 75% or more of their teachers. Congratulations to: Tamara Hussey & Peta Nelliman-Adams (Yr 9), Eileen Brown & Rechelle Knack (Yr 11) and Corrine Knack (Yr 12).



SCHOOL NEWS

GOVERNOR'S VISIT

TOP | St Teresa's College students, Vernon Armstrong, Benaiah Kambanel and Rennarl Connelly with the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC.



ST MICHAEL'S 2014 LEADERSHIP TEAMS

In 2014 students from Years 5, 6 and 7 are involved in leadership roles at St Michael's School, Palm Island. The leadership teams (Cultural and Personal, Social Leadership, Environmental Leadership and Spiritual Leadership) are developing strategies and responsibilities that promote and demonstrate respect. Each team meets on Monday afternoons to discuss ideas and ways to implement these. It is great to see the senior students taking responsibility for and having a say in the way the school functions.

ABOVE | Students involved in the Environmental Leadership Team at St Michael's School, Palm Island.



HARMONY DAY AT ST MARY'S

ABOVE | Students and staff at St Mary's School celebrated Harmony Day with a BBQ and Concert. Mr G and Kenny Dodd shared their traditional culture by involving the children in storytelling, dancing and painting. It really was wonderful to see the children's faces as the didgeridoo resonated through the shelter shed as they listened to the Dreamtime story and joined in the dancing.

Thank you to Mr G and Kenny and thank you to Aunty Joan and Chris Oats for your help.



SMMC'S WELCOME

On Monday 10th March, the Indigenous Families Meet and Greet was held at St Margaret Mary's College. Many families were in attendance as well as TCEO staff from the Indigenous Education Unit. The families heard an acknowledgement of country from Year 11 student Gracelyn Trevor. Wahnaka Taylor, Year 12 Indigenous Awareness Leader, gave families an update of significant events held at the College thus far and the many events scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Mrs Park highlighted the development of a College Reconciliation Action Plan, ATSI involvement in the P & F Association and Ms Murdoch gave an overview of various apprenticeships and traineeships on offer for Indigenous students. Megan Harrison and Noel Curran from Catholic Education outlined the IYLP and Sports Academy Programs.

It was a great evening for the Indigenous families to get together and meet fellow students and their families.

LEFT | St Margaret Mary's College welcome evening for Indigenous students and their families.



INDIGENOUS GARDEN AT ST PETER'S

St Peter's Catholic School in Halifax has teamed up with Gilroy Santa Maria College in Ingham to create an Indigenous garden. Our school leaders initially met with the local Nywaigi elder, Victor Bligh, and put together a design that incorporated the story of his people and featured plant life native to the Halifax region.

Utilising Gilroy Santa Maria College's ranger program, our staff and students have been working with our high school friends to create a carpet snake design that will feature a series of stepping stones. On each of these stones, part of the Nywaigi story will be recorded. Space will be left towards the end of the snake for our school to continue to add to this story - the journey from Reconciliation towards the future.

TOP | St Peter's School students in the new Indigenous garden.



INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING & PAINTING AT ST ANTHONY'S

Year 4 students at St Anthony's Catholic College received a visit from representatives of the Cultural Centre in Townsville.

Indigenous artist Threasa Zaro engaged the students in boomerang painting whilst Elder, Uncle Russell, captured the children's attention with local Dreamtime Stories.

ABOVE | St Anthony's Catholic College students enjoyed boomerang painting.

COLUMBA'S TRADE TRAINING



Columba Catholic College Year 11 and 12 students who are enrolled in Certificate courses are now experiencing the impressive facilities at the Dalrymple Trade training Centre (DTTC).

Classes commenced this year and students are enrolled in several different certificate courses including Childcare, Engineering, Construction and Hospitality. This new centre is being accessed by the four cluster schools in Charters Towers from both the government and non-government school sector. TAFE is the Registered Training Organisation facilitating these classes.

LEFT | Columba Catholic College Students Jinneecka Hookey (Year 11) and Leshia Woodley (Year 12) are doing the hospitality course at the new Dalrymple Trade Training.

COWBOYS SUPPORT ATTENDANCE

RIGHT | NQ Cowboys representatives, Dallas Johnson and Lenny Magey (under 20s), presented students Certificates of Appreciation for high attendance during Term 1. Two lucky students received autographed sporting equipment from Johnathan Thurston.

