

TERM 4
2014

Diocese of Townsville

Catholic
Education



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It is difficult to believe it is the end of 2014! We have had yet another very busy, productive and dynamic year across our 30 Catholic schools, kindergartens and early learning centres.

Of course we started the year with the very sad passing of our beloved Bishop Michael Putney and his loss has been felt deeply in our school communities. I thank Fr Mick Lowcock for his support of our schools as Diocesan Administrator throughout 2014.

We have enjoyed many celebrations in Term 4 including World Teachers' Day, our Diocesan launch of Year 7 to Secondary, the 20th anniversary of the Gumburu Environmental Education Centre, the opening of the new Kindergarten office (The Rosario Centre) and the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education Awards. As usual our schools provide many and varied opportunities for students to learn beyond the curriculum. Programs such as Optiminds, mini vinnies, retreats, arts festivals and sporting events help our students to broaden their horizons and further develop their talents, interests and potential. We are fortunate to have such dynamic learning taking place in our schools.

We now look forward to a new era in education throughout Queensland with the move of Year 7 to secondary in 2015. Our colleges are ready to welcome both year 7 and 8 next year in what will be an historic occasion. We have worked closely with schools, the state government and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission for the past two years in preparing for this move physically and pastorally. The first day of school next year will also be a significant occasion as we celebrate the opening of our secondary campus at Southern Cross Catholic College. Congratulations to the Southern Cross Catholic College community for your work and commitment to making this expansion into secondary a reality.

We have much to be grateful for as we reflect on our 2014 school year and much to look forward to as we welcome in a new year. My sincere thanks to our teaching and leadership staff across the Diocese for your ongoing commitment to Catholic Education. Thank you also to the parents/carers and families who support our school communities so strongly each year.

Finally, congratulations to our 662 year 12 graduates and best wishes for all that is ahead.

To all, a very happy and safe and holy Christmas season and God's blessings for the new year.

DR CATHY DAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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DIOCESAN LAUNCH- YEAR 7 TO SECONDARY

Townsville Catholic Education officially launched the move of Year 7 to Secondary on Friday 7th November at St Margaret Mary's College.

Townsville Catholic Education Executive Director Dr Cathy Day said the launch was an opportunity to acknowledge the significant work that has gone into preparing secondary colleges for this important move.

"The move of year 7 to secondary in 2015 will be an historic occasion for education throughout Queensland," Dr Day said.

"We have been working closely with the state government, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and secondary colleges to ensure our buildings, facilities, equipment, staff and pastoral care programs are locked in place for January 2015."

Secondary colleges throughout Queensland will welcome two cohorts of students in years 7 and 8 next year.

"This is the most significant development in education in Queensland since the introduction of the prep year in 2007," Dr Day said.

"Our schools have been preparing for up to two years for this move and we are happy to say we are on track and ready to open our doors for year 7 in 2015."

In tandem with the physical preparations, teachers have been planning appropriate pastoral care programs to ensure a smooth transition for year 7 students into the secondary setting.

"We look forward to welcoming in this new phase of secondary and we are confident our schools will manage this transition successfully."



ABOVE | Mr John Hathaway MP, Dr Cathy Day and Fr Giles Setter with year 6 students from local Catholic schools at the Diocesan launch of Year 7 to Secondary (2015).

"The gospel of Jesus should be the driving energy of a Catholic school. It is a very public and explicit imperative to promote the common good. A good Catholic school is a school for the common good."



GUMBURU 20TH ANNIVERSARY



GUMBURU ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE 20TH ANNIVERSARY (1994-2014)

By Paul Lucas

Principals from each school in the Townsville Diocese gathered at the Gumburu Environmental education Centre on Friday, October 17, to celebrate 20 years to the day that Bishop Benjamin laid the foundation stone in the Paluma rainforest.

With Gumburu entering a new phase of operation, Ross Horner, Director of Leadership and School Development, co-ordinated discussion on school use and organisational possibilities that would ensure that every child in a Catholic school in the diocese would be able to experience the educational and spiritual opportunities offered by this award-winning facility at some time during their primary school years.

Guest speaker for the day was Cameron MacKenzie, an Education Queensland Environmental Educator with extensive UNESCO, global, national and local experience in schools and educational systems. He was supported by Paul Lucas, a well-known retired local principal who is recognised as “the Patriarch” of Gumburu.

Cam detailed the many environmental education initiatives of Federal and State Governments (now noticeably in decline) during the U.N. Decade of Sustainability (2004-2014). He also explained his role in the foundation of Gumburu in the late 1980s and he and his wife Liz’s delight in being invited to the 20th anniversary celebrations.

Paul introduced principals to the modern educational challenge of NDD: Nature Deficit Disorder in today’s children and the research into educational, social, emotional and spiritual advantages of children spending more free time within nature.

During a celebratory luncheon, Dr Cathy Day, Executive Director of the Catholic Education Office presented Paul with a framed photograph of Gumburu “in recognition of the dedicated service to Gumburu Environmental Education Centre.”

Principals expressed their appreciation at being able to visit Gumburu and enjoy what so many of their students and staff have experienced over 20 years.

TOP | Cutting the cake to celebrate 20 years of the Gumburu Environmental Education Centre.

FOUNDATIONAL DIRECTOR JOINS PALUMA CELEBRATIONS:

Sr Mary McDonald sgs, a previous Director of the Townsville Catholic Education Office was welcomed back to the Gumburu Environmental Education Centre in Paluma over the weekend of October 18-19 to join celebrations of the laying of the foundation stone of the centre 20 years ago.

Sr Mary delivered the key note address for the gathering and included many humorous stories of the long struggle to establish Gumburu, paying tribute to people such as Mike Byrne (present Director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission), Kerry Prescott (architect), Fr Terry Lyons, Cam MacKenzie (principal of the Paluma Environmental Education Centre) and the committee of teachers who were integral to the planning and development of Gumburu.

Kerry Prescott had flown from Flinders Island to be present and described Gumburu as “the jewel in the crown of her life’s work”.

During the weekend celebrations several speakers, like Cam MacKenzie, acknowledged Gumburu as unique to Catholic Education in Australia, if not globally.

Many happy Gumburu tales were shared between guests. It was a weekend of peaceful, relaxed celebration in harmony with the Paluma environment and an important celebration - for, in the words of Fr Terry Lyons, “Gumburu has been a great innovation for all of our schools but equally, a great enterprise for the Diocese of Townsville.”



Check out the YouTube video of Gumburu at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pals-kA-2rU&list=UUKwYY7pUoaycnhHjtT35XCg>

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www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au



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RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

SOCK IT TO POVERTY

TOP | During October, Southern Cross Catholic College Catholic held a "Whacky Socks Friday" fundraiser for the Catholic Mission Charity. This year's efforts were in support of Catholic Mission's work in countries affected by poverty and hardship such as Jamaica.

Students were challenged to "Sock it to poverty in Jamaica," wearing an array of colourful socks for a gold coin donation, while advocating for young Jamaicans facing difficult lives".

SOCIAL JUSTICE LAUNCH STUDENTS JOIN IN SOCIAL JUSTICE LAUNCH

Each year the Australian Catholic Bishops issue a major statement for the coming year on Social Justice Sunday (the last Sunday in September). Related materials on the theme are produced and distributed through parishes and school communities.

The Townsville Catholic Diocese launched the Social Justice Statement in term 4. Students from local Catholic schools attended.

BELOW | Back: Connor Smith (Ryan Catholic College), Anthony Mitchell (Townsville Blackhawks), Aneka Davis (Former WNBL Player) | Front: Grace Eggins, Harry Reid (St Clare's Catholic School) & Fr Dave Lancini.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - ST MARY'S SCHOOL

BELOW | Congratulations to the Augustine, Elizabeth, Ceallach, Charlie, Laurin and Jack who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Mary's Church, Bowen. It was a lovely ceremony and it was wonderful to see family, friends and staff support these students in their faith journey.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER GILES!

On Thursday October 16th, St Anthony's Catholic College primary students celebrated Father Giles' 80th birthday! A number of classes attended the Parish Mass to begin the day. At the completion of Mass, Padua students gathered outside the church and formed a 'Guard of Honour' for Father Giles as he returned home!

St Anthony's staff and students feel very blessed to share this milestone with such a wonderful, caring and inspiring man!

BELOW | Students from St Anthony's Catholic College formed a guard of honour for Fr Giles Setter as he celebrated his 80th birthday.



ROSARIO CENTRE

TOWNSVILLE
CATHOLIC
KINDERGARTEN
OFFICE



KINDERGARTEN & EARLY YEARS

OPENING ROSARIO CENTRE

The Townsville Catholic Education Kindergarten Office "The Rosario Centre" was opened on Thursday, 16th October. Diocesan Administrator, Fr Mick Lowcock celebrated the opening with a liturgy, attended by TCEO staff, kindergarten staff and principals.

The office will be the administrative centre for Catholic kindergartens as well as the uniform shop.

There are five Catholic kindergartens in the Diocese, located on Catholic school sites:

- St Anthony's Kindergarten (Deeragun)
- St Clare's Kindergarten (Burdell)
- Ryan Catholic College Kindergarten (Kirwan)
- St Joseph's Kindergarten (North Ward)
- St Joseph's Kindergarten (Mount Isa)

To enrol for kindergarten in 2015, call the Rosario Centre on 1300 KINDERGARTEN.

TOP | Fr Mick Lowcock with Dr Cathy Day, TCEO Kindergarten staff and the directors of Catholic kindergartens at the opening of the Rosario Centre.

WHEN CAN I START KINDY?

Child Born	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011	KINDY	PREP	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012		KINDY	PREP	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013			KINDY	PREP	YEAR 1

UNDER THE SEA

Prep/Year 1 students at St Colman's School, Home Hill, travelled to Townsville to visit Reef HQ as part of their Themed Unit - Under the Sea.

The children had an educational and fun-filled day learning about the various aspects of life on the Great Barrier Reef. The children walked around Reef HQ and particularly loved the Discovery Lagoon.

As we are a Reef Guardian School, visiting the turtle hospital showed us how injured turtles are cared for and the impact humans have on our local marine life.

RIGHT | The Prep/Year 1 students from St Colman's School outside Reef HQ.





PRIMARY

CAMP TIME AT MUNGALLI FALLS

TOP | At the beginning of term 4, the Year 6/7 students from St Colman's School, Home Hill, attended their senior camp at Mungalli Falls Outdoor Education Centre. The students participated in a variety of physically challenging activities that aimed to develop their team work skills. A great time was had by all enjoying the company of their peers and learning new skills.

INTO THE MEDIA

As part of the English program for Term 4, students in Year 5 at Anthony's Catholic College have been learning about local news presentations. Representatives from WIN News visited the College and spoke with students about how the news is produced.

The English task for students was to research and present their own news in small groups. They took on specific roles (i.e. news reader, weather and sports reporter) and wrote a script for their presentation.

Integrating with Geography, students also learnt about the different opinions on the development of a SuperStadium in Townsville. They have explored reasons for and against the new stadium. WIN News were able to share insights into the development of this project and the differing opinions from local and Government organisations.



POETRY IN MOTION

This term, students in Grade 2/3 at St Colman's School have been having a lot of fun playing with words to create an array of Tongue Twisters, Shape Poems, Cinquains, Haikus, Limericks and Rhyming Verses! The classroom is already starting to fill up with some of the students' fantastic poetry!

LEFT | Casey displaying his Acrostic Poem.

HOLY SPIRIT PRESENTS "OLIVIA" THE MUSICAL

In September the Years 5, 6 and 7 students presented the very entertaining musical "Olivia", directed by Mr Justen Orford.

The cast of more than 300 students invested time and energy to learn over 21 songs and bring the performance to life. Staff members and students spent many hours after school to create a set resembling the streets of London.

The script included an array of characters such as Sherlock Holmes, Dodger, Fagin, and Ebenezer Scrooge. Clever references to musicals such as Sweeney Todd, Oliver and My Fair Lady kept the audience amused.

Students enjoyed the musical from rehearsals to performances. One thousand people attended the two performance nights, the many accolades were a tribute to the students' effort.

Thanks to the staff members, students and parents for their contribution to a memorable and successful musical. Bravo!

RIGHT | Holy Spirit School students performing in "Olivia".



ABOVE | Win Television journalist and cameraman with year 4 students Ashleigh Dodson, Kaitlyn Trimble and Damon Rolfe.



ST JOSEPH'S MT ISA - OPTIMINDS SUCCESS

TOP | Our St Joseph's Team 1 won the Regional Opti-MINDS Challenge this year and therefore had the opportunity to head to Brisbane to compete in the State Finals.

While not coming home with a State Final win, the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience that Opti-MINDS gives them and the opportunity to spend the weekend in Brisbane sight-seeing and visiting the Science Centre, the Museum, the Botanic Gardens, Southbank and enjoying a City-Cat ride.

Congratulations to Claudia McFarlane, Kirra Horsnell, Ashleigh Stallmann, Sydneh Corrigan, Grace Elliott, Ashley McDonald and Ben Horsnell for their hard work and dedication towards their Opti-MINDS Challenges. A huge thank you to Mrs Peta Laffin who coordinated our Opti-MINDS Teams this year and to Mrs Lauren Horsnell for accompanying Mrs Laffin and the team to Brisbane.

FUTURE LEADERS ECO CHALLENGE AT ST MARY'S

By Ruby, Jack P, Zanna - Year 4, St Mary's School, Bowen

On Friday the 12th of September the eight of us set off on our trip. The first stop was Gordon Beach. Here we looked at the different flora and fauna and picked up rubbish. Next we went to the DAFF Research Trial Site where we looked at the impact farms can have on the reef and then we tested different soils to classify them. We also looked at the benefits of using biodegradable mulch.

After that we went to Vee Jay's Tomato Farm. Here we learned how mulch is made and how hot it gets. We looked at the tomato plants and quality control. We learned so much, it was such a fantastic day. We feel like we are now more informed about the environment and how different factors can affect the ocean and specifically our beautiful Great Barrier Reef.

ABOVE RIGHT | The Year 4 Future Eco Leaders from St Mary's School, Bowen.



SCIENCE ROCKS AT ST COLMAN'S

Beneath our Feet is the title of the Science Unit this term in Year 4/5 at St Colman's School. We will be learning about soils, rocks and landscapes and how they change over time due to natural processes and human activity. Students have enjoyed bringing in their soil and rocks from home and presenting them to the class. We now have an impressive display in our classroom.

This term Year 2/3 students at St Colman's School have been exploring Physical Sciences (Australian Science Curriculum) by predicting, observing, recording and exploring how forces make things move. They have been learning about different push and pull forces and the effect they have on objects in water and in the air. The students had fun experimenting with different ways seeing these actions taking place.

RIGHT | Nickolas Cvjetanovic and Logan Smith with the rock collection.

FAR RIGHT | Joshal blowing up the bag with Dean watching on.





SECONDARY

SMMC - EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING

In a regional first, St Margaret Mary's College is the winner of the inaugural 'Eileen Laracy Public Speaking Competition' against Marist Brothers College, Ashgrove, Brisbane, held on the 22nd October.

The unique competition was made possible through a live online broadcast via Skype, connecting the two schools for the speeches and adjudication. Each school put up a team of five speakers, ranging from Year 8 to Year 12.

The winning team from St Margaret Mary's College was composed of Sophie Lew, Portia Neumann, Holly Saunders, Caitlin Deon and Claudia Leslie.

One of the adjudicators was an ex-St Margaret Mary's student, Laura Stokes, who manages TEDx Southbank in Brisbane. She is just one example to the students of how public speaking can be used. Deputy Principal, Catherine Whittaker said, "The standard was excellent and the girls certainly brought home the silverware." "It was an exciting experience to watch speakers live via the online broadcast and I am sure they heard the cheers in Brisbane when we were announced as the winners."

Brisbane organiser Bernie Ketter from Queensland Rostrum Voice of Youth said: "It was an excellent opportunity for the girls to be involved."

TOP | The winning team from St Margaret Mary's College - Sophie Lew, Portia Neumann, Holly Saunders, Caitlin Deon and Claudia Leslie.

ROBOTICS - ST JOSEPH'S CLONCURRY

BELOW | Stacie Athorn, Year 8 student at St Joseph's Catholic School, Cloncurry, engaging in the robotics program.



PATTY'S GIRLS - WRITE ON!



St Patrick's College senior students proved that girls have the power of clearly expressing ideas at the Townsville Bulletin "Youth in Print" Awards, held in October this year.

During the year, these girls have been regular contributors to the Youth in Print section and, along with a number of other St Patrick's students, have had their work and comments published in the weekly Bulletin lift-out.

Students who received prizes were: Brianna McCormick, (Feature Article), Brianna Carlile (Movie Review), Courtney Kelly (Winner - Art work section) Brittany Duggan (Feature Article) and Jessica Waterson (Feature Article and Book Review).

The girls agreed that the opportunity to participate in "Youth in Print" has helped them to hone their writing skills, and encouraged them to form valid opinions on both local issues and literary works.

LEFT | St Patrick's College students at the Youth In Print Awards.



ST CATHERINE'S OPTIMINDS SUCCESS

On the 11th and 12th of October, St Catherine's Catholic College Optiminds Science Engineering team travelled to Brisbane to participate in the State and Australian Optiminds Finals at the University of Queensland.

The Optiminds Australian Finals had a total number of 109 teams participating, with 771 participants from Queensland and Western Australia attending the event.

The Optiminds Science Engineering team members were Katya Bandow, Eamon Beatts, Nicholas Truett, Liam Stephens and Nicholas Sainsbury, who had successfully won the Optiminds Regional Finals in Mackay on the 24th of August.

Even though our team didn't win, the standard of their performance was very high, and overall they received very positive feedback on their solutions from the judges. Attending the State and Australian Finals was a great experience for the team and they deserve a huge congratulations for making it so far through the competition.

TOP | *The St Catherine's Catholic College Optiminds team.*

LEGACY NATIONAL FINAL

St Margaret Mary's year 9 student, Emily Daumuller, represented Queensland at the Legacy National Final in Townsville at the RSL Townsville. Emily spoke about a voice and a passion, one pen, one teacher, one child can save the world. The real solution to poverty lies in literacy.

Emily spoke with passion and she represented Queensland and St Margaret Mary's College admirably. Well done Emily Daumuller.

RIGHT | *St Margaret Mary's College students Emily Daumuller.*



"GREASE" DAY WAS A WINNER FOR MERCY WORKS

Students of St Patrick's College took on the characters of "Grease" in a day of dress-ups, dance and donations in support of Mercy Works. This themed day was the College's main fundraiser for second semester, and both staff and students excitedly prepared their outfits to bring a little of the 50's back into style. The girls raised more than \$1000 to assist the future operations of Mercy Works.

ABOVE | *Grease day at St Patrick's College.*

LEADERSHIP LESSONS AT GOOD SHEPHERD, MT ISA

Motivational speaker Michael Tuahine visited the students at Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mount Isa, talking to them about leadership and making choices in life, inspiring students to push themselves to achieve their dreams and goals.

BELOW | *Michael Tuahine with students at Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mount Isa.*





SCHOOL NEWS

DAY FOR DANIEL AT ST COLMAN'S

On Friday 31st October, it was a sea of red at Colman's School in honour of "Day for Daniel". The Day for Daniel is a National Day of Action to raise awareness of child safety, protection and harm prevention.

It is about educating children and adults about keeping kids safe through child safety and protection initiatives. It aims to help empower our children to 'Recognise, React and Report' if they feel something is not right. Students came dressed in red and focussed on what they can do to ensure they stay safe.

TOP | Students at St Colman's School, Home Hill, dressed in red for the Day for Daniel.



MYSTERY READER AT ST KIERAN'S

ABOVE | Townsville Catholic Education Executive Director, Dr Cathy Day, surprised students at St Kieran's Catholic Primary School in Mount Isa, when she was announced as the "mystery reader".

DAY FOR DANIEL AT SOUTHERN CROSS

Southern Cross Catholic College remembered the Day for Daniel this term with children coming to school dressed in red.

Each class participated in lessons and watched a DVD made by the Morcombes for different year levels. The whole school participated in a walk around the school oval to remember Daniel and to promote child safety.

BELOW | Students at Southern Cross Catholic College dressed in red for the Day for Daniel.



GALA SPORTS DAY

Students from Townsville Catholic primary schools participated in a Gala Sports Day. The day was organised by Mrs Katrina Bennett and involved Southern Cross Catholic College, St Joseph's Catholic School Mundingburra and St Clare's Catholic School. Students enjoyed a fun and competitive day of sports. The day ran like clockwork and all the students demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship. A special thank you to all who umpired games, to those who supervised the students and to the Oz Tag people who provided so much support for the day.

We have heard so many positive comments about the day from parents and principals from the other schools. It was great to see the students' skills improve so much in one day and to see all the students socialising together during the day.

RIGHT | Students at the Gala Sports Day in Townsville.





TCEO LEADERSHIP TEAM VISITS MARIAN

TOP | Townsville Catholic Education Director Leadership & School Development, Ross Horner, with students at Marian Catholic School during a visit by the TCEO leadership team.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On Friday 14th November, the community of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Ingham gathered to commemorate 100 years since the laying of the school's foundation stone. The liturgy was led by Parish Priest, Father Damian McGrath. Also in attendance were Sr Nina Barra and Sr Marie Geddes (were Sisters of Mercy), Parish Council Chairperson, Mrs Margaret Girgenti and members of our school, Gilroy Santa Maria College and Parish community.



The school will celebrate 100 years in 2015. Centenary Celebrations will take place on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June, 2015.

Past students, staff and their families of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School are invited to join us for this milestone event.

Event information and registration form are available on the school's website at www.olltsv.catholic.edu.au or by phoning the school office on 4776 2719.

RIGHT | Mrs Margaret Girgenti, Parish Council Chair and Sr Nina Barra, Sister of Mercy and Past Principal beside the plaque to commemorate 100 years of the laying of the school's foundation stone.



HEALTHY LUNCH BOX DAY

Students at St Joseph's Catholic School, Cloncurry feasted on beautiful tropical fruit for the Healthy Lunch Box Day. The fruit was prepared and shared by students as a way of showing the importance of a healthy diet.

ABOVE | Preston Northrop from St Colman's School, Home Hill.



LET'S DANCE AT ST COLMAN'S

ABOVE | Students at St Colman's School once again put their dancing gear on for the term 4 Bush Dance. Children performed a number of dances on the night showing off the many skills learnt during Physical Education classes during the term. A great night was had by all with even the parents joining in.