

# Our Catholic Schools

## Catholic Education For the Environment

### Gúmburú means misty place in the language of the local Nyawagi people.

Nestled in the heart of the rainforest of Paluma, lies the Gúmburú Educational Centre, owned and operated by the Townsville Catholic Education Office as a unique place for schools and community groups to enjoy for retreats, workshops, training and meetings.

More than 45 000 people have visited the Gúmburú Educational Centre since its opening in 1994.

Gúmburú caters for 56 people and has a resident manager and support staff. Its modern facilities include a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, lounge, ablution block, laundry and secure vehicle parking. All facilities have wheelchair access.

Gúmburú is a special place for children and adults to learn about the environment, sustainable living and their affinity with their creator. Full guided environmental tours (both day and night) are available to give guests the full eco experience.

*Education and recreation in a unique rainforest environment.*

**Bookings:** call resident manager, Bill Venn,  
on 4770 8580 or email [Gumburu@tsv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Gumburu@tsv.catholic.edu.au)

**Further info:** [www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au)



Pic: Gúmburú Education Centre is available for school and community groups as a place for retreats, training and workshops.

## 1987 Catholic Colleges School Reunion

A 20-year School Reunion is being planned for the class of 1987 from St Margaret Mary's College, St Patrick's College, Ignatius Park College and Ryan Catholic College. Teachers and students from this graduating year are invited to attend. The reunion date is Saturday 6 October 2007.  
**For more information please contact:** Annette Anderson (now Gregory) on 4725 6309 or Ngaire Smith (now McGaw) on 3375 7268 / 0400 141 040.

## Contributions:

Thank you to those who contributed to this edition of "Our Catholic Schools". Contributions are always welcome. Please forward editorial and images (jpeg) to Julie Plath at the Catholic Education Office [jplath@tsv.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jplath@tsv.catholic.edu.au)

## Upcoming Events

**NAIDOC Week**  
Sunday 8 July - Sunday 15 July 2007

**Speech Pathology Week**  
Sunday 22 July - Saturday 28 July 2007

**Catholic Education Week**  
Sunday 22 July - Saturday 28 July 2007

**Mulkadee Arts Festival**  
Tuesday 24 July - Friday 27 July 2007

**Arrival of World Youth Day Cross & Icon**  
Townsville Diocese  
Saturday 8 September - Sunday 16 September 2007

## Websites

**NEW Site!**

St Patrick's College, Townsville  
[www.stpatscollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.stpatscollege.qld.edu.au)

World Youth Day 2008  
[www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)

Catholic Education Week 2007  
[www.catholiceducationweek.com.au](http://www.catholiceducationweek.com.au)





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# 22 - 28 July 2007 Catholic Education Week

## Theme: Communities to Believe In



Catholic Education Week is a time to celebrate and spread the good news about the distinctive mission of our Catholic schools. This year we will celebrate Catholic Education Week under the theme of *Communities to Believe In*.

This theme was chosen to highlight the fact that Catholic schools are, first and foremost, faith communities and to communicate a strong message that Catholic school communities can be believed in and relied upon to provide the very best educational opportunities for children in their care.

### Catholic Schools Are:

- faith communities
- teaching and learning communities
- caring, supportive and safe communities
- inclusive communities
- communities working in partnership with families, parish and their wider communities

The Catholic education community throughout the state is encouraged to embrace this theme throughout 2007, and in particular, to take the opportunity to celebrate and spread the good news about their distinctive mission during Catholic Education Week.

## ACTS OF KINDNESS to Connect all QLD Catholic Schools

Friday 27 July 2007

*"When you sow seeds of kindness and compassion in the heart of another, it grows, flowers, and eventually spreads its own seeds, even if you're not there to witness it."*

Part of the ethos of Catholic schools is to encourage all in their community to make a positive difference to the lives of others. During Catholic Education Week we would like every Catholic school in Queensland to engage in an 'Act of Kindness' activity on Friday July 27.

These Acts of Kindness performed simultaneously will then 'connect' every Catholic school, not only with each other, but with all aspects of our theme, *Communities to Believe In*.

The Act of Kindness is about helping others through deliberately setting out to do something kind for someone else and not expecting anything in return. The other person will feel good and will be encouraged to go on to help someone else.

### Ideas for Teachers and Students!

#### Faith Communities

- Students volunteer to help organise the Catholic Education Week liturgy
- Encourage students to organise a fund-raising activity for Caritas
- Organise a tinned food collection for the local St Vincent de Paul to distribute
- Buddy Catholic students with students of other faiths during liturgies

#### Teaching and learning communities

- Students volunteer to help teach another student, a friend, a family member or member of a local community group a new skill or activity.
- Older students take younger students to the library and read to them.
- Encourage students to write a letter or make a card to thank a teacher, significant adult or other student for helping them to achieve a learning goal.
- Focus on what we can do for the environment and encourage students to put at least one idea into practice and share this idea with someone else.

#### Caring, Supportive and Safe Communities

- Older students explain on school assembly ways in which their school community can be one where students feel supported and safe.
- Older students volunteer to walk a younger student to school.
- Each student is encouraged to make sure that their classroom, outside their classroom and their school grounds are tidy and therefore safe.

#### Inclusive Communities

- Eat lunch and spend playtime with someone who you haven't sat or played with before.
- Create an educational resource e.g. tactile book for visually impaired students.
- Look beyond your school community to those in need e.g. visit an aged care facility, special school.
- Invite older or disabled people into school and entertain and provide morning/afternoon tea.

#### Communities working in partnership with families, parish and wider communities

- Begin to work out ways in which you can support visitors to World Youth Day 2008 lead-up activities in your diocese.
- Do some jobs at home without being asked.
- Clean the church and surrounding grounds.
- Secondary students might consider volunteering to help with an activity at the primary school.
- Clean up a local park or playground.

A useful website: [www.helpothers.org](http://www.helpothers.org)

Kindness is  
Contagious

## Message from the Director



## World Environment Day

We marked World Environment Day with the release of a special newsletter outlining a selection of eco projects taking place within our schools. We at Townsville Catholic Education Office believe that care of the environment is a sacred duty and have developed an Ecological Vision for our Catholic Schools. All schools have been issued with an environmental audit CD which will help them review, assess and develop sustainable environmental management plans for the future. We are also working with students to teach them ecological values including environmental responsibility and eco spirituality. Equipping children with life-long skills and awareness is vital in caring for our environment in the long-term.



Pic: Students at St Kieran's School in Mount Isa form the shape of Australia for World Environment Day.



Pic: Members of the St Colman's School Gardening Committee cleaning up the gardens: Thomas Arthur, Adrian Saunders, Joel Hanson, Jasmine Zeller, Jacquelyn Zeller, Laura Fabbro, Mia Cerqui, Rebecca Martens.

Term 2 has certainly provided us with much to celebrate in the areas of education, arts and community. Our schools have again been involved in a host of activities to help those less fortunate in our community. Fundraising activities for St Vincent de Paul, Caritas, National Heart Foundation and the Leukaemia Foundation (amongst others) have kept our students focused on the needs of our local, national and global communities.

Our schools proudly participated in ANZAC Day events within the Diocese, commemorating this significant event and fostering their appreciation for the freedom our nation enjoys today. Participation in such events helps to put in context what they learn in the classroom about our history and heritage.

Congratulations to teachers Matthew Thiele (Ignatius Park College) and Emma Crocker (Ryan Catholic College) on the launch of the Combined Catholic Wind Symphony. Matthew and Emma initiated the concept of an ongoing combined schools wind symphony which will give our talented musicians a great opportunity to gain valuable rehearsal and performance experience as a large ensemble.

As our planning for World Youth Day continues, students from some of our secondary colleges participated in the community launch of the event, hosted by the Townsville City Council. The launch aimed to generate awareness of this once-in-a-lifetime event within the corporate community. Our students will next be involved in celebrations to welcome the WYD Cross and Icon to our Diocese in September.

Planning for the 2007 Mulkadee Arts Festival is well underway with students nominated to participate in workshops in drama, dance, visual arts, choral, band, strings and backstage theatre management. The event is being strongly supported by the Catholic and business community, for which we are most grateful. Skytrans Airlines has confirmed their naming rights sponsorship of the Mulkadee Roadshow which will take the choral workshop to schools in the far southern and western areas of our Diocese.

Next term we will celebrate Catholic Education Week 2007, under the theme of *Communities to Believe In*. Everyday we see the embodiment of this theme in our school communities, which is certainly something to celebrate.

Happy holidays and a safe return to Term 3.



Cathy Day  
DIRECTOR

## Our Patron

PATRON OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2007

Lady Mayoress of Brisbane, Mrs Lisa Newman

Lady Mayoress of Brisbane, Mrs Lisa Newman has accepted an invitation to be the Patron of Catholic Education Week celebrations in 2007.

Mrs Newman is a past student of St Rita's College, Clayfield and her daughters also attend Catholic schools in Brisbane. She has been a great supporter of Catholic Education Week celebrations in recent years.

Among a range of activities, Mrs Newman will be special guest speaker at the official launch of Catholic Education Week in St Stephen's Cathedral on July 23.

Pic: Lady Mayoress of Brisbane, Mrs Lisa Newman is the Patron of Catholic Education Week 2007



## P&F Family Day



The Diocesan P&F is organising a Catholic Education Week Family Day at Rossiter Park, Aitkenvale, on Sunday 22 July. More information will be available at the start of Term 3. Families and friends of all schools and parishes are welcome to come along and join in the spirit.



# Special Events

## Cloncurry's Centenary Celebrations

The St Colman's Parish of Cloncurry celebrated its centenary year (31 May - 3 June), together with St Andrew's Anglican Church and the Cloncurry Uniting Church. Guests from as far as Melbourne made the trip to Cloncurry to take part in the celebrations which included a bush dance, time capsule opening, historical displays, combined Churches remembrance service and prayer ceremonies. The candlelight prayer ceremony at the Cloncurry cemetery was one of the highlights of the centenary program (pictured below).



Pic: Students from St Joseph's School in Cloncurry dressed as pupils of 1907 for the Centenary Celebrations. Photo courtesy of The Catholic Leader.



Pic: The magnificent sunset at the Cloncurry Cemetery prayer ceremony during the 100th anniversary celebrations.

## Students Introduce World Youth Day to the Community

Students from Columba Catholic College, Burdekin Catholic High School, Abergowrie College, Ryan Catholic College, St Patrick's College, St Margaret Mary's College and St Anthony's Catholic College participated in the civic launch of World Youth Day, to an audience of more than 100 people.

The Civic Launch, sponsored and hosted by the Townsville City Council, aimed to introduce the concept of World Youth Day and explain the many celebrations and opportunities for our Diocese, starting with the arrival of the WYD Cross and Icon in September of this year. This was one of the first steps in generating awareness of this once-in-a-lifetime event and the message was enthusiastically received.



Pic left: William Downes and Holly Maclean of Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers, participate in the Civic Launch of World Youth Day.



Pic right: Guy Sebastian's 'Receive the Power' has been chosen as the World Youth Day Sydney anthem.

## Guy Sebastian's 'Receive the Power' Chosen as Official WYD 2008 Song

The theme song for the XXIII World Youth Day in 2008 (WYD08) has been chosen.

Written by Guy Sebastian, "Receive the Power" will become the anthem for Australia's hosting of the world's largest youth event in Sydney next year.

"We wanted a song that was stirring and uplifting," WYD08 Coordinator Bishop Anthony Fisher OP said.

"Above all, it had to engage young people and capture the theme of World Youth Day 2008 - namely, that you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses."

Bishop Fisher said when WYD08 organisers heard "Receive the Power", they knew they'd found their anthem.

(www.wyd08.org - Media Release Issued Sunday 13 May 2007)

## St Catherine's Sacred Space

More than 300 members of the St Catherine's School community gathered to celebrate the opening of a new Sacred Space in the school grounds during Term 2. The new space has provided a beautiful meditation area for students and classes to relax in a peaceful environment and to be in touch with God's presence.

A spirit-filled ceremony involving special guests, clergy, students, staff and parents took place to officially open the space, followed by a Liturgy and meditation. The Sacred Space features a cross and a wheel design, in honour of St Catherine of the Wheel, the patron saint of the school. Special guests included Hon Senator Ron Boswell, Mrs De-Anne Kelly (Member for Dawson), Ernie Christie and Gary Burdett (Catholic Education Office); Fr Jose and Sr Josephine.



Pic: L-R: Gary Burdett, Ernie Christie, Senator Ron Boswell, Deanne Kelly MP and Fr Jose at the opening ceremony for the new sacred space at St Catherine's School, Proserpine.

# Special Events

## Movers and Shakers

Written by: Alice Baxter; Felicity Blackman-Tilbrook; Bridget Mannix; Yael Reif; Emily Schrock and Amelia Shaw

Year 11 students from St Patrick's College in Townsville attended the Movers and Shakers Christian Youth Leadership Camp in Glendalough, South Queensland.

The Movers and Shakers camp consisted of young people aged 16 - 25 and was an opportunity to have a great time, meet people, develop leadership skills and most of all, to explore and strengthen our faith in God.

Twenty-two people from the Townsville diocese joined with sixty other young adults to share in what was a priceless experience of the spirit. We were encouraged to step out of our "groan zone" and build new friendships with a diverse range of youth who all share the same Christian journey.

As part of the camp, we took part in leadership skill developing sessions under the guidance of inspirational youth ministers and professionals. Some team-based activities we all participated in included, the challenge of raising leadership flags and constructing an eco-friendly "waste disposal unit" using co-operation, communication and teamwork.

Through this enriching program, we have found the inspiration and motivation to take the skills and lessons we have learnt and apply them to our everyday lives to benefit the community. We have grown as Christian leaders and anticipate sharing our newfound faith with others.

Pic: Alice Baxter, Felicity Blackman-Tilbrook, Bridget Mannix, Yael Reif, Emily Schrock and Amelia Shaw from St Patrick's College in Townsville attended the Christian Youth Leadership Camp.



## ANZAC Day Spirit in our Schools

Our schools proudly participated in Anzac Day events throughout the Diocese. Below are some photos from the Townsville ANZAC Day parade along The Strand.



Pic: Southern Cross Catholic School

Pic: St Joseph's Catholic School Mundingburra

Pic: Holy Spirit School

Pic: St Joseph's School, North Ward

Pic: The Marian School

Pic: St Margaret Mary's College

Pic: Ignatius Park College

Pic: St Patrick's College





## Prep News

The new Prep Year has been confidently received by staff, children and parents in our primary schools across the diocese. Feedback from our Prep teachers and principals indicates that children have adapted well to their new school environments and are responding enthusiastically to the Early Years Curriculum being implemented. Some wonderful results have been reported from this inquiry-based learning model and these have been shared with Prep teachers across our schools. Christian Meditation has also been popular with the Prep students who will continue this practice as they progress through primary and secondary school. Enrolments for Prep in 2008 are now being accepted. Children who turn five years of age between 01 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 will be eligible to start Prep next year.



Prep student Myah of St Francis School in Hughenden with her Year 1 classmates.

Columba Catholic College Prep student, Callan Burgoine.

Prep at St Francis School, Ayr

The Prep class at St Michael's Catholic School, Palm Island

The Prep class at Canossa School in Trebonne

Group drawing at Good Shepherd Catholic Community School, Rasmussen.

## Oral Language Update

By Katie Whitworth

Research strongly indicates that oral language and pre-literacy (phonological awareness) skills are important foundations for the later stages of language and literacy development.

The role of the speech pathologist, *Early Years Oral Language*, is to support teachers and school officers in the following manner:

- sharing good oral language practice across the Diocese e.g. introduction of the My Classes page for Early Years Oral Language
- helping teaching staff in recognising students who may be having difficulty with their speech and language skills through the use of screening assessments, observations and checklists
- assisting teaching staff in supporting these students within the classroom through programs which focus on oral language development e.g. The Speech Language Pathology Early Intervention Service Delivery Pilot Project
- Providing training opportunities on specific techniques to enhance speech and language skills language e.g. Cued Articulation

### What is Oral Language?

Oral language is an intricate system that allows us to understand and use sounds in a meaningful way, in words and sentences. Aspects of oral language include:

- listening and following instructions
- comprehending questions
- understanding word meanings and using vocabulary
- applying the rules of grammar
- using words and communication in appropriate contexts
- manipulating sounds in spoken words e.g. identifying first and last sounds
- speech sound production

## Introducing Selina Miller

We welcome Selina Miller to the new role of *Early Years Indigenous Education Project Officer*, looking after our Catholic primary schools in the Diocese.



"I have recently come to the Townsville Catholic Education Office from The Marian School where I held the position of Learning Support Teacher for a little over 3 years. Prior to this, I was employed as a Project Officer working within the Indigenous Unit for Centrelink's Townsville Office, writing employment based projects.

I look forward to liaising with community educational providers in the Early Years and working with all our schools across the Diocese."

## Mary MacKillop News

Children at Mary MacKillop Childcares in Kirwan and Mundingburra have enjoyed book fairs recently, with the opportunity to come dressed in their favourite book character. The littlies at Mary MacKillop Kirwan had a surprise treat with a jumping castle to celebrate the book fair.



Pic: Bethany Savage enjoys the jumping castle at Mary MacKillop Kirwan for the Book Fair.

## Under Eights Week



Under Eights Week was celebrated by St Joseph's and St Kieran's Schools in Mount Isa with a range of activities, including a visit by the community helicopter. The children enjoyed exploring the helicopter and took part in relays, games, dancing, obstacle course and crafts.

Under Eight's week, an initiative of Early Childhood Australia, is designed to increase awareness of issues concerning young children and the range of early childhood services available within the community. More information is available from the Early Childhood Australia web site

[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)



Trent Laffin from St Kieran's School in Mt Isa explores the community helicopter during Under Eights Week.

## Southern Cross Robot Engineers

Year 4 and 5 students at Southern Cross Catholic School in Annandale are learning to be robot engineers.

Using the Lego Robotics Program, the students are learning to design, make and program robotics, which is a new activity for the school.



Principal of Southern Cross Catholic School, Mr Paul Cosgriff, said the robotics activities have been enthusiastically embraced by students.

"The activities of unpacking, coordinating, designing and programming present children with the opportunity to practice their problem-solving, creativity and teamwork skills," said Mr Cosgriff.

Pic: Southern Cross students Adam Donaldson, Isaac Haynes and Alyssa Turner enjoy the challenge of discovering robotics

## Introducing Annette McCarthy



We welcome Annette McCarthy to Townsville Catholic Education Office in the role of Primary Guidance Counsellor. Annette looks after St Catherine's School (Proserpine), St Mary's School (Bowen), St John Bosco School (Collinsville), St Colman's School (Home Hill) and Southern Cross Catholic School, Annandale.

"I have the pleasure of joining the Townsville Catholic Education Office after working as a Psychologist for the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane and for Children's Disability Services (Queensland Health) and Disability Services Queensland.

I have made my first trips south to the primary schools in the Burdekin and Whitsunday areas and I am now looking forward to meeting staff, families and students as I become more acquainted with the schools in the Diocese."

## Eco Warriors

As part of their unit on sustainability and the environment, the Year 7 classes at St Joseph's Catholic School in Mundingburra have formed a group of Eco-Warriors who are informing other students about the importance of using our resources wisely. During Term 2 the Eco Warriors spread the message about looking for energy-efficient alternatives to the incandescent light bulb. The students have also taken possession of a new worm farm which is a great way to recycle food scraps and provide fertilizer for the school gardens.

During Term 2 the Year 5 classes were visited by Julie Roach and Wilma Grier from the Townsville City Council's "Green Tree Ant Program". Julie and Wilma talked to students about plants and their relationship with animals as part of an ongoing program.

Pic: Julie Roach from the Townsville City Council's Green Tree Ant Program with the Eco-Warriors at St Joseph's Catholic School, Mundingburra.



## Ukelele Lessons in the Outback

Well known Australian author and producer of children's books and CDs, Mike Jackson, visited the students of St Francis School in Hughenden to run ukulele workshops during Term 2.

Mike's most requested song is Dr Knickerbocker and his creation of the Rig-a-Jig-Jig dance resource. Children from Prep to Year 7 participated in the ukulele workshop, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Mike's visit was funded by RADF. Mike will also be performing with some of the children at the local Hughenden Show.

Pic: Children at St Francis School in Hughenden have the opportunity to learn the ukulele with well known Australian author, Mike Jackson.



## Now That's a Photo!

Pic: North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Jason Smith and Rod Jensen visited St Joseph's School North Ward, much to the delight of students!. Jason Smith is the school's QNI Adopt-a-Cowboy for 2007.





## Combined Catholic Wind Symphony Launched

During Term 2 we saw the launch of the Combined Catholic Wind Symphony, comprising 55 music students from Catholic secondary colleges in Townsville.

The concept of the Symphony is the initiative of music teachers, Matthew Thiele (Ignatius Park College) and Emma Crocker (Ryan Catholic College), who recognised an opportunity for students to gain performance experience if trained and marketed as an ensemble.

The inaugural Symphony includes students aged 13-17 from Ignatius Park College, St Anthony's Catholic College, St Margaret Mary's College, Ryan Catholic College and St Patrick's College.

For many students, this opportunity is unique in that it gives them the chance to rehearse and perform with a much larger ensemble than would ordinarily be available within their own school.

Year 8 student at Ryan Catholic College, Lauren Helmore, said she is very excited about the opportunity to be part of the inaugural combined symphony.

"I am very pleased to be involved in this ensemble and to have the chance to make friends with students from other schools. This gives us a great opportunity to gain fantastic performance experience, outside of the school environment."

The group's first official performance will be at the Opening Mass to launch Catholic Education Week in July, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. They have also been earmarked to perform at several other events including World Youth Day community celebrations and activities.

It is envisaged that as the senior members of the ensemble graduate, students will be brought into the group so that it remains a constant Combined Catholic ensemble.

Catholic Education Office Director, Dr Cathy Day, said the concept of the Symphony is a great way to promote the talents of students and provide them with opportunities to perform at community events.

"We are proud to now be able to promote the Combined Catholic Wind Symphony to the local community as a fine example of the level of talent that exists in our young people," said Dr Day.



Pic left: Ignatius Park College students Daniel Carson, Dominic Rogers, Aaron Collier, Joel Davies, Anthony Brenton.



Pic right: Members of the inaugural Combined Catholic Wind Symphony - Andrew Tarnawski, Stathi Mihalis and Shantell Hernandez of Ryan Catholic College

## Urban Nature - Youth Ecotourism Forum

Year 11 and 12 students from St Patrick's College in Townsville had an exciting opportunity to participate in the Youth Ecotourism Forum held at Reef HQ, Townsville, on May 15.

Seven girls made the most of the chance to refine the Youth Ecotourism Charter started at the 2006 conference, take a tour of eco-ventures around the world and to work collaboratively with other senior students to design their own eco-friendly tourism destination on Forster Island.

Guest speakers from Townsville City Council, Reef HQ and Creek to Coral brought a range of experiences to the forum including brainstorming the issues and challenges related to eco-tourism, role playing as stakeholders in developing their own theoretical venture and consideration of the role of Townsville youth in the global eco-tourism movement.

The forum was opened by Cr Jenny Hill who encouraged students to take up the challenge of developing 'urban nature', that is, planning for the co-existence of natural systems within our urban environments and creating ecological systems for living cities. She reminded the forum that approximately 1.9 million people visit the Great Barrier Reef each year, creating about \$5.2 billion in tourist revenue.

"We must look at creating sustainable tourism where culture, community and the environment all survive in an economically viable way," Cr Hill said.

Students certainly took on this challenge in the role play as stakeholders in the Forster Island resort. Each cluster included a representative from community, government, business, wildlife carers, environment and indigenous groups who had to contribute to the development of the island in a way that would preserve its ecological integrity, whilst finding a way to run an economically viable tourism industry.

At the end of the session, groups presented their proposals and came up with a wide range of solutions including solar power, eco-lodges, tree-top and boardwalks, conservation and heritage protection areas and even a totally diesel-free environment. It would seem, from some of the innovative solutions, that the future of the globe is in good hands with the youth of St Pat's on the job.



Pic: St Patrick's College students at the Youth Ecotourism Forum. Front Row: Jessica Hando, Shannon Russell, Charl Burrows, Corinne Neger, Bridget Mannix. Back row: Sandra Kirk and Hannah Crouch.



## Indigenous Sports Academy

Pic: North Queensland Toyota Cowboys player, Brenton Bowen, pictured with students for the launch of the Indigenous Sports Academy, involving indigenous secondary students from Catholic colleges in the Townsville Diocese

## Remote Area Teaching Education Program

Esmeralda Rankine, mother of four, is completing the second segment of her final practicum in Year 1 at St Joseph's School, Mount Isa. Esmeralda has undertaken her primary education degree through the Remote Area Teacher Education Program, known as RATEP.

This program is an initiative of Cairns TAFE, James Cook University and Education Queensland and provides Indigenous students with the opportunity to undertake university studies in remote locations. This program has launched over 100 graduates since it began.

Esmeralda began her studies while residing at Dajarra. She continued her study on Urlampe Community (homeland) and finally relocated to Mount Isa with her family to complete her studies.

Mr Lindsay Luck (site supervisor) organises the placement of RATEP students at St Joseph's. This is the school's third year of supporting the program.



Pic: Esmeralda Rankine and Year 1 student Patrick Baker at St Joseph's School, Mount Isa

## Aspirant Leaders

A group of 21 teachers from our Catholic schools gathered during Term 2 for the inaugural Townsville Catholic Education Aspirant Leaders' project.

Senior school leaders were asked to nominate teachers who demonstrate leadership potential to participate in this project.

Townsville Catholic Education Office Assistant Director, Ross Horner, said the program was inspired by the need to cultivate future leaders in our schools.

"The Aspirant Leaders program aims to develop a pool of people who are interested in, and demonstrate the key attributes of a leader," said Mr Horner.

"Of course this project is not the only stepping stone to leadership, but every type of assistance is useful."

Participants were challenged to consider what motivates people to be leaders, to explore leadership and prepare for their own personal leadership journeys. They also enjoyed an address on leadership by keynote speaker, Young Australian of the Year, Tania Major.

"We have received positive feedback from our first program, which we intend to run annually," said Mr Horner.



Pic: Aspirant Leaders of our Catholic schools.

## SMMC Students Help Women in Laos

Students at St Margaret Mary's College in Townsville have been working with Zonta International during Term 2 to put together 600 birthing kits for women in Laos.

Deputy Principal, Joanne O'Connor, said the project was a great learning experience for the students involved. "The girls learned not only about the work of Zonta International, but also of the plight of many women who do not have clean equipment or environments in which to give birth," said Mrs O'Connor.



Pic: Year 11 student of St Margaret Mary's College, Jay Webb, with President of the Zonta Townsville Metro club, Kelly Stokes.

## Franciscan Leadership at St Anthony's

The newly elected Student Representative Council at St Anthony's Catholic College is examining a student leadership style that is authentically Franciscan, and that is unique to St Anthony's Catholic College. The goal is for St Anthony's to be a school where our students will find:

- An atmosphere that is fraternal
- A sense of solidarity and belonging among all persons at the school
- A community of self-disciplined persons
- A place of pardon and peace
- A community of service within the larger social community
- A human environment of beauty

The Student Representative Council will follow the Leadership Skills Program to carry out their role. The program helps develop skills in public speaking, responsibility, confidence, organisation and working in a team. The Council members will provide a voice for students in their class on a range of issues at the College, such as uniform, fundraising, grounds, tuckshop and so on.



Pic: St Anthony's Catholic College Student Representative Council



# School News

## St Mary's Rocks

Year 6 and 7 students from St Mary's School in Bowen took to the dance floor during Term 2 to learn how to rock and roll.

The dance lessons, which were part of their Physical Education unit, were undertaken by Principal Alex Cameron.

Mr Cameron said dance is a component of the health and physical education outcomes and it's a great way to teach kids social skills.

"It gives them confidence and they absolutely love it", he said.

Mr Cameron said during the unit they learnt several Rock 'n Roll moves including Open and Closed American Spins, Behind the Back Pass, Turn and Return and The Cuddle. They also learnt some ballroom dances such as the Rumba, Barn Dance and Maddison.

The students showcased their dancing skills at a Rock and Roll night, dancing the night away to classics such as Good Golly Miss Molly and Rock Around the Clock.

"It was a great success and the children have been so enthusiastic," said Mr Cameron.



PIC: St Mary's students Isabella Hood, Sean Hickey, Laura Cameron, James Fitch rock around the clock.

"We hope to continue the Rock 'n Roll dancing throughout the year and plan to train a small group of students to conduct demonstrations within the community."

## Lab on Legs Visits Collinsville

Students at St John Bosco School in Collinsville had the opportunity to participate in the Lab on Legs travelling science exhibition during Term 2. The children took part in activities focusing on balloon science and lego robotics, providing them with a fun way to learn about science.

Principal of St John Bosco School, David Koina, said the mobile science exhibition was a great hands-on learning experience for students.

"Thanks to funding through PCAP, our students were able to participate in this mobile science experience which allowed them to learn through interactive, hands-on activities," said Mr Koina.

"PCAP has been very supportive of our school activities this year, helping us with funding for school camps, out of town excursions and the Lab on Legs experience. We are very grateful for their support."



PIC: Year 2 student at St John Bosco School, Toby Jones, investigates the equipment at the Lab on Legs visit.

## Abergowrie Boys Visit Copper Refinery

As part of their work exposure programme, Year 10 students of St Teresa's College in Abergowrie visited Xstrata's Copper Refinery during Term 2. The boys were given a tour of the refinery and were able to speak with some of the staff about potential career paths and study requirements in the industry.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to be on-site to learn about engineering and minerals processing.

Student Dale Dempsey found the experience particularly interesting as he comes from Mount Isa, home to Xstrata's copper mine. "It was all very interesting to me, seeing what happens to the minerals that come out of places like Mount Isa," he said.

PIC: Year 10 Abergowrie students visit Xstrata's Copper Refinery, south of Townsville.



# School News

## Purple Slime and Snow in Halifax

Everything wet and slimey was the order of the day at St Peter's School in Halifax, with Prep and Year 1 children participating in a Wet Play science day.

Through their involvement in games and experiments with water, ice and food colouring, the students were challenged in their thinking, listening, investigating and problem-solving skills.

The group made snow from instant snow powder and enjoyed a sensory experience with bright purple slime. They also enjoyed many water activities including a rocket sprinkler and Pirates of the Caribbean jumping castle.

Principal Damir Muftic said the children brought with them new ideas into play and were able to express their opinions with others.

"It was a fantastic day for the children to learn through play-based activities," said Mr Muftic.

"They thoroughly enjoyed the experience which also helped them develop their social skills."



PIC: Luke Hood and Christopher D'Emden get into the purple slime at St Peter's School in Halifax

## Jump Rope for Heart

806 children at Holy Spirit School spent their energies well on Friday April 27 with Jump Rope for Heart Day.

Parents, grandparents and relatives joined the children at various times throughout the day for different Jump Rope activities. Even the school's Adopt a Cowboy, 'Bluey' Southern, joined in the fun.

**"Several teachers also skipped... some who hadn't skipped for many years!"**

There were many spectacular exhibitions from the Prep children right through to Year 7. There were cross-overs, frontwards, backwards skips, dual skips, pogo-legs, even family skips. Several teachers also skipped through the day - some who hadn't skipped for many years!

Congratulations to the staff for excellent organisation and to the children and parents for their energy. \$9463.75 was raised for the Heart Foundation.



PIC: Year 7 students Hayden Clelland and Samuel Geyser of Holy Spirit School participate in the Jump Rope for Heart day, raising more than \$9000 for the Heart Foundation.

## The Marian's Dinosaur Museum

The Platypus and Possums Year 2 classes at The Marian School worked very hard during Term 2 to create their Dinosaur Museum. The children hosted their parents and grandparents for a special morning tea for the museum 'opening' and showcased the displays to other classes in the school.

**"The children hosted their parents and grandparents for a special morning tea"**

PIC: L-R: Year 2 students, Dean Crowley, Heath Lunn, Joel D'Addona and Jack Timble proudly display their dinosaurs in the Dinosaur Museum.





# School News

## Lourdes' Day at the Beach

Year 2 and 3 students of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Ingham spent a wonderful day exploring the foreshore and shallows environments of Lucinda Beach. The field study related to their study theme of Australian Environments. The soldier crabs caused great excitement as thousands of them roam the beach at low tide and many children wanted to take some home as pets. The children studied the type of plant life and creatures that live in the rock pools and were amazed at the abundance of life in these pools. It is one thing to go to the beach and another completely to EXPLORE the beach. The teachers, parents and children had a fabulous day out learning and being together.



Front: Dempsey Zanelli, Georgia Groundwater, Renae Morelli, Sarah Marino  
Middle: Lachlan Castles, Kyle Scovazzi,  
Back: Mr Moris Gori (Year 3 teacher) and Mr Mark Bonassi (Parent)

## Bugs' Ball in the Burdekin

Children in Prep and Year 1 at St Colman's School in Home Hill, participated in a culminating activity for their learning unit about Bugs.

At St Colman's, this type of culminating activity is called Learning Celebrations. It is an opportunity for the children to present their class work to their parents and families.

Cathryn Cornish, Prep/Year 1 teacher and Joan Howie, Prep/Year 1 School Officer, with the help of many parents, organised a 'Bugs' Ball' as the culminating learning celebration.

The children dressed as bugs, scorpions, spiders, butterflies and lady bugs and the classroom was transformed into a large garden. The children proudly presented their work to their parents and entertained with some performances about bugs!



Pic: Gabi Boccalatte, Faith Swindley and Louise Williams dressed in their bug costumes for the St Colman's Bugs' Ball.

## Good Shepherd Mt Isa Flight Simulators

As part of the newly introduced Aerospace program at Good Shepherd Catholic College in Mount Isa, students were treated to a visit by an aircraft simulator courtesy of Geosim Technologies. This was part of a joint venture between Geosim and Queensland State Development to support Aviation Australia in delivering hands-on experience in aerospace studies.

Keith Fainges, head of ICT and Business and the Aerospace teacher at the College, said the opportunity for practical experience greatly enhanced the students' ability to visualize navigation and basic aeronautical knowledge. Three students from St Joseph's School also visited the college to take part in this unique experience.

**"Students were treated to a visit by an aircraft simulator... delivering hands-on experience in aerospace studies"**



Pic: Year 11 student Iain Davidson enjoys the flight simulator experience at Good Shepherd Catholic College in Mount Isa

# School News

## SMMC Success at Festival of One Act Plays

Congratulations to St Margaret Mary's College on their success at the 2007 Festival of One Act Plays. The event was held over the May Day long weekend, involving more than 190 students in 17 plays.

St Margaret Mary's College was awarded 2nd place for the Best Production for their performance of "Candid". The play was directed by two year 12 students, Emma Churchland and Emmaly Langridge.

Year 11 student, Michaela Savina, won Best Performance by a Female in the Junior Section. Michaela was also awarded the Stan Newman Memorial Bursary, winning a scholarship to attend the Queensland Theatre Company's Residency Week in September.

Pic: Year 11 student of St Margaret Mary's College, Michaela Savina, won Best Performance by a Female at the 2007 Festival of One Act Plays.



## Burdekin Catholic High School to Honour Marists

The original residence of the Marist Brothers at Burdekin Catholic High School (occupied from 1953-2000) is slowly being pulled apart and transported to other areas in the diocese, to make way for a multi-purpose centre. The centre will be used by physical education and drama classes and will feature full sized basketball, netball and volleyball courts.

The school will retain the original Brothers' chapel which will be restored by parents as a legacy of the original presence of the Marists and to stand as a reminder to students of the importance of a life of faith.

According to the first Principal of the school, Br Clarence, who is now in Sydney, when the Brothers first arrived, there was just the house and little more. The school had not yet been built. The house was previously a doctor's surgery and a mango orchard existed where the school oval is today.

"When the centre is complete, we hope to have a grand opening carnival weekend, involving as many past students as we can," said Mr Tom Kruger, Principal of Burdekin Catholic High School.



Pic: The original Marists Chapel will be restored by parents of the Burdekin Catholic High School community as a legacy to the Brothers.

## Crazy Dress Day in Winton

Students at St Patrick's School in Winton have been involved in some fantastic fundraising initiatives during Term 2. To raise money for St Vincent de Paul, the school held a 'Crazy Dress' day, which certainly added some colour to an otherwise normal Friday! The Year 5/6/7 classes also took the initiative and held a car and dog washing morning to raise funds for their camp. A very wet morning's work raised \$308... with some sparkling dogs and cars as a result.

Pic: The entire school of St Patrick's in Winton dressed in their crazy costumes for the St Vincent de Paul fundraising day.





# Photo Gallery

The following is a collection of photographs taken at inservices, meetings and events during Term 2 within our Catholic school communities.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

- Ernie Christie (Catholic Education Office); David Pratt (Australian Festival of Chamber Music); Vicki Saylor (Movie Star); Cathy Day (Catholic Education Office).
- Participants at the Catholic Education APREs' Retreat on Magnetic Island
- Tanya Major (Young Australian of the Year), Thelma Gertz (Catholic Education Office) and Mayrah Dreise (Queensland Studies Authority) at the Aspirant Leaders Project.
- Back row L-R: Helen Long (St Joseph's School, Mount Isa), Jacqui Gardner, Joanne Andrews and Gina Benneworth (St Anthony's Catholic College)  
Front row L-R: Christine O'Sullivan (St Patrick's College, Townsville) and Judith Jones (Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers) at the Aspirant Leaders project.
- L-R: Helen Fong, Marian Mee, Julianna Cullen, Gus Logan, Anna Webb, Annette Jackson, Tracey Canhan, Jennifer Morrisa and Mary-Anne Cameron

celebrate School Officers' Day at Good Shepherd Catholic Community School, Rasmussen.

- L-R: Wayne Wood (Abergowrie College), Peter Cavalot (Ryan Catholic College), Adam McCoy (St Anthony's Catholic College) and Peter Bates (St John Bosco School, Collinsville) at the Aspirant Leaders project.
- Tracey Balanzategui (Our Lady of Lourdes School, Ingham), Erin Fuller (The Marian School), Melissa Dametto (Our Lady of Lourdes School, Ingham) and Amanda Holden (St Joseph's Catholic School, Mundingburra) at the Aspirant Leaders project.
- North Queensland Toyota Cowboys CEO, Peter Parr, with Catholic Education Office Director, Cathy Day, at the launch of the Indigenous Sports Academy.
- L-R: Tony Kursius (Queensland Transport), Ross Horner and Thelma Gertz (Catholic Education Office), Mayrah Dreise (Queensland Studies Authority) and Noel Rumble (Queensland Transport) at the Drive 4 Life presentation.

Diocese of Townsville Catholic Education

# Mulkadee Arts Festival 2007

Mulkadee is an indigenous word meaning 'dream of spirit coming together'. The name comes from Mullanna, meaning 'together', Mullee, meaning 'dream spirit' and Kadee, meaning 'mother'. The word is common to clans in North and Western Queensland.

Planning for the 2007 Mulkadee Arts Festival is well underway with students now confirmed for participation in workshops for visual arts, dance, drama, band, strings, choral and backstage theatre management. Workshops will take place at various venues from Tuesday 24 - Friday 27 July, with the culminating Presentation Concert taking place at the Townsville Civic Theatre on Friday evening, 27 July.

This year each of our participating schools has a Mulkadee School Representative who has worked hard to coordinate the school's involvement in this event. A big thank you to the School Representatives for your dedication to helping us stage the Mulkadee Arts Festival for our students.



## Mulkadee School Representatives

Back row (L-R): Matthew Thiele (Ignatius Park College); Kristy Hill (The Marian School); Michelle Kotzas (St Margaret Mary's College); Geraldine Doherty (The Marian School); Anne-Marie Hammond (Southern Cross Catholic School); Rachel Harris (Ryan Catholic College); Peter Griffin (St Margaret Mary's College); Donna Arliss (St Patrick's College Townsville).  
Front row (L-R): Laura Savina (St Anthony's Catholic College); Sue Laing (Holy Spirit School); Kerry Rehn (St Joseph's School Mundingburra and St Joseph's School North Ward).

July 24 to 27



## Logo Designs

In the Term 1 edition of this newsletter we featured the winning logo for the 2007 Mulkadee Arts Festival, designed by Year 12 student, Jacinta Toppi, of St Patrick's College. We received 62 logo designs from students throughout the Diocese and shortlisted to a group of 12 designs. We are pleased to be able to showcase the 12 finalist designs.



- Jacinta Toppi, St Patrick's College, Townsville
- Daina Wosomo, St Patrick's College, Townsville
- Stephanie Scamolla, St Patrick's College, Townsville
- Laura Fabbro, St Colman's School, Home Hill
- Tannum Khalu-Armitt, The Marian School
- Breeanna Harold, St Patrick's College, Townsville
- Earl Robertson, St Teresa's College, Abergowrie
- Michael Veal, St Catherine's School, Prosperine
- Rachael Hudson, St Colman's School
- Kristy Murrins, The Marian School
- Daryle Spaine, St Teresa's College, Abergowrie
- Jodie Kilpatrick, Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mount Isa

## International Workshop Leader

This year we are thrilled to have secured UK based and internationally renowned Choral instructor, David Lawrence, to lead our Choral Workshop.

Bio: [www.lawrence-music.co.uk](http://www.lawrence-music.co.uk)

David Lawrence is one of the UK's most versatile young conductors. His posts include Artistic Director of the Ulster Youth Choir, Choir Leader of the City of Birmingham Young Voices, Assistant Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, and he is a regular guest chorusmaster with the Netherlands Radio Choir. David has particular experience in contemporary music and has prepared and conducted premieres by Karlheinz Stockhausen, Bob Chilcott, Graham Fitkin, Cornelius de Bondt to name a few.

David is a well known teacher of choral conducting and works as an education consultant and project leader for a number of orchestras and organisations. He is a National Adjudicator for the BBC Choir of the Year Competition and regularly conducts for BBC's 'Songs of Praise'. David holds the Guinness Record for conducting the largest choir in the UK has conducted CBYV for the Royal Family at a special concert in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace.



David Lawrence will lead the Mulkadee Arts Festival Choral workshop.

## Skytrans Mulkadee Roadshow

We are delighted to welcome onboard Skytrans Airlines as the naming sponsor for the Mulkadee Roadshow, which will take a choral workshop to schools in the far southern and western areas of our Diocese, who are unable to participate in the full Mulkadee program due to distance.

