

WITH VISION SPIRIT



SPRING
NEWSLETTER
2010

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MARY MACKILLOP – A SAINT FOR ALL EDUCATORS

Australians of all affiliations will honour the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, the first Australian saint, on 17 October 2010. QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says the event can also serve as a catalyst for renewed focus on the core values of Catholic education.

“As the founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, Mary MacKillop created a vision of bringing education to the poor and under-privileged in Australia, providing an inspiration not just for Catholic educators, but for all educators,” he said.

“She created her own national curriculum – relevant to her time, and her sisters worked with meagre resources, but with abundant energy to transform access to education.

“Mary inspires us all in the total dedication she had to the welfare of her students – a capacity to go well beyond the extra mile.

“Her work calls us all to remember that in education every child carries a special dignity and we have the responsibility to challenge each of them to reach their full potential.

“It has been people like Mary MacKillop and the many religious sisters, brothers, priests and lay teachers who have provided the core values and foundations for Catholic education which now educates about 20% of Australian school children.

“Our challenge is to adapt and grow to meet the challenges of our time, while being faithful to the timeless Christian values so powerfully lived out by Mary and others like her.

“We rejoice with the Sisters of St Joseph at the canonisation of their founder. Mary MacKillop is a saint for all educators,” Mr Byrne said.

45 Queensland Catholic schools currently follow the Josephite charism.

17 Queensland schools (including St Joseph's, Bundaberg, pictured right circa 1876) were opened or staffed during Mary's lifetime.

[South Brisbane, Kangaroo Point, North Brisbane, Maryborough, Mackay, Monkland, Meadowland, Townsville, Bowen, Copperfield, Gladstone, Redbank Plains, Helidon, Bundaberg, Clermont, Alpha, Cloncurry]

(Reference: *With Grateful Hearts* by Sr Margaret M. McKenna RSJ)

MARY MACKILLOP'S VISITS TO THE COLONY OF QUEENSLAND

1870/71

December 1869 – mid March 1871.

Mary visited Brisbane, living with the Sisters of Mercy for almost two weeks before moving to rented accommodation in South Brisbane.

1875

Returned to South Brisbane in May 1875. Between June and August 1875, visited the Josephites in Helidon, Redbank Plains, Maryborough, Monkland (Gympie), Gladstone, Mackay, Bowen and Townsville.

1878

Between late March-early April and July 1878 Mary MacKillop visited the Josephite communities in Helidon, Redbank Plains, Monkland, Maryborough, Gladstone, Bowen, Mackay and Bundaberg.

[During each of her stays in Rockhampton, she was a guest of the Sisters of Mercy.]

November-January 1879 – returned to Brisbane.

1879

April-December – visited all Josephite communities.

1885

August – Brisbane.

1890

April – Brisbane.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to this third edition of *With Vision and Spirit* for 2010.

Over recent weeks, Catholic school communities across Queensland have been engaged in an exciting array of celebrations marking Catholic Education Week. I have been delighted to see the range of activities taking place, and particularly those involving the broader community. In one instance, a 'grandparents and family day' was given such significance that grandparents from New Zealand travelled across the Tasman Sea to Brisbane to enable them to take part. Activities such as this provide evidence that Catholic schools strive to be 'connected' communities in which all are involved.

Two awards events I have attended over the past month – the Catholic Education Week, Spirit of Catholic Education Awards and the Docemus Awards in the Cairns Diocese – highlighted the extraordinary contributions that people from all facets of the education community are making to Catholic education. This reinforced what I have previously observed in the awards programs – that parents, volunteers, teachers, clergy and administrators all play a vital role as educators in the broadest sense.

My best wishes to you all as we prepare to celebrate the historic canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

Mike Byrne

Executive Director

Queensland Catholic Education Commission



“Never see a need without doing something about it”. Mary MacKillop 1871

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND

ARCHBISHOP BATHERSBY OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week in Queensland 2010 was officially launched by Archbishop John Bathersby at a celebration attended by around 150 students, teachers, parents and friends of Catholic education from across the state at Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School, Birkdale on Wednesday 28 July.

Representatives from the five Queensland dioceses were involved in the liturgical element of the launch, which focused on the week's

theme, *Called to be Stewards of a Sustainable Future*, while the 40-strong choir from the host school added a special richness to the ceremony.

The launch was highlighted by the presentation of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards by Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AO.



Most Rev John A Bathersby DD (Archbishop of Brisbane) officially launches Catholic Education Week 2010.



Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AO, speaks with student representatives from St Rita's Primary School, Victoria Point after the official launch.



MCs for the official launch ceremony Hayden Maher and Kelly Boyd, (College captains, Carmel College, Thornlands).



Toowoomba Diocese student representatives, James and Genevieve Spalding, participate in the launch ceremony.

SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS 2010



From left to right: Ms Jacqui Remond (National Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia and Ambassador of Catholic Education Week), Kym Hogan, Tom Rolfe, Anne-Maree Spalding, Most Rev John Bathersby (Archbishop of Brisbane), Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO, Governor of Queensland, Dr Jim Hanley, Isikeli Kubunameca, Paul Lucas and Mike Byrne (Executive Director, Queensland Catholic Education Commission).

STATE GOVERNMENT JOINS IN CELEBRATIONS

The Queensland Government shared in Catholic Education Week celebrations and recognised the important role of Catholic education in Queensland by hosting a reception on 29 July.

Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Peta-Kaye Croft, hosted the reception for around 150 members of parliament and representatives of the Catholic education community on behalf of the Minister for Education, the Hon Geoff Wilson.

In her address, Ms Croft praised Catholic schools for the high quality of education they provide for Queensland children, and in doing so, the outstanding contribution Catholic schools make to the Queensland community.

A number of parliamentarians attended the function accompanied by principals and parent representatives from schools in their electorates.

Guests at the reception were entertained by the Southern Cross Catholic College, Scarborough String Quartet and eCCCos choral group from Mary MacKillop College, Nundah.



Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Peta-Kaye Croft, addresses guests at the Parliamentary reception.



Emeritus Prof Peter Sheehan AO (Chair - Queensland Catholic Education Commission), Most Rev John A Bathersby DD (Archbishop of Brisbane), the Hon Lawrence Springborg MP (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Mike Byrne (Executive Director - Queensland Catholic Education Commission).



The Hon Cameron Dick (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations), Catherine Thompson (Principal, Trinity College, Beenleigh), Dennis Harvey (Principal, Villanova College, Coorparoo).

AMBASSADOR VISITS COMMUNITIES ACROSS QUEENSLAND

Jacqui Remond, Ambassador for Catholic Education Week 2010 and National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, visited Townsville, Emerald, Clermont and Brisbane as part of a full schedule of school visits and functions to mark Catholic Education Week.

Jacqui's commitments began in Brisbane at St Joseph's, Kangaroo Point where she delivered a presentation at a liturgy to launch the week and viewed work produced by students as part of the One Earth activity.

She travelled to Townsville to address a Young Eco Warriors' Big Day Out event, participated in a 'One Earth presentation' at St Joseph's, Clermont and visited St Patrick's school and Marist College in Emerald. Amongst other engagements, Jacqui was the guest speaker at the Brisbane Archdiocesan Parents and Friends Federation President's dinner.



Jacqui Remond (Ambassador for Catholic Education Week 2010 and National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia), joins Linda Trimble (Teacher, St Joseph's School, Kangaroo Point) to view a student display of the One Earth activity at St Joseph's School.



Jacqui Remond joins prep students on a tour of their vegetable garden at St Thomas' School, Camp Hill.



Jacqui Remond presents Marie Martin (Principal, Marist College, Emerald) with her Spirit of Catholic Education nomination certificate during visits to schools in Emerald and Clermont.



Pictured at the official opening and blessing of Stage 9 of the building program at St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch are Mr Steve Wettenhall MP; Catholic Education Services Acting Executive Director, Hugh O'Brien; Bishop of Cairns, Bishop James Foley; Executive Director of Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Mike Byrne; and St Andrew's Acting Principal, Brad Greene.

CATHOLIC SECTOR DELIVERS VALUE FOR BUILDING DOLLAR

The Australian Government's interim report into the implementation of the *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) Program released in late July has complimented the Queensland Catholic sector for achieving one of the lowest

cost averages per square metre to build (across all three programs) and acknowledged the efficiencies produced by its processes and procedures.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said the taskforce was also impressed by the

clarity of school master planning, which focussed on educational outcomes and enabled many schools to commence BER projects more rapidly.

"This BER program has been a very significant undertaking and I would like to thank all involved in delivering it successfully to date.

"As well as the professional skills of the many people involved, I believe the success of the program can also be attributed to the collaborative processes in place between QCEC, diocesan and school authorities, along with principals and school communities, to achieve the best outcomes for the children in our schools," he said.

Mr Byrne said the final government report was due in November.

Queensland Catholic schools BER progress report as at 23 August 2010

	P21	%	Science and Language	%
Number of schools approved	228		21	
Total value of grants approved	\$495,940,935		\$24,801,168	
Number of projects completed or under construction	190	83%	21	100%
Value of grants for projects completed or under construction	\$408,848,935	82%	\$24,801,168	100%

COLLOQUIUM ON FORMATION OF STAFF



Most Rev Brian V Finnigan (Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane), is Chair of the QCEC Catholic Ethos, Formation and Religious Education (CEFARE) Committee which is hosting the Colloquium.

Around 50 leaders responsible for the development of formation programs for staff in Catholic schools in Queensland will gather for a colloquium on 21-22 October. The colloquium is being planned and organised by members of the QCEC Catholic Ethos, Formation and Religious Education (CEFARE) Committee, which is chaired by Bishop Brian Finnigan (Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane).

"This colloquium aims to develop a shared understanding of the principles of effective contemporary formation for staff members in Catholic schools in Queensland.

"It is anticipated that a framework and a number of useful support resources will be developed to assist the provision of appropriate formation for staff at all stages of their spiritual journey," Bishop Finnigan said.

FACT SHEETS PUBLISHED

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Federation of Parents and Friends' Associations have developed a series of one page fact sheets to provide basic information about current issues and developments in education.

Five fact sheets on the following topics have recently been added to the initial 11 information sheets: *A Flying Start for Queensland Children*, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), the *My School* website, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and the Queensland Education Leadership Institute (QELI).

The intention is that the initial series will be added to as additional issues arise.

The fact sheets are available on the QCEC website.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition of "With Vision and Spirit". Please forward any suggestions and/or feedback to:

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