



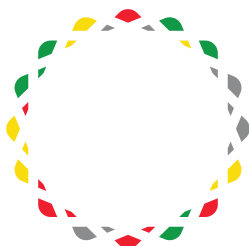
Toowoomba Catholic Schools

excellence
AWARDS

2021



Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools



Toowoomba Catholic Schools

excellence AWARDS

Welcome to the 2021 **Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards** incorporating the presentation of the *Spirit of Catholic Education Award*.

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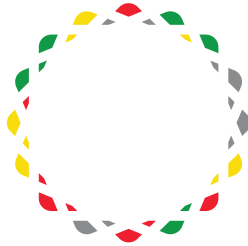
The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards are presented annually as part of *Queensland Catholic Education Week* (CEW) celebrations. The awards aim to recognise those who are making an outstanding contribution within the Catholic education community.

2021 Diocese of Toowoomba recipient

Katie Mills – Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba



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Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards recognise members of the TCS community who create exemplary places of learning where every student experiences academic success and comes to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus.



Excellence in Education Support

Teaching and learning support

sponsored by Aspect Architects & Project Managers

Camille Madden – School Officer: Student Learning Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba

Camille's dedication to knowing the students she supports and how they learn has improved their personalised learning journey. By building her own knowledge and skills in areas such as adaptive technology and nurturing positive and productive relationships she seamlessly adapts her practice to meet the needs at the time and achieve planned outcomes. Her commitment has extended to before school hours programs and one-to-one program implementation. Sharing her own learning journey has also enhanced others' understanding of the need to support all aspects of a learner.

Joanne Bradford – School Officer (2021 Recipient) Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Jo's nurturing, supportive rapport with students sees them looking to her for guidance as they face learning challenges and celebrate their successes. Her knowledge of visible learning and use of learning goals enables her to connect learning activities and aids students to see their progress. Jo's continuous upskilling in new technologies, teaching methods and sourcing and creating of innovative and inventive resources make her an integral part of the Year 2 teaching team.

Melinda Stone – Senior Adviser: Occupational Therapist Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office

Melinda's outstanding knowledge in identifying and supporting students with occupational performance needs has been shared and implemented by classroom teachers across the Diocese in schools and kindergartens. This has led to great improvements in student learning engagement and outcomes. Her commitment to collaboration with other professionals has seen joint presentations in key projects such as the Writing improvement strategy and networks for early years, school officers, middle leaders and learning support teachers – enabling an integrated approach that leads to better outcomes for all.

Renee Hunter – College Counsellor St Saviour's College, Toowoomba

With an extremely diverse student community to support Renee calls on her deep knowledge of the students to develop creative and tailored responses that empower them and engage them holistically in their education. Fostering a culture of resilience in staff and students, Renee provides ongoing formation and professional development that is practical, compassionate, culturally sensitive and based on contemporary best practice.



Administration, finance and facilities support **sponsored by Toowoomba Toyota**

Caain Miller – Edmund Rice Cultural Centre (ERCC) Manager St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Caain's interest in digital media support started as a student at St Mary's and led to a Diploma in Information Technology. In addition to being the ERCC manager, Caain's professional knowledge and experience of the College has enabled him to provide insights and support in implementation of the learning management system, online learning during COVID, using technology in marketing and integrating AV into key school activities. Caain also mentors Film and Technology students at the College to produce high quality materials for real use and in promoting the College.

Debbie Menkins – Administration Officer Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba

As the first person you meet in the Administration Office Deb welcomes and provides high quality service to all that visit. Knowing all parents and children by name has developed and fostered relationships and for her a reputation of care and concern in the community. Parents have often attributed Deb's support, communication, dedication and openness as a reason for choosing Sacred Heart.

Marita Day – Administration Officer (2021 Recipient) Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba

Over the 6 years that Marita has been at GSC, she has been instrumental in its evolution and innovations, turning ideas into actions. Due to the nature of the College, Marita's role has also evolved and seen her take on responsibilities as a member of the leadership team, support parents and students in crisis, provide learning support, manage major events and liaise with external medical and community organisations. All of this is completed with insight, intelligence and a dedication to the young people and staff of GSC.



Excellence in Education Support

Volunteer support

sponsored by **Max Brammer Architects**

Katie Mills – Volunteer coordinator: Samaritan's Table (2021 Recipient) **Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba**

For over 6 years, Katie has coordinated the efforts of up to 50 parent volunteers to provide home cooked meals for members of the community experiencing times of sadness, grief, hardship or difficulty. Katie has developed a sensitive, discreet and empathetic radar to learn of hardship, activate volunteers to drop meals to the school and maintain the anonymity of volunteers and recipient. This has created a clear connection for the Mater Dei community to the Good Samaritan story.

Kay Jackson – Grandparent volunteer **Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba**

Kay volunteers for many and varied roles in the school community, with all making a big difference to learning, wellbeing and people's sense of belonging. Kay initiated a vegetable garden in the school and works with students to care for and nurture it. She also maintains the memory garden and other garden spaces which has greatly improved the natural environment. Tuckshop, support for student reading and spreading the word to recruit volunteers are also a part of Kay's week at Sacred Heart.





Excellence in Teaching and learning

Early Career Teacher

sponsored by **Max Brammer Architects**

Jade Manteit – Year 2 teacher (2021 Recipient) **Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby**

Jade's belief in the correlation of collective teacher efficacy with student achievement, her implementation of a vast range of high impact strategies and clarity of knowing her students are what make her an extraordinarily successful teacher. As a result of her commitment and expertise 80% of her students achieved high growth in reading in 2020 and in Term 1, 2021, 26% of students were already reaching end of year benchmarks and above.

Monica Conway – Year 4 teacher **St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba**

Although in her early career, Monica is already leading other teachers as an Ignite Learning Impact Coach. Through her own exemplary classroom practice, that ensures students have clear learning intentions, are engaged in learning personalised to them and receiving regular feedback, Monica models best practice to her students and to visiting staff.

Taylor Morrison – Year 4/5 teacher **St Mary's School, Charleville**

Taylor's focus on affirming the dignity and potential of each student is a hallmark of her classroom culture. This is particularly in focus when personalising learning for students with complex needs. Through her deep knowing of her students, she has successfully created an environment in which the students own their learning and can work together to deepen their knowledge and understanding.



Excellence in Teaching and learning

Primary Expert Teacher sponsored by Salary Packaging Australia

Johanna Campbell – Year 3 teacher (2021 Recipient) **St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe**

With a varied group of amazing little learners in her classroom, Johanna has excelled in bringing them together at the same time as recognising and providing for their diversity. Actively seeking connection between her classroom, other staff, parents, community and external experts, she is focussed on each learner being supported and encouraged to be their true self and excel as the geographers, historians, mathematicians and writers that they are.

Sarah Benvenuti – Year 1 teacher **St Thomas More's Primary School, Toowoomba**

Sarah is passionate about partnering with parents in the learning journey and sharing her expertise with other teachers. In 2020, her expert teaching of phonics was filmed and has since been used as a quality example for other early years and early career teachers. As a member of the school's parent engagement committee she has been instrumental in bringing more parents to the classroom to build their engagement in their children's learning.

Shari Pauli – Year 5 teacher **St Mary's College, Toowoomba**

Shari is described as a brilliant and caring teacher, who enables students to achieve excellence. Whether that be through her differentiation and inclusivity in the classroom, the coordination and leadership of the literacy extension and primary dance program or reaching out to support the community through social justice initiatives – each student is valued and Shari strives to ensure that her expertise is providing opportunities and supporting others to be the best they can be.



Secondary Expert Teacher sponsored by Salary Packaging Australia

Greg Convery – teacher **Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba**

Greg enlivens and assures the inherent dignity and capacity of each young person who attends GSC through his leadership, teaching and pastoral care. The development of a school-wide Maths program, engaging students in Industrial Technology and Design that prepares them for employment, and coordinating a co-curricular program that includes sport, meditation and tutoring are all strings in the bow of this accomplished and well respected teacher.

Maree Harman – Career Development Practitioner **St Joseph's College, Toowoomba**

Maree's natural ability to mentor, support and encourage both staff and students; and her desire for lifelong learning are what sets her apart. Being able to focus on and bring together cultural, academic, pastoral and spiritual practices and strategies that enable all students to develop their strengths and a deep connection to hope-filled beliefs and values empowers them and makes Maree integral to the success of SJC.

Tammy Banks – teacher (2021 Recipient) **St Mary's College, Toowoomba**

Continuous growth and improvement of self and others are core to Tammy's beliefs and practices. Tammy's communication with parents has built productive partnerships that see each student reach their potential; and through her active participation in community events, build a deeper connection and understanding to inform planning for personalised learning. Professionalism and collegiality are hallmarks of her engagement with staff as she leads the development of programs, evaluates teaching, analyses data and innovates to bring out the best in everyone.



Excellence in Teaching and learning

eLearning

sponsored by Sentral

Leah Dempster – Director of eLearning St Mary's College, Toowoomba

As the Director of eLearning and Director of Special Projects, Leah has been instrumental in embedding a learning management system, 1 to 1 devices program and the new student administration system. A problem-solver and expert practitioner with exceptional people skills, Leah has been recognised as one of the first Lead Teachers in Queensland Catholic Schools by the Queensland College of Teachers.

Rachel Harlen – Year 6 teacher (2021 Recipient) St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Rachel is St Saviour's 'go to' expert for all things digital. She applies her approach of experimentation to learn with new technologies to engage others and put them in charge of their learning journey. As a critical digital user she is deliberate in her choice of digital tools to enhance learning, particularly when personalising learning. With a Microsoft School Transformation Team and STEM program in focus for 2021, Rachel continues to transform practice across the school.

Renee Richardson – Year 2 teacher St Joseph's School, Chinchilla

A key driver of the school's PLC, Renee has engaged teachers to align digital tools and practices across all subject and year levels. Of particular note is the development of digitally designed learning activities that enable students, teachers and parents to track student learning and progress according to learning intentions and success criteria. Her work in modelling and guiding teachers has been shared more broadly with published articles in Teacher Magazine and a presentation at the Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers Conference.





Excellence in leadership

Emerging leader

sponsored by Australian Catholic Superannuation Retirement Fund

Kellie Pritchard – Year 4 teacher and Impact Coach (2021 Recipient) Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba

Kellie's development and delivery of teacher professional development across the Diocese and mapping of dispositions of 'academic excellence' and 'the face of Jesus' for the Mater Dei learning framework are just two examples of her 'going beyond' her role to lead others. Her outstanding practices in effective data and research use, knowledge of curriculum and individual learners and building of relationships that inspire growth make her a quality emerging leader.

Kirstie Andrews – Teacher Librarian and Literacy Improvement Leader St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Kirstie is passionate about life-long learning and has initiated a strategic literacy program at the College, focusing on 7-9 literacy improvement encompassing QAR, reading, comprehension, collaboration and communication. Its success has come as a result of her welcoming of staff and student feedback, sharing and engaging in professional discussions based on research and tested practices and modelling what works. Kirstie is known as an early adopter and innovator and is a valued contributor to the College's continuous improvement.



Excellence in leadership

Middle leadership

sponsored by Australian Catholic Superannuation Retirement Fund

Angela Martlew – Middle Leader **Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba**

Angela has been instrumental in creating a community-wide learning culture focused on Visible Learning pedagogy. Initiating and leading the Visible Learning Team over three years, Angela engaged staff, students and parents in action research to describe what 'learning the Mater Dei way' looks like and embed quality practice. Angela has been recognised for her work with Lead Teacher certification (AITSL) and an Emerging Educational Leadership Award – Pivotal People (ACEL).

Emily Whiting – Program Leader: Professional Learning **St Joseph's College, Toowoomba**

Emily instinctively incorporates Catholic teachings, guidance and support of others as a priority in her high quality leadership. Her ease of connection, integrity and honesty have built strong collaborative relationships with peers and students, enabling her to lead and encourage innovation and new initiatives across teaching, wellbeing and student welfare. Emily has been recognised as a Lead Teacher (AITSL) and with the drive and focus she demonstrates is an exceptional middle leader.

Leisa Radley – Director of Formation and College Culture (Yrs 7-12) **Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields**

Leisa's engagement of students in Study of Religion (SOR) and English through contemporary teaching strategies brings ideas to life and results in high quality assessment pieces. Her deep knowledge of the curriculum and role as a lead endorser for SOR for QCAA demonstrate her commitment to her vocation. Leisa has been instrumental in reinvigorating the Religious life of the school through staff formation, developing and sharing teaching ideas and resources and supporting and initiating social justice activities for students.

Greg Leathart - Middle Leader: Health and Physical Education, Sports and Activities **St Saviour's College, Toowoomba (2021 Recipient)**

Greg's leadership of the sporting life of the College has led to a renewed sense of commitment and engagement by all. With more opportunities across a broader range of sport and recreational activities, spirited participation, pride and visibility in the community has increased. Using his skills of motivation and coaching, his networks, and excellence in teaching practice, Greg is inspiring others, ensuring the standards in HPE are high and expectations to strive for excellence are owned by all.



School leadership

sponsored by Australian Catholic Superannuation Retirement Fund

**Kort Goodman, Joe Cryle, Brendon Willocks, Kerrie-Anne Fellenberg,
Kellie-Marie Ford, Emily Whiting, Karen Tobin, Cate Park-Ballay**
– Executive Leadership Team
St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

As a team dedicated to staff professional growth and learning, the ELT has prioritised building consistency in pedagogical practice and as a result is seeing improved learning outcomes for students. Through the use of 'impact cycles' and the resulting proven, sustained improvements, teachers have a renewed sense of the 'art of teaching' and are building collective efficacy. In concert, expectations for students - academic, pastoral and social - have been articulated in a collectively written framework called 'The Joey's Way'.

Kort Goodman – Principal (2021 Recipient)
St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Kort has led significant, measurable improvements in student learning and teacher efficacy across St Joseph's, St Mary's and Assumption College; all Colleges in which Kort has been a leader. As a passionate advocate for visible learning, bringing school charisms to life, and structuring staffing to maximise effectiveness and efficiency, Kort focusses on all aspects of a quality school. He is equally comfortable leading from the front and as a member of the team, and this models to all his integrity, humility and aspirations.

Luke Barrett – Principal
St Monica's School, Oakey

With an eye to outcomes and understanding of the importance of relationships, Luke's leadership balances the focus on academic learning and wellbeing. Using research evidence, engaging in professional dialogue, modelling teaching, referencing the Benedictine tradition and his own life experiences gives staff, students and parents confidence in Luke as a leader and role model. This has built a strong community, who are living the school's motto of 'Go and do likewise'.

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