



Toowoomba Catholic Schools

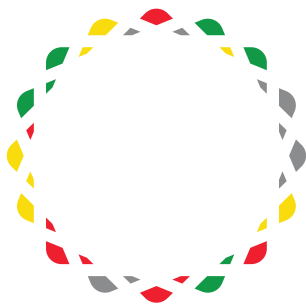
*excellence*  
**A W A R D S**

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**2025**



**Diocese of Toowoomba  
Catholic Schools**



Toowoomba Catholic Schools

# excellence AWARDS

Welcome to the **2025 Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards**  
incorporating the presentation of the *Spirit of Catholic Education Award*.

Sponsored by



Toowoomba Toyota



Diocese of Toowoomba  
Catholic Schools

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# Awards ceremony

PRE-DINNER DRINKS

OFFICIAL WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRAYER

SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

*Recipient for 2025*

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION

*Excellence in education support*

MAIN COURSE IS SERVED

*Alternate drop*

*The Batchelor 200g sirloin, creamed pomme puree, crispy onion rings,  
charred broccolini and Preston Peak Shiraz red wine jus*

*Kiev breast of chicken, honey roasted carrot puree, truffled pomme puree,  
Preston Peaks' truffle red wine jus*

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION

*Excellence in teaching and learning*

*Excellence in leadership*

DESSERT IS SERVED

*Alternate drop*

*Strawberry cheesecake, macerated strawberries, cookie crumble*

*Decadent chocolate black forest gateaux*

EVENT CLOSE

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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.

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## 2025 Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient

### Trish Parker – Assistant Principal Mission and Identity St John's School, Roma

Imagine a place of learning where every child feels welcomed, valued, and truly seen. A place where spirituality is not only accepted but celebrated - where students gather for prayer, service, and to honour their rich Mercy heritage. A place where staff feel supported to teach Religious Education with confidence to explore their own faith journeys.

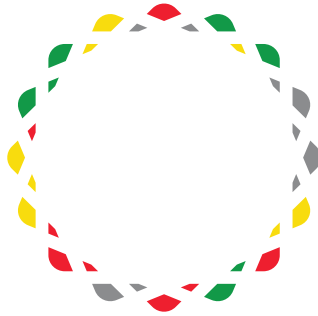
This is the reality at St John's School, Roma, brought to life through the leadership of Trish Parker. Trish has cultivated a community where faith and learning are deeply intertwined and the loving presence of Jesus is encountered daily. Her leadership is grounded in Catholic teachings and the Mercy tradition, creating a culture where faith is lived, not just taught.

Through initiatives like Mercy Day, liturgical celebrations, retreats and staff formation, Trish has embedded spirituality into the fabric of school life. She mentors staff in Religious Education, builds capacity in early career teachers and supports inclusive practices that honour the dignity of every learner.

Her influence extends into curriculum and pedagogy, where she champions Catholic social teaching and inquiry-based learning. Programs like Project Compassion and the Winter Vinnies Appeal reflect her belief that academic success and deep faith formation go hand in hand.

Trish is a trusted presence for staff and students alike - offering compassion, guidance and quiet acts of kindness that reflect the Gospel in action. Through her authentic leadership and unwavering commitment to the Mercy values, she has created an exemplary place of learning where the love of Jesus is known, felt and celebrated.





Toowoomba Catholic Schools

# *excellence* **A W A R D S**

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

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## Excellence in education support

### Teaching and learning support sponsored by SPA - Salary Packaging Australia

#### **Ann McDonald – School Officer: Assisting Student Learning Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba**

Ann is a quiet force of compassion and excellence, whose steadfast dedication to student wellbeing and learning has transformed the lives of countless children and families. With over 20 years of experience as a School Officer: Assisting Student Learning, Ann continues to seek opportunities to retrain and refine her practice, demonstrating her deep commitment to ensuring every child achieves academic success.

Her creativity is a standout feature of her approach. Ann consistently designs innovative, play-based learning activities that engage students in meaningful and enjoyable ways, fostering both emotional and academic growth. She intuitively adapts her strategies to meet individual needs, creating safe, nurturing spaces where children feel seen and supported.

As one family said in their nomination - Ann's calm, proactive presence has been life-changing for our family. She welcomed my son into a new environment with patience and understanding, helping him transition smoothly into his day, engage with learning and grow in confidence. Her support gave us peace of mind during a time of great personal uncertainty.

Approaching every aspect of her role with grace, professionalism, and a strong spirit of collaboration, Ann's input is both respected and sought after. Her thoughtful insights and consistent reliability quietly uplift the entire school community.

#### **Rachel Coggan – Education Officer Education Services, Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office**

Rachel is an exceptional educator whose contributions have significantly shaped teaching and learning across the Diocese. Her leadership in key initiatives - including the Diocesan Approach to Reading (DAR), the Teaching and Learning in TCS Framework, and most notably, the Diocesan Approach to Spelling (DAS) - demonstrates her commitment to aligning research and evidence-based practice with classroom implementation. By leading a team of Education Officers in developing DAS, Rachel not only promoted consistent spelling instruction but also reduced teacher workload, allowing educators to focus on what matters most: effective teaching.

Rachel's strength lies in her relentless dedication to ensuring that every initiative and resource genuinely meets the needs of teachers and schools. Her innovative thinking, paired with a deep commitment to professional learning, enables her to implement meaningful change that resonates across classrooms. Through her collaborative approach and responsiveness to feedback, Rachel fosters excellence in teamwork and service. Highly regarded by colleagues in both schools and the TCS office, Rachel is the ultimate professional - thoughtful, reliable, and inspiring. Her work leaves a lasting impact on our educational community, and she continues to motivate those around her with her passion for education and her drive to improve outcomes for all learners.





## **Administration, finance and facilities support** sponsored by Unisuper

### **Hazel Buckley and Carla McCallum – Finance/Enrolments Officer and Administration Officer** **Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Toowoomba**

From the moment you walk through the doors of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, the school's Catholic identity is beautifully embodied by Carla McCallum and Hazel Buckley. In their roles - Carla in Administration and Hazel in Finance and Enrolments - they extend a genuine, heartfelt welcome to every student, parent and visitor. Their humble service, professionalism and ability to make meaningful connections create a strong sense of belonging that defines the school community.

Carla and Hazel work seamlessly as a team, showing deep respect for each other's roles while sharing a united commitment to the smooth running of the school. Their capacity to foster relationships has a profound impact - not only on daily operations but also on the overall success of student life at Lourdes. Feedback from a recent school review highlighted their presence as consistently respectful, positive, helpful and compassionate.

Their influence goes far beyond their job descriptions. Through their calm, welcoming demeanour and consistent support, Carla and Hazel help shape a school environment where everyone feels valued and cared for. They are the quiet constants who uphold the spirit of Lourdes each day, and their contribution to the life of the school is both lasting and deeply appreciated.

### **Kim Hess – Business Manager and Administration** **St Anthony's School, Toowoomba**

Kim is the friendly and supportive face of the front office at St Anthony's. Her warm presence creates a welcoming environment for students, families and staff alike.

Her adaptability and commitment to growth were evident as she quickly learned a new financial system and provided hands-on training to her administration replacement - all while maintaining professionalism and positivity. Highly efficient in her role, Kim has significantly reduced outstanding school fee debt by implementing consistent processes and maintaining open, non-judgemental communication with all stakeholders.

Kim contributes meaningfully to the development of school improvement plans, ensuring that business operations align with long-term educational goals. A passionate advocate for the school, she plays an active role in the refurbishment and maintenance of facilities at St Anthony's, helping to create a safe and inspiring learning environment. She provides high-quality, valuable support across all areas of school life and has built a strong network of colleagues within the system to share resources and collaborate effectively.

Kim's dedication, reliability and thoughtful approach make her an indispensable member of the St Anthony's community.



Excellence in  
education support

## **Administration, finance and facilities support** sponsored by Unisuper

**Barbara Woods, Deanna Church, Nikki Gallatly and Candy Norris**

**Student Protection team**

**People and Engagement Services, Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office**

The Student Protection team plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students across our schools and colleges. Their clear and comprehensive training empowers all staff to understand their responsibilities, enabling localised professional learning that fosters a cooperative and proactive approach to student safety. Through extensive support for School Student Protection Contacts (SSPCs), and events such as the Student Protection Symposium, the team ensures that staff are well-equipped to respond to complex and often confronting situations with clarity and confidence.

Each member of the team demonstrates exceptional judgement, processing sensitive information and offering measured, respectful advice grounded in policy and best practice. Their guidance is always clear, supportive and pragmatic - balancing the needs of students with the wellbeing of reporting staff. The team is acutely aware of their role in modelling professionalism and diligence, and they consistently uphold the highest standards in safeguarding.

Their work extends to proactive strategies, including education around gender-based and sexual violence, and connecting schools with trusted programs and providers. As an invaluable conduit between schools and external agencies such as the Department of Child Safety, Family and Child Connect and Queensland Police, the Student Protection team ensures staff are informed, supported and empowered to protect every student.



**Diocese of Toowoomba**  
**Catholic Schools**





## **Early career teacher** sponsored by Remserv

### **Abbey Orbansen-Thew – Secondary teacher – Science** **St Joseph's College, Toowoomba**

Abbey is a beginning teacher who has quickly made a strong impression through her professionalism, collaboration, and commitment to student success. Teaching Junior Science and Senior Biology, she's adopted the 'Visible Learning' approach, making learning intentions clear and using feedback and peer reviews to guide and personalise instruction. Her students are more engaged and achieving at higher levels as a result.

She's also shown great initiative in working with colleagues - collaborating with a senior Biology teacher, mentoring non-Science staff, and leading year-level teams.

Abbey's dedication to creating inclusive learning environments is evident in her sensitive and supportive work with a gender-neutral student, ensuring the curriculum was delivered respectfully and safely. Her Professional Growth Plan, focused on strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, reflects her commitment to equity and meaningful change.

Abbey's openness to feedback and her drive to improve underscore her growing leadership within the St Joseph's College ECT Community of Practice. Her ability to balance vulnerability with professionalism makes her a valued and respected member of the team.

### **Amber O'Regan – Year 3-6 teacher** **St Patrick's Primary School, Mitchell**

Amber has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment, compassion, and professionalism in her role as a Permission to Teach teacher. Her thoughtful and inclusive approach has had a transformative impact on her students, particularly those who need extra support. By taking the time to understand each learner's needs, personality, and learning style, Amber creates a safe and empowering environment where students grow in confidence, develop stronger communication skills, and discover a genuine love for learning.

She is especially dedicated to creating positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Amber's work reflects a deep commitment to equity and inclusion, contributing to meaningful change that enhances both teaching and learning across the school community. Her efforts extend beyond the classroom, demonstrating outstanding service to education and the broader community.

Amber's influence is widely recognised as life-changing. Her ability to connect with students, foster a sense of belonging, and inspire a love of learning makes her a truly exceptional early career educator - one who leads with both heart and purpose.



# Excellence in teaching and learning

## Early career teacher sponsored by Remserv

### **Bethany Campbell – Secondary teacher – Science/STEM** **St John's School, Roma**

Bethany brings a thoughtful and evidence-informed approach to her teaching, using formative assessment and feedback to adapt her lessons in real time. Her classroom is active and engaging, and students respond with increased confidence, participation and meaningful progress in their learning.

She's deeply committed to inclusion, using scaffolding and differentiation to support all learners. Bethany creates a space where students feel safe, valued, and encouraged to take risks, ask questions, and share ideas - building a strong foundation for both academic and personal growth.

A great example of her impact is the Sustainability Issues Inquiry project. Students explored real-world challenges, researched topics that mattered to them, and presented their own solutions. It helped them think critically, reflect on their values and understand their role in shaping a better future.

### **Madison Spencer – Prep/Year 1 teacher** **St Maria Goretti School, Inglewood**

Madison brings contagious energy and genuine passion to her teaching, creating a classroom environment that's both vibrant and deeply connected. Her strong bond with students is evident in the way they engage with her and with each other - often working in pairs or small groups to support one another's learning. Her lessons are interactive and hands-on, with role play used to bring real-world situations and subject content, like Religion stories, to life.

She's embraced the Diocesan Approach to Reading (DAR) and the use of Decodable Readers Australia, leading the way with innovative practices like her Fluency Pairs Routine, which was recorded by TCSO to share across the Diocese. Madison often invites students and parents to collaborate, bringing personal experiences and resources into the classroom to enrich learning and build community.

Madison's classroom is more than just a learning space - it's a welcoming hub for students across the school. She ensures it's safe and supportive for everyone, and it's not uncommon to see students from other year levels dropping by in the morning to say hello or spend time there. Her warmth, creativity, and commitment to student success make her a standout educator.





## **Primary/Kindergarten expert teacher** sponsored by JDM Software

### **Chloe Barwick – Year 5 teacher** **St John's School, Roma**

Chloe stands out as a dedicated and inspiring educator whose passion for teaching is matched by her depth of knowledge and commitment to student growth. As a 'PLD Champion', she regularly conducts classroom observations, offering constructive feedback that supports professional learning and strengthens teaching practices across the school. Her ability to teach across a range of year levels highlights her versatility and strong grasp of curriculum, as well as her skill in meeting the diverse needs of her students.

Her approach to education is holistic - Chloe is often seen attending her students' extracurricular activities, showing genuine interest in their lives beyond the classroom. She thoughtfully selects content and pedagogy that encourage students to think critically about complex global issues, helping them develop empathy and a deeper understanding of their place in the world. Her teaching fosters not just academic achievement, but the growth of informed and compassionate citizens.

Currently pursuing Highly Accomplished Teacher (HAT) status, Chloe continues to lead by example. Her collaborative mindset, reflective practice, and unwavering support for both students and colleagues make her a valued and respected member of the school community.

### **Jesse Curtis – Prep teacher** **Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba**

Jesse is a proactive and passionate educator who consistently seeks out current research and curriculum updates to strengthen her teaching practice. Well ahead of the rollout of the Diocesan Approach to Reading, she began exploring the Science of Reading, positioning herself as a leader in early years literacy. Her work with P-2 teachers has been instrumental, and she features in a video included in Diocesan resources - highlighting her role in shaping best practice across schools.

Beyond literacy, Jesse is a leading advocate for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) and a valued contributor to ongoing school improvement. She's presented at multiple professional learning days, supported colleagues, and is always first to offer to mentor UniSQ practical experience students. Her commitment to education was recognised through her nomination to the Queensland initiative Be That Teacher, where she is currently featured on the official website.

Jesse's teaching is deeply connected to wellbeing and the Mercy Values of hospitality, integrity, compassion, and excellence. She helps students link their learning about Jesus to how they live these values in everyday life. Her transition afternoons for incoming families are tailored to the community's needs, offering a warm and informative introduction to school life.



## Primary/Kindergarten expert teacher sponsored by JDM Software

### **Kathryn Lucas – Learning enrichment teacher St Patrick's School, Allora**

Kathryn has played a pivotal role in strengthening early years education, particularly in the area of reading instruction. Drawing on school data since 2022, she recognised the need to shift practice and led staff in adopting the Science of Reading - an evidence-based approach that has already shown promising results. Her observations during small-group interventions, paired with research insights, have helped pinpoint key areas for improvement.

Her leadership has had a wide-reaching impact. Even before the launch of TCSO's Diocesan Approach to Reading, Kathryn was actively supporting educators across the diocese - sharing strategies, modelling effective practices, and offering guidance to a range of stakeholders. Her ability to connect theory with classroom practice has made her a trusted voice in literacy development.

Kathryn's work continues to shape how reading is taught, not just at St Patrick's School Allora, but across the broader education community. Her thoughtful, research-informed approach is helping to build stronger foundations for young learners and lasting change in early years teaching.





## **Secondary expert teacher** sponsored by Visual Focus

### **Anna Jones – Secondary teacher** **St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe**

Anna is a passionate and highly skilled educator whose leadership and innovation have made a lasting impact across both primary and secondary settings. As a champion of the Subject Disciplinary Literacy (SDL) program, she has developed cross-curricular resources, modelled best practices, and supported staff in embedding SDL strategies to deepen student engagement and understanding. Her expertise was featured in the TCS SDL filming project, and she continues to lead professional development alongside the school leadership team.

With a strong foundation in primary teaching, Anna has embraced the transition to secondary education through ongoing collaboration and learning. She mentors Early Career Teachers, guiding them in classroom management, planning and pedagogy through team teaching and lesson observations. Her work in piloting Visible Learning strategies, leading data analytics across the middle school, and co-developing AI tools for student learning reflects her forward-thinking mindset and commitment to growth.

Anna's empathy and care are central to her teaching. She sets clear expectations and routines, managing them through nurturing conversations that build trust and respect. Her influence extends beyond the classroom through initiatives like the Reader's Cup, chess program, and the Satellite Library.

Anna's ability to lead with both innovation and heart makes her an invaluable part of the school community.

### **Peter Keightley – Secondary teacher – Maths and Science and Curriculum Leader – Humanities and Business** **St Joseph's College, Toowoomba**

Peter is a deeply respected educator whose expertise in Maths and Science is matched by his thoughtful and approachable nature. He's known for helping students understand not just how to solve problems, but why the concepts matter - bringing clarity and meaning to learning. Through project-based learning and differentiated instruction, Peter has boosted student engagement and performance, making Maths more accessible and enjoyable for all learners.

His methodical approach to problem-solving demystifies complex ideas, and he's always exploring new ways to build conceptual understanding. Peter generously shares his strategies with colleagues, co-marking and moderating to support professional judgement and consistency. His lifelong learner mindset sets a positive tone across the Department, inspiring others to grow and reflect.

Peter's dedication goes far beyond the classroom. He volunteers for exam setup, offers Maths tutoring in the library, and actively supports early career teachers - investing in the next generation with patience and care. His readiness to step into leadership roles, combined with his kindness and deep knowledge of teaching and learning, makes him an invaluable part of St Joseph's College and the profession as a whole.

## Emerging leadership

sponsored by Schoolzine

### **Eleanor Bradford – Secondary teacher – English and Drama** **St John's School, Roma**

Ellie has had an extraordinary impact on the Arts at St John's School through her leadership, innovation and dedication. She founded and led the senior Drama Club as an enriching extra-curricular opportunity, fostering creativity and confidence among students. Ellie was instrumental in reintroducing Senior Drama to the curriculum, single-handedly developing units and assessments, and serving as the sole senior drama teacher.

Her commitment extended beyond the classroom, as she initiated and meticulously planned the senior Cultural Tour, offering rural students immersive experiences with professional artists in Brisbane. Ellie also engaged Queensland Theatre's 'The Scene Project', integrating it into student learning and assessment, and organised actor-led workshops that deeply enriched student engagement.

As co-director of the school's production of Disney Junior's *Into The Woods*, Ellie helped create a space where students felt valued and accepted. Her influence was pivotal in modelling the importance of the Arts within the school community. In 2025, she continues this legacy as co-director of *The Little Mermaid*, driving increased student participation and introducing Arts-themed shirts to promote pride and visibility. Ellie's tireless efforts have not only elevated the Arts at St John's but have also inspired a culture of creativity, inclusion and excellence.

### **Emily McKay – Year 5 teacher and Behaviour and Engagement Coordinator** **Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Toowoomba**

Emily is a dedicated and inspiring educator. Since 2019, she has actively contributed to school improvement through professional learning teams and strategic project rollouts, including Lighthouse Numeracy, the Writing Improvement Strategy, and the Microsoft Transformation Project. Her efforts have enhanced academic outcomes and strengthened consistency in pedagogy across all year levels.

In 2024, Emily served as Acting Assistant Principal for three terms, where she played a key role in developing and implementing the school's Behaviour and Engagement Framework. Now leading this initiative as the Behaviour and Engagement Coordinator, she continues to support students through targeted strategies, including 1:1 re-entry support that has significantly improved engagement and learning.

Her leadership extended to Acting APRE at St Patrick's School in St George for a period of time in 2023. There she led the initial implementation of Sentral Reporting, streamlining report card systems and guiding staff through the transition.

Emily's ability to engage and inspire others is one of her most remarkable qualities. She mentors teachers, leads professional development sessions and has presented at conferences including TCS Leadership Forums, QAMT, and QELi. Her innovative thinking, data-informed practice, and strong relationships with the parish community reflect a leader who brings faith and expertise to everything she does.

## Emerging leadership

sponsored by Schoolzine

### **James Darlington – Secondary teacher – English and Arts, Head Coach and Site Lead of Liverpool FC International Academy St Ursula's College, Toowoomba**

James is a forward-thinking and deeply committed educator whose leadership spans digital innovation, sport, and cultural connection. He has significantly enhanced staff confidence and capability in ICT through targeted professional development, focusing on safe, reliable tools and ethical use. As a key driver of the College's engagement with AI, James has guided both staff and students in understanding how to access, apply, and critically evaluate AI tools. His involvement in the Toowoomba Catholic Schools AI committee has allowed him to collaborate with colleagues across the Diocese to shape future-focused, ethical practices.

Beyond the classroom, James is Head Coach and Site Lead of the Liverpool Football Club International Academy. He uses sport as a powerful platform to build resilience, respect, and ambition in young people. Under his leadership, player numbers have grown by 120%, and students have gained coaching qualifications.

A proud Kamilaroi man, James is also a passionate advocate for First Nations perspectives. He has led a review of the College's Acknowledgement of Country and actively contributes to community groups like Black Coffee and the Gungai Group, working to build intercultural understanding and meaningful connections between the College and the wider community.

## Middle leadership

sponsored by Toowoomba Toyota

### Allison Busiko – Curriculum Coordinator St Francis de Sales School, Clifton

Allison brings a thoughtful and strategic approach to leadership, driving meaningful change in both teaching practice and staff wellbeing. She leads with clarity and purpose, guiding staff in refining curriculum and organising regular professional development workshops that build capacity and confidence. Her development of school-wide academic progress plans, paired with data-driven feedback, has enabled teachers to identify learning gaps and tailor their instruction to meet student needs.

When the school transitioned to a new spelling approach, Allison proactively coordinated resources, mentored staff, and modelled best practices to ensure a smooth and successful shift. She champions a school culture where student learning is at the heart of every decision, advocating for project-based learning and real-world applications that make teaching meaningful and engaging.

Allison also understands that the wellbeing of staff directly influences student success. She prioritises open communication, mentorship and flexible planning sessions that encourage collaboration and shared workload strategies. Her staff wellbeing initiatives - including team-building activities and regular check-ins - foster connection and morale. By actively listening and responding to concerns, Allison ensures that staff feel respected, supported and inspired. Her leadership creates a learning environment that is not only academically strong but also inclusive, connected, and deeply impactful.

### Amanda Kilgour – Head of Faculty: Science and Technology St Ursula's College, Toowoomba

Amanda is a proactive and visionary leader whose impact on the College community is both profound and far-reaching. Her leadership in STEM has opened exciting new opportunities for students, reinvigorating the Science and Technology curriculum with innovative programs and hands-on experiences. From developing the Agricultural Science program to launching initiatives like Cows Create Careers, the Agricultural Immersion Program in St George, the Raising Hy-Line Hens Competition, and Drones in Agriculture, Amanda has brought learning to life - quite literally - with poddy calves, hens and hatchlings creating joy and curiosity across the campus.

Her classroom practice is grounded in meticulous planning and a commitment to personalised learning, ensuring every student is engaged and supported. Amanda also organises enriching excursions and presentations, including the Year 9 trip to the Bunya Mountains, sessions with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and the QUT Science Week Hackathon. Her embrace of emerging technologies, including AI, reflects her forward-thinking approach to education. Amanda's leadership is both empathetic and empowering. She sets clear goals, sources innovative professional learning opportunities and fosters a collaborative, supportive environment for staff. Her dedication to responsive pedagogy and inclusive learning continues to inspire those around her, making her a driving force in shaping a vibrant and future-focused school culture.



## Middle leadership

sponsored by Toowoomba Toyota

### **Kate McAuley – Curriculum Leader: English and the Arts** **St John's School, Roma**

Kate brings clarity, purpose, and a deep commitment to excellence in her leadership at St John's School. She has led the implementation of Subject Disciplinary Literacies (SDL) with vision and precision, delivering a rigorous four-day professional development program that built a shared understanding and consistent practice across Years 7–12. Her support has extended beyond training, with classroom walkthroughs, coaching and hands-on assistance in planning, helping staff embed SDL strategies into everyday teaching. Her efforts have earned the school recognition as a Lexis Education Certified School, a testament to her dedication and expertise.

Through regular classroom observations, Kate provides thoughtful mentoring and feedback, helping refine instructional practices while fostering trust and respect. She leads with a collaborative spirit, celebrating the strengths and successes of her colleagues through personalised notes, emails and acknowledgements at morning briefings.

Teaching and learning are at the heart of her vision, reflected in her Bridge Action Plan focused on improving NAPLAN and external results. Her belief in education as a collective effort is evident in the strong partnerships she builds with families, recognising their vital role in student success.

As the leader of the social club and wellness committee, Kate also brings people together through book clubs, shared meals and after-school gatherings - creating a ripple effect of positivity and motivation.

### **Louise Pevy – Middle Leader: Primary Curriculum** **Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby**

Louise is a dedicated and people centred leader whose impact is felt across the College. Her passion for education and care for her team have helped create a thriving environment where both students and staff feel supported to grow. She played a key role in designing the Rapid Action Plan for the rollout of the Diocesan Approach to Reading (DAR) across P–6 and has led the implementation of the Back to Front Maths approach, resulting in impressive gains in student achievement and engagement.

Louise leads with integrity and by example - setting high standards in her own classroom and supporting others to do the same. She meets regularly with teachers, parents, and leadership to share data and plan next steps, always with a focus on what's best for students. Her involvement in professional networks and collaboration with Education Officers keeps her practice current and forward-thinking.

What truly sets Louise apart is her genuine care for others. She checks in regularly with her team, offers support when it's needed, and creates space for professional learning and wellbeing. Whether she's organising PD sessions, mentoring staff, or volunteering for netball and the College musical, Louise brings warmth, wisdom, and a deep commitment to helping others flourish.



## School/Kindergarten leadership sponsored by Hayball

### **Libby Rosentreter – Principal** **Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba**

Libby is a truly transformative leader whose heartfelt dedication to her community has shaped the College into a vibrant and inclusive place of learning, growth and belonging. Her visionary approach to holistic education embraces both academic achievement and spiritual development, ensuring that every student is supported to thrive. Through empathy, strong communication, and a deep commitment to equality, Libby fosters a culture where collaboration, adaptability and inclusivity are at the core.

Her leadership is grounded in innovative, evidence-based teaching strategies and a strong belief in personalised learning. Libby champions professional collaboration among staff and uses data-driven decision-making to uplift all learners, providing the support they need to succeed. Her ability to engage students from all backgrounds and empower them to reach their potential is a testament to her skill and compassion.

Libby's profound faith and empathy radiate through every action she takes. She creates a space where every student feels seen, heard, and valued – a sense of true belonging. More than a leader, Libby is a guiding light within the College community. Her work inspires those around her and deserves the highest recognition for the lasting impact it continues to make.

### **Rodney Spain – Assistant Principal: Senior Years** **Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby**

Rod is a humble and highly respected leader whose commitment to data-informed teaching has significantly strengthened student outcomes and staff capability. He regularly mentors teachers in accessing and interpreting academic summary data, PAT, and NAPLAN results through the Sentral Insights and Analysis platform. This ongoing support has empowered staff to tailor their teaching strategies more effectively, leading to improved engagement and achievement for students from Years 9 to 12.

Rod fosters a collaborative culture where best practices are shared and professional growth is encouraged contributing to stronger retention of staff in senior years. His leadership has also enabled staff to take on roles as confirmers, endorsers, and external markers with the QCAA - one-third of the senior teaching team now take on this role. His ability to motivate students to strive for excellence and his support for emerging leaders has created a positive culture of challenge and care.

At the heart of Rod's leadership is a deep sense of compassion and connection. He knows every student by name and integrates hope-filled beliefs and values into daily school life. His focus on building belonging ensures that both staff and students feel seen, heard, and valued. Rod's efficiency, empathy and focussed support make him an integral part of the College community.



## School/Kindergarten leadership

sponsored by Hayball

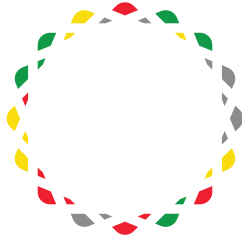
### **Tyronne Maher – Principal** **Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba**

Ty is a visionary leader whose commitment to academic excellence is grounded in deep faith and compassion. Under his guidance, students thrive not only academically, but also socially and spiritually. His leadership is marked by evidence-based innovation and strategic implementation, always with the goal of ensuring every student feels known, loved, and supported in their journey - both in learning and in faith.

Ty led the comprehensive rollout of the Australian Curriculum Version 9 and spearheaded a whole-school shift to the Science of Reading. Through thorough training and ongoing support, staff embraced the new approach with confidence, and two were later recognised as exemplar practitioners within the Diocese. Early literacy growth in the lower grades is already evident, reflecting Ty's future-focused leadership and commitment to sustainable improvement. His leadership style empowers others - setting high expectations while providing the support needed to meet them.

At the heart of Ty's leadership are the Mercy Values of Hospitality, Integrity, Compassion and Excellence, which are actively woven into student recognition, staff meetings, assemblies and decision-making. His dedication to staff wellbeing is equally strong, with the entire team trained in the Berry Street Education Model. This trauma-informed approach has transformed classroom climates and strengthened students' sense of safety and belonging.

Ty's understanding of human connection and his ability to inspire have made a profound impact - reaching not just minds, but hearts.



Toowoomba Catholic Schools

# *excellence* AWARDS

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