



Diocese of Toowoomba  
Catholic Schools

# HEART ON COUNTRY

## WEAVING CULTURE, FAITH AND LEARNING

# PROGRAM

Version 2 (10/02/2026)



# HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 1: BUNYA MOUNTAINS

## WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2026, 7.00AM – 5.00PM

7.00am - 7.30am	Registration and bus travel to Bunya Mountains, including information booklets and activities			
9.30am	<p><b>Welcome to Queensland First Nations Catholic Education Conference - Heart on Country</b>  Tawana Carmody, <i>Education Officer: First Nations Education, Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS)</i></p> <p><b>Welcome to Country</b>  Shannon Bauwens  <i>Traditional Owner - Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i></p> <p><b>Welcome from Toowoomba Catholic Schools</b>  Dr Pat Coughlan, <i>Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Diocese of Toowoomba</i></p> <p><b>Opening prayer</b>  Most Reverend Ken Howell, <i>Bishop of Toowoomba</i></p>			
10.00am	MORNING TEA			
10.30am Rotation 1	<b>Connection to Country</b> Shannon Bauwens <i>Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i>	<b>Christian meditation</b> Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick <i>Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe'</b> Tawana Carmody <i>Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Water ceremony at Paradise Falls</b> Paul Carmody <i>Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i>
	<b>Collaborative artwork</b> TBA <i>First Nations Artist</i>	<b>Weaving</b> Lisa - Red Sands Sister	<b>Rainforest walk - Dandabah</b> Murri Rangers	<b>Clap stick making</b> Murri Rangers
11.30am Rotation 2	<b>Connection to Country</b> Shannon Bauwens <i>Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i>	<b>Christian meditation</b> Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick <i>Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe'</b> Tawana Carmody <i>Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Water ceremony at Paradise Falls</b> Paul Carmody <i>Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i>
	<b>Collaborative artwork</b> TBA <i>First Nations Artist</i>	<b>Weaving</b> Lisa - Red Sands Sister	<b>Rainforest walk - Dandabah</b> Murri Rangers	<b>Clap stick making</b> Murri Rangers
1.30pm	LUNCH			
2.00pm Rotation 3	<b>Connection to Country</b> Shannon Bauwens <i>Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i>	<b>Christian meditation</b> Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick <i>Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe'</b> Tawana Carmody <i>Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i>	<b>Water ceremony Paradise Falls</b> Paul Carmody <i>Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i>
	<b>Collaborative artwork</b> TBA <i>First Nations Artist</i>	<b>Weaving</b> Lisa - Red Sands Sister	<b>Rainforest walk Dandabah</b> Murri Rangers	<b>Clap stick making</b> Murri Rangers
3.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA			
3.15pm	Bus travel to Toowoomba, including reflection			
5.00pm	Day 1 concludes			
6.30pm	<p><b>Brush of Country</b> (optional activity) - create your own First Nations artwork  20 people maximum</p> <p>To book, please email <a href="mailto:firstnationsconference@twb.catholic.edu.au">firstnationsconference@twb.catholic.edu.au</a></p>			



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# HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 2: TOOWOOMBA

## THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026, 8.00AM – 5.00PM

8.00am	Registration			
8.30am	<p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> <i>Toowoomba Catholic Schools students</i></p> <p><b>Opening prayer</b> Most Reverend Ken Howell, <i>Bishop of Toowoomba</i></p> <p><b>Welcome from Toowoomba Catholic Schools</b> Dr Pat Coughlan, <i>Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Diocese of Toowoomba</i></p> <p><b>Welcome</b> <i>Catholic Education Queensland Limited (CEQL)</i></p>			
8.50am	<p><b>Introduction</b> <i>Luke Carroll, MC</i></p>			
9.15am	<p><b>Keynote</b> Noel Pearson <i>Advisor, Founder of Cape York Partnership and Good to Great Schools Australia</i></p>			
10.30am	MORNING TEA			
11.00am Rotation 1	<p><b>School Language program</b> <i>St Patrick's School, Mitchell and St Joseph's School, Tara</i></p>	<p><b>Pedagogy of difference</b> Tammi Webber <i>First Nations Systems Learning and Teaching Adviser</i> <i>Townsville Catholic Education</i></p>	<p><b>Listening to the voices and visions of First Nations peoples on school leadership</b> <i>Antionette Cole</i></p>	<p><b>Aboriginal Spirituality – Christianity, the Bible and education</b> Brooke Prentis <i>First Nations Christian Leader, Educator and Poet</i></p>
12.00pm Rotation 2	<p><b>School Language program</b> <i>St Patrick's School, Mitchell and St Joseph's School, Tara</i></p>	<p><b>Pedagogy of difference</b> Tammi Webber <i>First Nations Systems Learning and Teaching Adviser</i> <i>Townsville Catholic Education</i></p>	<p><b>Listening to the voices and visions of First Nations peoples on school leadership</b> <i>Antionette Cole</i></p>	<p><b>Aboriginal Spirituality – Christianity, the Bible and education</b> Brooke Prentis <i>First Nations Christian Leader, Educator and Poet</i></p>
1.00pm	LUNCH			
1.40pm	<p><b>Keynote</b> Kelly Humphrey <i>Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) at Australian Catholic University</i></p>			
2.30pm	<p><b>Reflection connector and Q&amp;A Yarning circle</b> <i>Luke Carroll, MC</i></p>			
2.45pm Rotation 3	<p><b>Embedding First Nations Perspectives in the Early Years</b> Jessica Staines <i>Koori Curriculum</i></p>	<p><b>Truth Telling</b> Dr Mark Copland <i>Mission Executive</i> <i>St Vincent de Paul Society</i></p>	<p><b>Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) First Nations Education</b> <i>St Saviour's College, Toowoomba and Sacred Heart Primary School, Cunnamulla</i></p>	<p><b>Emerging Leaders</b> Tammi Webber <i>First Nations Systems Learning and Teaching Adviser</i> <i>Townsville Catholic Education</i></p>
3.45pm	AFTERNOON TEA			
4.00pm Rotation 4	<p><b>Embedding First Nations Perspectives in the Early Years</b> Jessica Staines <i>Koori Curriculum</i></p>	<p><b>Truth Telling</b> Dr Mark Copland <i>Mission Executive</i> <i>St Vincent de Paul Society</i></p>	<p><b>Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) First Nations Education</b> <i>St Saviour's College, Toowoomba and Sacred Heart Primary School, Cunnamulla</i></p>	<p><b>Emerging Leaders</b> Tammi Webber <i>First Nations Systems Learning and Teaching Adviser</i> <i>Townsville Catholic Education</i></p>
5.00pm	Day 2 concludes			
6.30pm	<p><b>Soiree at Burke and Wills Hotel</b> (additional cost to attend - \$90) <i>Canapes and live entertainment</i> <i>Smart dress code</i></p>			



# HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 3: TOOWOOMBA

## FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026, 8.00AM – 2.00PM

8.00am	Registration
8.30am	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> <b>Opening prayer</b> <i>Toowoomba Catholic Schools students</i>
8.45am	<b>Keynote</b> <i>TBA</i>
9.55am	<b>In the 'Yarning circle'</b> - share thoughts, listen deeply, reflect and act from your engagement in this conference <i>Luke Carroll, MC</i>
10.10am	<b>Weaving paper hearts</b> <i>Reflection activity</i>
10.30am	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11.00am	<b>Keynote</b> <i>Most Reverend Tim Norton, Bishop of Broome and Erica Bernard, Community Liaison Officer, Catholic Education Western Australia</i> Connection between Catholic identity and First Nations Spirituality
12.00pm	<b>Forum panel</b> <i>Brett Greinke, First Nations Education Officer, CEQL, Most Reverend Tim Norton, Erica Bernard and First Nations students</i>
12.30pm	<b>Closing Mass</b> <i>Most Reverend Ken Howell, Bishop of Toowoomba</i> <b>One Voice</b> <i>St Ursula's College choir</i>
1.45pm	<b>Conference closure</b>
1.55pm	<b>GRAB and GO LUNCH</b>

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