



Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools

HEART ON COUNTRY

WEAVING CULTURE, FAITH AND LEARNING

PROGRAM

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



HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 2: TOOWOOMBA

THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026, 8.00AM – 5.00PM

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



HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 3: TOOWOOMBA

FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026, 8.00AM – 2.00PM

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

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