



SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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JON SOROAN

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOODRIDGE
ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Jon Soroan has worked in Catholic Education for more than 25 years.

Jon is currently the Community Hub Worker at St Paul's Primary School, Woodridge, a school that truly embraces its many nationalities.

He is an invaluable conduit between the Community Hub, located in the school grounds to provide a range of programs and services tailored to the needs of local families, and the school community.

Jon is a tireless and passionate advocate for the students and families in the school who are in need and builds hope in community members, encouraging them to achieve more.

He goes above and beyond to work with parents and students, to provide them with love and care and

often, the basic elements of life.

Constantly engaged in making life better for those in our community who are struggling, he is a passionate advocate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and new arrival families to our school and is responsive to their personal needs.

Jon builds relationships with members of the community and treats everyone with justice.

Jon carries the Josephite Charism of St Paul's to "never see a need without doing something about it" on his sleeve.

Jon is a man of justice and love and through his care of those in our community, he embodies what it means to be a Catholic and a follower of Jesus in the 21st Century.



ANN BARR

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE
DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Committed, Connected and Courageous was the theme of this year's Safeguarding Children Conference and these three words describe the attributes of Ann Barr.

As the Cairns Diocese Student Protection Officer, Ann is committed to providing schools with timely, accurate, informed, succinct information on child safety issues.

She is highly respected by our primary school and secondary college Counsellors, Principals and Student Protection Officers for her wisdom and calm attitude. Our school communities appreciate the many ways Ann shares her knowledge and expertise and her positive approach to often difficult issues. One of Ann's strengths is her ability to connect and network with parents, teaching and administration staff and the Cairns Diocese.

It takes courage to stand up for the vulnerable and Ann is brave enough to care every single day.

She demonstrates that she is passionate about ensuring that children are free from harm and that schools and the Catholic Church respond appropriately. She listens non-judgmentally and reminds us of the importance of following legislative policies.

Knowing that Ann is available to assist our schools from Cardwell to the Torres Straits is reassuring.

Ann always upholds the dignity of all people. We know that she will continue to create a safer future for all children.

Ann Barr is a committed, connected and courageous Student Protection Officer.



YVONNE McDONALD

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MOUNT ISA
DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

Yvonne McDonald has demonstrated outstanding service to others in the Catholic education community through a long association with Mount Isa's three Catholic schools as both a school officer and committed volunteer.

Yvonne's children and grandchildren have attended Catholic schools and Yvonne served as an early years' school officer at St Joseph's Catholic School from 1987 to 2006.

Retirement has seen Yvonne's efforts turn to volunteering, clearly a passion and a way for her to continue helping her beloved schools, church and wider Mount Isa community.

Yvonne has been a mother-figure and surrogate grandmother to many staff from our Catholic schools, and their children, providing 'family' in a community where many young families are isolated.

Many attest to the sense of calm that she creates, with her warm embrace and genuine love and care.

Yvonne is a regular volunteer in the parish office and a member of St Vincent de Paul Society, assisting with emergency relief. Her most recent endeavour sees her volunteer with the CAMS program, a service supporting migrant women in Mount Isa.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, Yvonne was the driving force behind the Million Stars project in our schools and parish, contributing thousands of ribbon stars which were displayed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

We sincerely thank Yvonne for her continued presence in our school, parish and broader community.



GAIL JAMIESON

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART, SPRINGSURE
DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

As a much-valued school officer, Gail is an integral part of the community at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Springsure, in Queensland's central highlands.

Gail is instrumental in providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children, while at the same time helping the teachers wherever possible.

Her commitment to the community and students at Springsure shows no bounds and her work at Our Lady's is a vital contribution to making the school a stimulating and supportive environment for students.

Gail often goes above and beyond the call of duty, spending her weekends running errands, watering gardens, checking on staff or emailing pictures she has taken throughout the week to families.

Nothing is too much trouble for Gail and she will never say no, seeking out things to do for others without a second thought.

Gail is instrumental in recognising teachers' contribution to children's learning on World Teachers' Day. Each year she organises the entire student body to make a unique gift for each teacher and these gifts are presented at a special assembly.

Gail is an extremely active member of the parish and community who epitomises Catholic Identity and serves all in the Catholic education community of Our Lady's.

She gives true testament to 'Living Our Lady's Way'.



CECILY FITZPATRICK

MATER DEI PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA
DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

Cecily makes Jesus real to staff, students, community and all who know her. She possesses a gentle yet powerful presence causing all in her company to feel safe and nurtured.

The true value of this wonderful gift is evident by the life-giving relationships she establishes.

Cecily is a conciliatory and uplifting voice in our community, standing for justice, hope and optimism in a unique way that brings people of diverse backgrounds, opinions and experiences together.

Her commitment to Catholic education and keeping each child as the central focus is evident in all her actions, from each little daily interaction to her involvement in developing Religious Education curriculum documents.

Cecily embodies the school's Benedictine value "Listen with the ear of the heart."

During her 35 years of service with Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, Cecily served as Assistant Principal Religious Education at a number of schools where she has forged deep connections between the school and parish and been instrumental in ensuring each child knows the face of Jesus and believes they are themselves the face of Jesus.

She gives total commitment to all she is involved in, from parish councils to grounds committees. Her sense of community guides her actions while the pride she takes in being part of community energises those around her to collectively build something bigger than an individual could alone.



ANNETTE CAMPBELL

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, SHORNCLIFFE
EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

In her role as the Head of Curriculum - Exceptional Learners, Annette has led St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, in developing an excellent program for students with different learning needs and abilities since 2015.

She has worked in Catholic education for more than 20 years as a classroom teacher and leader of services to students with particular learning needs.

At St Patrick's and previously at Southern Cross Catholic College, she has been creative in her approach to making space for all learners and her wisdom and sense of compassion exemplifies the best values of Catholic schooling.

Annette's expertise in working with students with learning needs is second to none, she is recognised as a leader in her field.

She is an outstanding example of a teacher who improves teaching and learning in the school community and supports greater equity in education.

Annette's work for her students is motivated by a strong sense of justice that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with quality learning.

Her passion for equity has led her to be an advocate for students, a leader within the College and an educator of other teachers about how to make space for students with particular needs.

Annette exemplifies the Spirit of Catholic Education, motivated by a strong sense of justice and seeking the best for all students.



ROSEMARIE DWYER

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, SPRINGFIELD
AUNTY JOAN HENDRIKS RECONCILIATION AWARD

Rosemarie has done outstanding work in being an advocate for, and a constant support to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families in the community.

Her role extends right across the P-12 context of St Augustine's College.

In her two years in the role of Support Teacher: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students there has been a marked increase in the attendance and engagement of students with the College.

Rosemarie has implemented the *Deadly Choices* program into the college and has created the time and space for yarning circles, allowing families the opportunity to form stronger partnerships with the school community. For those students who are

disengaged she is a consistent and caring support to help build confidence to re-engage in learning.

In 2018, for the first time, the college has created a student leadership role for a Year 12 student who holds the role of the First Nations Student Leader. Rosemarie was extremely passionate about this role to ensure there is a voice and role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from within the student cohort.

Rosemarie's contribution to staff professional learning has also brought about a renewed emphasis on embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the curriculum. In all things, Rosemarie is a humble, tireless teacher who often gives her own time to support the engagement and learning of students.