

Inspired name for new Catholic College, innovative design underway

Background

Cairns Catholic Education is partnering with James Cook University to open an innovative and contemporary secondary college on the university's Smithfield Campus.

The proposed co-educational facility will be the Diocese's 30th school and is on track to open in 2022 with Year 7, progressively adding a year level until Year 12 is reached in 2027.

College Name – Newman Catholic College

The college has been named! Newman Catholic College was officially announced by Bishop James Foley on 13 December 2019 after a comprehensive process of community consultation and discernment.

It has been named after St John Henry Newman who was an educator, theologian, scholar and poet, priest (first Anglican and later Catholic) and cardinal.

One of his most influential works, *The Idea of a University*, espouses the role of a university 'to educate the intellect to reason well in all matters, to reach out towards the truth and grasp it'. He emphasised the need for a respectful relationship between a university and the Church, with each maintaining their independence.

With such a scholarly and insightful background, what an appropriate name for a Catholic college set within a university campus!

Franciscan Charism

Newman Catholic College will embrace a Franciscan charism based on the spirituality of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi.

Read more about the Franciscan Charism and its relevance today to teachings of Pope Francis at cns.catholic.edu.au/naming-and-charism

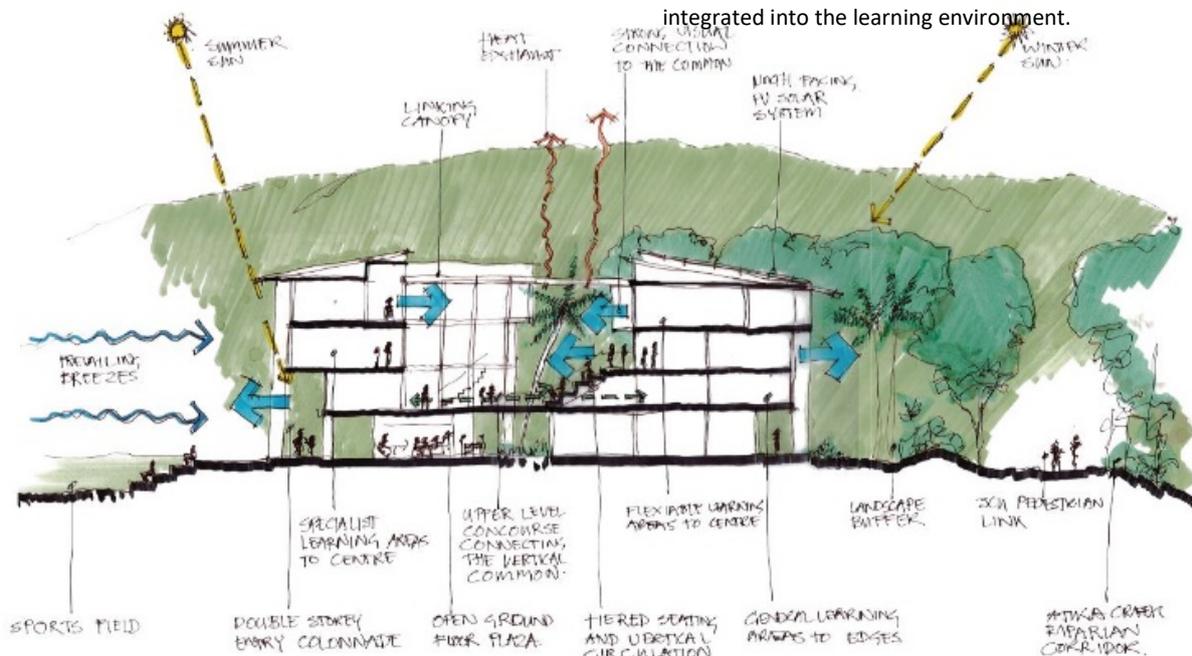
Design concepts

The proposed college will sit on a beautiful site on the campus of James Cook University, surrounded by rainforest-covered mountains, Atika Creek and a sports oval. The compact site is one of the inspirations for college architects (Roger Mainwood, Edi Piagno and their team from TPG Architects) to design a multi-level school which will be an exemplar of world class, contemporary, twenty-first century education design.

Spread across four levels, the design concepts prioritise the balances between indoor/outdoor and active/passive learning areas as well as the immediacy of open spaces. The design concepts also blur traditional learning zones, creating open and collaborative learning environments to provide flexible teaching spaces that can be adapted to future needs and changes in educational pedagogy, and will facilitate a myriad of new opportunities for both teachers and students.

The Master Plan envisages a double-storey entry colonnade, open ground floor plaza, cafeteria, general and specialist flexible learning labs/collaboratories, upper level concourse connecting the vertical common, global learning hub, tiered seating spaces and vertical circulation, and a second-floor enclosed and air-conditioned sports/assembly hall with fixed tiered seating ... a lively and dynamic place! Sustainability is also an important consideration in the college design which includes solar panels and design features and orientation to reduce energy requirements.

Embedded health and wellbeing principles have also influenced the design response, with generous visually connected internal spaces, abundant natural light, access to landscape views, provision of quiet retreat and nook spaces and staff spaces all integrated into the learning environment.



Inspiration for the college's contemporary, twenty-first century education design has been drawn from examples such as those on this page.



Consultation

Community consultation continues to be a valuable element of the college design process. A successful Community Listening Forum was held in October 2019 and more recently a design feedback session was held with Cairns Catholic Education staff in February 2020.

As insightful and imaginative critics of school design, students from several Cairns Catholic colleges and Holy Cross Primary School will provide feedback on the preliminary design of Newman Catholic College at **Holy Cross Primary School, Reed Rd Trinity Park from 2.00 - 3.15 pm on Thursday, 19 March 2020.**

College Design

The exciting college design will be shared with the community on **Thursday, 30 July at the Cairns Institute, JCU Cairns Campus, McGregor Rd.** All are welcome.

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The Community Consultative Committee provides a community sounding board on matters relating to the development of Newman Catholic College.

Business items this year will include the college master plan, vision, values, motto, logo, uniform principles and communication and marketing considerations.

The committee met for the first time in November 2019 and will meet once per term in 2020. CCC members are: Dr Andrea O'Brien (Cairns CE), from JCU - David Craig, Satine Winter and Juanita Sellwood, Sarah Hamilton (Principal, Holy Cross School) and community members - Melanie Emmerick, Cassy Kelly, Amy Williams, Kate Fabian, Barbara Montague, Nicole Goodwin and Mary Camilleri.

Please contact members of the committee if you have any questions in relation to the new college by emailing newman@cns.catholic.edu.au

Partnership with James Cook University (JCU)

Newman Catholic College will be the first Catholic college in Australia to be co-located on a university campus. It is an exciting and challenging opportunity for both JCU and Cairns Catholic Education to develop partnership programs which are successful, sustainable and mutually beneficial.

A JCU-Cairns CE Education Task Group has recently been established to explore programs which will blur the lines between secondary and tertiary education by creating pathways or channels into tertiary studies for students in all Cairns Catholic secondary colleges as well as opportunities for JCU students in industry placements and work-integrated learning.

Dr Andrea O'Brien welcomed

Dr Andrea O'Brien joins Cairns Catholic Education as Director of School Effectiveness for Cairns Catholic Secondary Colleges. Andrea has extensive educational experience and qualifications and is delighted to be involved in the process of establishing the new college, together with Dora Luxton.

Dora, who was acting in the role before Andrea's appointment, will continue in a project management capacity to focus solely on the development of Newman Catholic College.



Dr Andrea O'Brien



Dora Luxton

Capital Application

In March 2020, Mark Stallman (Manager, CE Planning and Building) will submit the capital grant application for Stage 1 of the college's Master Plan. This is an extremely important milestone for the development of the college.

The next steps in the process include:

- the design stage continuing
- the Queensland Catholic Education Commission Ministerial recommendation for funding being advised in August, and
- the tender process for construction and Ministerial approval being advised in December 2020.

After the successful completion of these processes, construction of the college will take place in 2021, with the college being open for its first intake of students in January 2022.

Future communication: via newman@cns.catholic.edu.au

Further information: www.cns.catholic.edu.au/newman