

Media Release: Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards – A Passionate and Inspirational Community

The outstanding educators and staff at Toowoomba Catholic Schools have been celebrated at their annual Excellence Awards, held on November 2.

The awards identify and showcase practitioners who model, demonstrate and live excellence in their roles, all day, every day.

This year close to 100 nominations from across the Toowoomba Diocese were received.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools said “We are privileged to have an outstanding staff who believe in and are committed to inspiring young people to learn and reach their full potential.”

“They work alongside volunteers and support staff to create a system of schools that is united, connected and progressive.”

“This year’s recipients consistently bring the best ideas and innovations to their teaching, leadership and educational support.”

“It is through their efforts and influence, that we continue to provide excellent educational experiences, pastoral care and community connections across our 31 schools. ”

“We thank all of our finalists and recognise the invaluable contribution they make to both staff and students’ lives,” said Dr Coughlan.

One of the award recipients of the evening was Madonna Sleba, who was awarded Excellence in School Leadership, and was delighted to have won the award.

Ms Sleba is the Principal of St Saviour’s Primary School and is an experienced and effective leader who has achieved improved student learning outcomes and a created a positive work and learning culture at the school.

“As a leader I am committed to the Catholic vision coupled with a strong understanding of the curriculum, pedagogy, people and my faith,” said Ms Sleba.

“I believe that all are welcome and that their voices should be heard and ideas considered.”

“My leadership team are encouraged to be creative and decisive and I am very confident in their abilities,” said Ms Sleba.

“It is through great team work that we can achieve great things in our schools so I have my entire team to thank for their support, work and commitment to educating our students.”

“I also receive support from the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and it is wonderful to be part of such a strong network of schools in the Toowoomba Diocese,” Ms Sleba said.

Thank you goes to the award sponsors for 2022 including Frontier, Black Canvas, RemServ, Pulse Software, Hayball Architects, Schoolzine, Australian Catholic Superannuation and Toowoomba Toyota.

The awards covered ten categories across three areas. The award recipients are listed below.

Excellence in education support

Teaching and learning support

Andrea Gormley, Middle Leader Learning Support, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Administration, finance, and facilities support

Kirsty Gillett, Business Manager, Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Volunteer support in a school setting

Anita Crawford, Parents and Friends Committee president, St John's School, Roma

Excellence in teaching and learning

Early career teacher (less than 3 years of teaching experience)

Lilly Daly, Year 5/6 teacher, Sacred Heart Primary School, Cunnamulla

Primary expert teacher

Kristen Bennie, Year 3 teacher, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Secondary expert teacher

Lisa McPherson, Chemistry, Physics, Science and Maths teacher St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

eLearning

eLearning collective from Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby, St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office - Matt Brown, Rod Spain, Paul Herbert, Mary Roberts, Tyron Fraser, Joanna Holden and Joseph Shorter

Excellence in leadership

Emerging leader

Kirstie Andrews, Teacher librarian and Literacy improvement leader, St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Middle leadership

Rebecca McGregor, Middle leader and Assistant Principal: Religious Education, St Monica's School, Oakey

School leadership

Madonna Sleba, Principal, St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba (Acting Director: Education Services at TCSO)

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Please find all the captioned photos of the winners

here: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/iy891svpvpvw06205zys/h?dl=0&rlkey=cicq157kuijaq1pnz0ij03l3m>

Please find more information about all the finalists and recipients

here: <excellenceawards2022finalistsandrecipients.pdf> (twb.catholic.edu.au)