THE WORK OF ACSSQ IN 2015

COMBINED CONFERENCE

The committee is looking to have a combined conference in 2017 and, as such, a conference committee has been formed. This group will meet early in Term 4 to put proposals and ideas together to make the 2017 ACSSQ Conference an inviting and rewarding experience for our members. The aim is to bring together fellowship to all members of the Association and highlight the value of Catholic secondary education in Queensland.

If you have any ideas regarding the possible themes then please email our President, Kerrie Tuite, tuitk@mta.qld.edu.au. In addition if you think there is a particular needs that should be addressed at the conference, please let the committee know. Dates will be a factor and we are looking forward to generating a comprehensive conference program that will enliven the hearts, minds and spirits of those who attend.

Members of the Steering committee are Kerrie Tuite, Christine Clarke, Alison Stone, Kathryn Janovsky, Paul Mead, Maree Rose, plus one member from each sub-committee group.

TRAVELLING SCHOLAR

In addition 2016 will be a year where we have a travelling scholar who will present in each of the five dioceses across Queensland. Our last travelling scholar, Steve Francis, was well supported and offered an opportunity for Catholic leaders within the Diocese the chance to get together.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(ASREAP)

InspiREd FOR MISSION

From Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 July, 56 delegates from throughout Queensland gathered at Mantra Mooloolaba for the annual ASREAP Conference.

This year, the theme - InspiREd - provided scope for the exploration of the identity of Catholic schools, the central role of staff and student formation in enhancing the identity of Catholic schools and personal stories of inspiration that can shape our emotional intelligence for leadership and passion for service within our school communities.

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr Kevin Lenehan, explored the various dimensions of the ministry of Catholic educators. Firstly, he articulated the reality of the pluralisation of religious and non-religious identification in Australia and the changing context of contemporary school communities. Secondly, using the theoretical framework of the Enhancing Catholic School Identity research project, he identified the challenges faced by schools in this context. Finally, Kevin illustrated how ‘Identity in Dialogue’ can engage staff members and the whole school community in developing an intentionally Catholic school ethos.

This year, our after-dinner speaker and presenter of our Friday conversation was Anthony Anderton, photographer, writer, presenter, traveller and coordinator of the Art from the Margins, a creative initiative of Wesley Mission Brisbane that supports the disadvantaged and socially isolated.

In addition to our conference program this year, we were fortunate to be joined by three inspiring speakers: singer and songwriter Steph Unger; husband, father and living inspiration Matthew Ames; and Loretta Coman, coordinator of the Special Religious Education program in the Toowoomba diocese.

Three workshop streams - spirituality, leadership and curriculum - were facilitated by Catherine Foley, Education Officer, Staff Formation and Leadership at Brisbane Catholic Education; Simon Mahaffy, Education Officer, Catholic Identity and Leadership at Brisbane Catholic Education; Geraldine Swindells, APRE at St John Fisher College; Danny McCormick, APRE at Assisi Catholic College; Dr Jim Gleeson, Professor of Identity and Curriculum at Australian Catholic University; and John Clarke, DP at Mission Lourdes Hill College.

Our Chaplain-in-Residence, Fr John Boyd-Boland, teacher/chaplain at Padua College Kedron, led us in morning prayer, celebrated the conference Mass and, in the final address of the conference, discerned the salient challenges posed by the conference speakers.

We extend our sincere thanks to each of our speakers and facilitators for their preparation and input. They provided much to ponder and certainly inspired us further in our roles.

Richard Rogusz
ASREAP President

CONFERENCE REPORT

The 2015 CaSPAQ Conference was hosted at Mackay’s Ocean International Resort August 11th to 13th this year. The theme of the conference was Impolite Conversations - Re-engaging with Religion and Politics.

We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear a good Catholic is not interested in politics.

This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.

(Pope Francis 9/16/13)

The format for our biennial conference was changed in substantial ways this year. The conference timing was designed to coincide with public holidays for the Brisbane Exhibition with the Friday following the conference being designated as a travel day to enable delegates to visit in the Mackay-Whitsunday area if their schedules allowed. The other significant difference in the conference format was that keynotes were reduced to 45 minute sessions with significant time to be kept in each session for table discussion and questions and answer opportunities.

Each keynote speaker had a specific question that they were addressing. For example Archbishop Mark Coleridge in the opening keynote addressed the question - “In an era where the moral authority of the Church appears to be declining, how do we rebuild our credibility and influence in political circles?”

Other presenters included immigration lawyer, Reuben Saul, Dr Mark Copland from the Social Justice Commission, Dr Kevin Donnelly from ACU, Luke McKenna (Founder UPP), Dr Wayne Tinsey (EREA), Michelle Webster (eSmart Schools), and former speaker in the Queensland Assembly Hon. John Mickel. The final formal session of the conference was a Q & A style panel led by Edna Galvin with keynote speakers on Thursday afternoon. Bishop Greg O’Kelly from Port Pirie was unable to attend due to illness. His paper was read and discussed.

The conference was opened by Miss Leesa Jeffcoat AM, Director of Rockhampton Diocesan Education and Cr Deirdre Comerford (Mayor of Mackay). Bishop Michael McCarthy (Bishop of Rockhampton) welcomed delegates and Archbishop Mark on Wednesday morning.
Many delegates and sponsors went on a tour of Cape Hillsborough on Wednesday evening and all attended a dinner at the Elmeo Hotel where they viewed the magnificent sunset and some passing whales. On Thursday evening the conference concluded with the conference mass led by Fr Stephen Hanly (Dean of Mackay) and the conference dinner at the Clarion Hotel. After some pre-dinner quiz games the main event was a lively debate - “That the principal is a waste of space.” The debate was very entertaining and the conference concluded on this very high note.

Nearly sixty delegates attended including local clergy. The conference was well supported by our sponsors.

DPAPA, CON’T

Luke McKenna presented the work he has developed in teaching student groups about positive mindsets. Faiza El-Higzi from the Romero Centre shared her faith and educated the delegates as to some of the considerations of teaching Muslim students in our Catholic schools and the conference rounded off with Claude Jones and Jacqui Wilton from the QCAA updating the delegates on the Australian Curriculum implementation and Dr Tim Kitchen, who challenged us to use IT in creative ways in the classroom.

All in all, the conference was a very successful event and was a wonderful time to share professional practice, establish and renew friendships and enjoy the company of those with whom we share a common role across the state. Even Pat Cash made an unexpected surprise visit! What more could you want from a conference?

At the AGM the following members were voted into office for the 2015/16 year: Paul Mead (President), Wayne Chapman (Vice President), Paul Bennett (Treasurer), Carmel O’Brien (Secretary) and Committee Members Edna Galvin, Liesl Profke, Michael Darcy and Craig Frattini. Many thanks to those who had served on the Committee during the previous year for their work and efforts in helping to make the conference this year a wonderful success: Anthony Elmore, Ashley Smith, Malcolm Jones and Candi Dempster.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ASREAP) LIFE MEMBERS

At the ASREAP Conference Dinner on Thursday 23 July, the association formally inducted three life members: Dan Cooper, Jim Hanley and Keith McCourt.

Dan Cooper contributed 24 years of service to Religious Education in Catholic schools in Queensland. Dan was APRE at Clairvaux MacKillop College from 1986-1991, Chisholm College from 1992-2003 and St Francis College from 2008-2013. During this time, Dan has also promoted the profession in his role on the ASREAP Committee and as ASREAP President.

Jim Hanley has been involved in ASREAP since 1996 when he was APRE at Emmaus College in Rockhampton. He continued his involvement while APRE at St Ursula’s Yeppoon and as the RE Consultant, Secondary Colleges at DCEO. Jim served as an ASREAP committee member for a number of years. He has been committed to the important role that ASREAP and its annual conference plays in the development of those in the role of APRE both personally and professionally and he is known by many within the association. Jim has delivered workshops at the annual conference. Jim announced his retirement at the end of 2014 to spend time with family and to travel.

Keith McCourt is a recognised leader of Religious Education who has had a long involvement with ASREAP and its predecessor, ASREC. Keith commenced teaching in Queensland at Nudgee College in 1981, was RE consultant and APRE at St Columban’s College, Albion from 1983-1986 and RE consultant at Brisbane Catholic Education from 1987-1992. During his time at BCE, Keith had responsibility for the development of retreat programs within diocesan schools. Keith returned to the classroom in 1993 at Clairvaux MacKillop College before taking up the role of APRE at St John Fisher College in 1994. From 2001-2010, Keith was APRE at Southern Cross Catholic College. While Keith currently works for the Australian Catholic University, his retirement from secondary teaching at the end of 2010 brought to an end his long association with ASREAP, after a period of 25 years. While Keith never held a role on the ASREAP Executive, he advocated a shared leadership model for the association. More broadly, Keith has been involved in AARE (1981-1988), panellist for SOR with the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies and Chair of sub-committees for Religion and Ethics and Regional Panel Chair.

We congratulate our new life members on their achievement.

Richard Rogusz
ASREAP President

MORE FROM THE 2015 CASPAQ CONFERENCE

LIFE MEMBER, KEITH MCCOURT

AVE ATQUE VALE
DINNER

DATE  Friday 30 October 2015
LOCATION  Rydges South Bank
9 Glenelg Street
South Brisbane Qld 4101

WELCOME DRINKS 6:00PM
DINNER 7:00PM

Come along and join fellow leadership team to welcome those new to the team and farewell those move to our schools or retiring. On the night we will recognise World Teachers’ Day.

Why not take the opportunity to attend the dinner and take time by staying at Rydges overnight. Rydges is offering a 20% discount off the best available rate at the time of booking. Plus enjoy a discounted breakfast offer in Bacchus restaurant of just $30.00 per adult per night, discounted from the retail price of $39.00

More details will be emailed to you by our secretary, Mr Paul Mead.

LIFE MEMBER, KEITH McCOURT