



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

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| 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 <i>Tawana Carmody, Education Officer: First Nations education, Toowoomba Catholic Schools</i> Welcome to Country <i>Shannon Bauwens</i> Traditional Owner - Jarowair, Wakka Wakka Welcome from Toowoomba Catholic Schools <i>Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Diocese of Toowoomba</i> Opening prayer <i>Most Reverend Ken Howell, Bishop of Toowoomba</i> | | | |
| 10.00am | MORNING TEA | | | |
| 10.30am Rotation 1 | Connection to Country <i>Shannon Bauwens Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i> | Christian meditation <i>Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe' <i>Tawana Carmody, Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Water ceremony at Paradise Falls <i>Paul Carmody Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i> |
| | Collaborative artwork <i>TBA First Nations Artist</i> | Weaving <i>Lisa - Red Sands Sister</i> | Rainforest walk - Dandabah <i>Murri Rangers</i> | Clap stick making <i>Murri Rangers</i> |
| 11.30am Rotation 2 | Connection to Country <i>Shannon Bauwens Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i> | Christian meditation <i>Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe' <i>Tawana Carmody, Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Water ceremony at Paradise Falls <i>Paul Carmody Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i> |
| | Collaborative artwork <i>TBA First Nations Artist</i> | Weaving <i>Lisa - Red Sands Sister</i> | Rainforest walk - Dandabah <i>Murri Rangers</i> | Clap stick making <i>Murri Rangers</i> |
| 1.30pm | LUNCH | | | |
| 2.00pm Rotation 3 | Connection to Country <i>Shannon Bauwens Traditional Owner Jarowair, Wakka Wakka</i> | Christian meditation <i>Paul Grealy and Lyndal Rick Education Officers: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Ecological spirituality 'Sparks of the universe' <i>Tawana Carmody, Education Officer: First Nations Education and Lee Ann Weekes Education Officer: Mission and Identity, TCS</i> | Water ceremony Paradise Falls <i>Paul Carmody Senior Cultural Lead University of Southern Queensland</i> |
| | Collaborative artwork <i>Kim Walmsley First Nations Artist</i> | Weaving <i>Lisa - Red Sands Sister</i> | 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

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



HEART ON COUNTRY DAY 3: TOOWOOMBA

FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2026, 8.00AM – 2.00PM

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| 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 <i>Most Reverend Tim Norton, Bishop of Broome</i> Connection between Catholic identity and First Nations Spirituality |
| 12.00pm | Forum panel <i>Tawana Carmody, Most Reverend Tim Norton, First Nations students</i> |
| 12.30pm | Closing Mass <i>Most Reverend Ken Howell, 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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