As I See It

WITH third term comes the beginning of the second school semester. Routines are in place, school life is in full swing, students are engaged. It begins in the cool of winter and finishes with the glorious promise of spring (and lost property bins overflowing with forgotten jumpers).

It also seems to have become one of the busiest times of the school year when once upon a time it possibly provided some breathing space. In the past 10 weeks our schools have engaged in all manner of learning experiences and celebrated local, national, and in this Olympic year, international events.

International events have also led new students to our doors with refugee families from Iraq and Syria welcomed into the school communities of St Joseph’s School, Bracken Ridge, Holy Spirit School, Bray Park and St Flannan’s School, Zillmere. World Youth Day saw 20 staff make a pilgrimage to Krakow in Poland to join thousands of young pilgrims from around the world gather in this Year of Mercy. And in Brazil, a number of current and former students have represented Australia in the Olympics and Paralympics. The recent canonisation of St Teresa of Calcutta was another significant international event providing great cause for celebration, particularly at Mother Teresa School, Ormeau.

Nationally, the third term provides us with Science Week, Book Week and National Literacy and Numeracy Week, all of which were well celebrated in schools.

And then, there are the local events. Two very significant anniversaries have been acknowledged. Our “Joey” schools joined with the rest of the Archdiocese in celebrating the sesquicentenary of the Sisters of St Joseph. A combined schools’ choir of over three hundred students provided the choral accompaniment at the St Mary of the Cross Feast Day Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen, and a new song was written, performed and recorded by teacher Mary Fletcher and students of Mary MacKillop College Nundah to mark the Joeys 150 years. The Mary MacKillop Walk in the Cathedral grounds was blessed and opened and is well worth a visit.

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan also celebrate 100 years of service to the Brisbane Archdiocese in 2016 and this milestone was marked with a special liturgy and reception for the Sisters involving staff and students from schools with the Good Sam charism. We truly stand on the shoulders of all who have gone before us in Catholic education and we treasure the part these religious sisters have played in our communal story.

Locally this term, science, technology, engineering and maths learning has had a big focus in primary and secondary classrooms alike, with the STEM acronym now part of our lexicon. Schools have engaged in writing a book in a day (WABIAD) - a much less familiar acronym, painted murals, enjoyed sports days and cross country running, supported social justice initiatives, participated in musical festivals, hosted launches such as Road Safety Week and much more, all against the backdrop of Term 3’s business as usual. Stories on the following pages attest to this.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment and energy in enabling such a diversity of learning experiences for our students.

Pam Betts
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Brisbane
THE newest staff member at Our Lady of the Angels' School, Wavell Heights, may not say much, but he is a great listener, according to students.

He’s also great for pat, hugs and cuddles.

The school introduced Barkley the Story Dog to help students who needed that extra bit of confidence in their reading.

They also use him as a Therapy Dog for students who might be feeling a bit anxious while at school.

Barkley, a Bichon Frise, has caused quite a bit of excitement, not only amongst students, but also parents while walking around the school.

Owner Janelle Horgan, a Year 5/6 teacher at the school, said Barkley, who attends school three days a week, loves all the attention.

“He has become quite accustomed to getting up, making his bed and getting ready for his day at school,” she said.

“Also to watch the smiles spread across the students’ faces as the see him coming, it’s just amazing.”

Janelle said the Story Dog program worked best for students who were beginning readers, but lacked confidence.

She said it provided them with a safe, friendly and fun environment so they can discover that reading is magic – “it can be fun, interesting and of course, relevant”.

“It’s very therapeutic, very calming for the students.”

Year 3 student Grace Leddy said she loved reading to Barkley.

“He just sits there while I’m reading and he gives me confidence and he doesn’t judge me.

“And I get to give him treats once we’re finished,” she said.

Janelle said the school had witnessed dramatic changes in the students’ confidence through the program with students who once were reluctant to read in class now standing up and reading at assembly.

For Guidance Counselor Keira Roffey-Mitchell, Barkley added a new dimension to her work with students who might be finding school a bit stressful.

Through the Delta Therapy Dog training Barkley completed, Keira was able to integrate him into the programs she used with students.

She said the presence of Barkley at these sessions added to a positive, social and low-stress learning environment.

“What fascinates me about Barkley is he seems to know what to do with the child,” she said.

“Sometimes the child doesn’t want to touch or hold him, then he’ll just sit at their feet.

“Other times when he’s picked up he relaxes and this causes the child to relax too.

“He seems to have this innate knowing of what that particular child may need.”

“It’s the most incredible thing I’ve ever seen,” she said.

Year 5 student Grace Moore said she just loved cuddling Barkley whenever she saw him.

“He makes me feel safe,” she said.

Barkley loves being part of the school community, according to Janelle.

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Barkley loves being part of the school community, according to Janelle.

“He loves being with the children and loves interacting with them.”

She said the Story Dog program was something other schools should consider.

“But it needs to be a trained dog.

“Not all dogs are suited to the program.

“I think it’s something I’d like to see grow through BCE,” she said.
Book Week celebrated

St Peter Chanel, The Gap’s Principal Margo Carwardine with Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey who helped launch the school’s latest student-produced book titled Our Crazy Community.

Staff at Saint Mary’s Catholic College, Kingaroy, put on a performance of Wombat Stew for younger students.

Students at St Ignatius School, Toowong, dressed up as their favourite characters from their favourite books.

Assisi Catholic College students dressed up for a Book Week parade based on this year’s theme ‘Australia! Story Country’.

St William’s School, Grovely, got into the spirit of Book Week as characters from Banjo Paterson’s books and poems.

Brisbane Bronco’s player Tom Opacic reads to students at Holy Spirit School, Bray Park.
School commemorates canonisation

AS Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint in Rome, in the suburb of Ormeau, on the Gold Coast, Mother Teresa School marked the occasion in their own special way.

The school, which only opened its doors six years ago, began celebrations with prayers led by Parish Priest Fr Joseph Kanatt.

Staff and students reflected on the life of Mother Teresa and the ways she continued to influence people to follow in Jesus’ footsteps, to do small things with great love each day.

Assistant Principal for Religious Education Kathleen Crawford said as she witnessed the massive gathering of people in Rome for the canonisation, she felt it was something the students would never forget.

“I don’t think they really understand the uniqueness of the occasion,” she said.

“But they do understand, in the context of our school, that it’s a day of joy and celebration.”

She said it also was an auspicious occasion for the school’s foundation students.

“It’s really special to be here right from the beginning of a school’s life, but to add a canonisation to that is even more remarkable,” she said.

Foundation student Brianna Livingstone said it was “cool” to be part of the world-wide celebrations of the sainthood of Mother Teresa.

Jesuits recognised for service

ST Ignatius School recognised 100 years of the Jesuits in the Toowong parish and a decade of service by Fr Peter Quin at a special celebration.

During Mass the school unveiled a beautifully crafted plaque of Mary MacKillop, created by Phillip Piperides as a constant reminder to: ‘Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It’.

Principal, Roycelyn Wilden said it was great to celebrate the outstanding service by the Jesuit Priests in the Toowong parish and school.

In particular, she said they gave thanks for the service of Fr Quin who has nurtured the hearts, minds and spirits of all in the community and beyond.

“Fr Peter’s work is widespread, from his purposeful and productive work in the school through leading liturgies, celebrating Masses and his welcome ‘high fives’, to the establishment of the ‘Women’s Night of Spirituality’ and his special ministry in families, celebrating the Sacraments of Marriage and Baptisms for parishioners.

Roycelyn said the community was truly grateful for the many Jesuits who had served the school and for their “leading us into a deeper understanding of God’s love as we continue to aim for the ‘Magis’ the more, the better, the greater, in offering all of our worldly deeds for the Greater Glory of God”.

Student Georgia Betts said the Mass was really special, especially the slideshow that recognised all Fr Peter’s work with the school and parish.
Celebrating a lasting legacy

STAFF and students from St Columba’s School, Wilston, were on hand to help the Good Samaritan Sisters celebrate 100 years of service to Catholic education in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

During a special Mass, Archbishop Mark Coleridge paid tribute to the Sisters for the way they had lived the Gospel parable of their name.

“The Sisters of the Good Samaritan have heeded the Rule of Benedict in listening with the ear of the heart, listening to the Word of God,” he said.

“In so doing they have become the Word of God for others.”

Brisbane artist Maureen Vander Zalm later presented the sisters with an etching entitled ‘A Hand Up’ at a later cocktail reception.

BCE Executive Director Pam Betts described the work as “a thoughtful, yet powerful piece, requiring the viewer to interpret the simple depiction of two clenched hands”.

“In Catholic education, we acknowledge with gratitude and great sincerity the work of all who have gone before us,” Pam said.

“These linked hands represent that partnership.”

Good Samaritan Congregational Leader Sister Clare Condon said it was important to remember and honour, “our ancestors, who, 100 years ago, came to Brisbane as religious women and educators”.

“This is the heritage on which we now build our hopes and dreams today,” she said.

Families sample classwork

STUDENTS at St Kieran’s School, Brighton, showcased samples of class work to families during the school’s Celebration of Learning.

Principal Marissa Clark said the school prided itself on student learning successes.

She described the event as “a wonderful opportunity for families to appreciate the context and scope of their children’s learning experiences”.

She explained how the Celebration of Learning gave students an opportunity to engage with their community as learners, instilling in them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

“Every classroom in the school was opened up to families before and after school on the day, with students able to present their learning tasks,” she said.

Tracey McManus, mother of twins Tom and Victoria, said she loved seeing what her children had achieved and the joy in their faces when she walked into their classrooms.

“It is such a great opportunity to witness milestones in their education,” she said.
Birthday reply a natural surprise

WHEN students at St John’s College, Nambour, sent 90th birthday wishes to David Attenborough they never expected to hear back from him.

However, they not only received a hand-written letter from their favorite documentary maker, but also a copy of the birthday card photo they sent him came back with a special message.

The exciting episode began for the students when Science/Religion teacher Bridget Ashton suggested a “David Attenborough party” to her Year 11 Biology students, complete with cupcakes.

She said they created a “happy birthday” message with a photo and sent it off to the UK.

Year 11 student Lily Campbell said there was not one person in the Biology class who did not love David Attenborough and watching his programs, which she said were always enjoyable and educational.

Lily said so it was only fitting the class should wish him a happy 90th Birthday. However, she said, to get a reply from the man himself, a hand written letter and a signed photo was exciting and meaningful.

Miss Ashton said they planned to have the items framed and placed in the Science building.

Cupcakes for Catholic Campaign

STUDENTS at St Augustine’s School, Currumbin Waters, kicked off Brisbane Archdiocese’s annual Catholic Campaign with an Olympic Themed Cupcake day.

Dressed in sporting clothes for the day, students devoured more than 250 green and gold cupcakes and raised more than $300 for the campaign.

Students were keen to dress as their favourite Olympic athlete with a large number in the traditional green and gold colours.

Also popular were local surfing stars.

Principal Warren Fields had previously explained to students and parents about the purpose of the archdiocese’s annual Catholic Campaign.

He told them it was started to provide support, in the form of bursaries, to students who may otherwise not be able to attend a Catholic school.

The school’s Mini Vinnies, who sold the cupcakes, were surprised at the appetite of the preps, who alone purchased more than 60.

APRE Diane Anderson said St Augustine’s students were happy to help others to be able to experience a Catholic education.
World Youth Day in Poland an experience never to be forgotten by BCE staff pilgrims

“It’s impossible to not be touched by Pope Francis. His mere presence draws millions of people from all over the world, and as one catechesis speaker described it “still draws more of a crowd of young people than Justin Bieber.”

WYD Pilgrim Alana McDonald, Education Officer – Resourcing BCEO

“I feel as though I now have a deeper understanding of the term ‘once in a lifetime’.”

WYD Pilgrim Ashleigh Beattie, Teacher at St Francis College, Crestmead

“The atmosphere and energy when you are surrounded by 2.6 million others who are all there to share their faith is incredible, and hearing Pope Francis speak was amazing.”

WYD Pilgrim Amy Gibson, Acting APRE at St Joseph’s School, Gayndah

“Pope Francis’ stillness and devotion filled me with a very special peace that I hope I can carry back into my community.”

WYD Pilgrim Sarah McDonald, APRE at Christ the King School, Deception Bay
“On our walk (back from the opening Mass) people were crying out for the Pope, it felt like a soccer world cup with every nation - instead we were all on the same team.”

WYD Pilgrim Belinda Grey, Teacher at St Finbarr’s School, Ashgrove

“It was wonderful to be united with youth in faith, seeing the future clergy leaders and various expressions of worship.”

WYD Pilgrim Kristen Garrett, Teacher at St Augustine’s College, Augustine Heights

“Throughout our pilgrimage we walked over 200kms and 287,229 steps.” I walked this journey with so many from all over the world and I feel that this experience has been such a rich blessing, that has renewed and strengthened my faith and an experience that I will cherish for a lifetime.”

WYD Pilgrim Jess Marshall, Teacher at St Joseph’s School, Murgon
College renews Lasallian commitment

SOUTHERN Cross Catholic College (SCCC), Scarborough, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lasallian Mission Council (LMC) to recommit to the Lasallian charism and vision for education for the next five years.

Originally signed in 2005, the memorandum formalises the relationship between the college, the De La Salle Brothers and the LMC.

The LMC provides spiritual formation, youth ministry and staff professional development to the college.

The college is the only Lasallian Associated School in Queensland.

Principal Brett Horton said the college lived out the charism and values of the founder of the De La Salle Brothers, St John Baptist De La Salle, each and every day.

“Three hundred years ago De La Salle saw the need to educate all people, not just the rich,” Mr Horton said.

“He wanted all people to grow in faith which in turn leads to service and which then builds community.

“This is something we do very well at Southern Cross Catholic College and will continue to do under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding.”

As a Lasallian Associated School, the college continues to have a close relationship with the De La Salle Brothers who live in residence on the college grounds and who regularly volunteer within the college community.

Mary MacKillop College, Nundah, launched a new CD dedicated to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.

Friends, old and new, were encouraged to “listen to the heartbeat of the world” during the launch of the CD, which featured a song originally written by teacher Mary Fletcher.

Mary wrote the song Heartbeat to celebrate the Sisters of St Joseph’s sesquicentenary year with the lyrics encapsulating the best values of the sisters and also what the community of Mary MacKillop College stood for.

She said the words were inspired by the sisters’ sesquicentenary logo for the special occasion: “Listening to the Heartbeat of the World”.

Mary said it was a song to unite the world.

“It is a song which encourages the world to embrace our differences and live in unity and acceptance, with reverence for all lives and things of nature.

“This is the perfect soundtrack for schools, church groups, community choirs, anyone interested in singing for a better world,” she said.

Former Mary MacKillop College principal Josephite Sr Janet McDougall said it was fantastic to be part of such a historic occasion both for the college and the Josephite Sisters.

The CD also featured a unique cardboard packaging, a deliberated choice by the college to make it carbon neutral.
A NUMBER of schools across the Brisbane Archdiocese rolled out the welcome mat to a group of newly-arrived humanitarian refugees from the strife-torn Middle East.

St Joseph’s School, Bracken Ridge, Holy Spirit School, Bray Park, and St Flannan’s School, Zillmere opened the doors of Mercy to the families from Iraq and Syria.

A group of five Christian refugee children – including Year 3 twins Aram and Afram Khudur – are already making friends at St Joseph’s School.

“Our children are really showing these boys love – showing them around and helping them fit in,” Principal Gary Creevey said.

“They come from different backgrounds and have learnt different amounts of English.

“But they have settled in beautifully,” he said.

The boys were amongst a group of 40 Christian families settling in across Brisbane with enthusiastic support from parishioners and local Catholic schools.

Their safe arrival in Brisbane was a story of courage, prayers for peace and renewal.

Many of the families fled their villages, destroyed by Islamic fighters, leaving with nothing.

Some have spent the years in refugee camps in Jordan.

The 20 refugee families settling in Bracken Ridge and nearby Bray Park fled from the city of Mosul and the Plain of Nineveh in northern Iraq, which was once a valley full of Christian villages.

Over at Holy Spirit School they ‘Opened our Doors of Mercy’ to 17 refugee children from Iraq and Syria.

APRE Kim Barrett-Coade said the refugees were settling in with help from the two school officers, who both spoke Arabic.

“We have since enrolled four more refugee students, which we see as a blessing for all,” Kim said.

“Our principal, Jeff Hall was inspirational in allowing these children from overseas into our school.

“Our ESL teacher Jenny Hendriks, along with Kym Prentice, worked tirelessly with both BCE and the school in developing not only a curriculum for these children, but ensuring that the transition from home to classroom has been smooth,” she said.
Teacher help students learn in new way

A PASSION for educating future generations in hospitality skills has earned Unity College, Caloundra West, teacher Shaun Morris a Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

The former commercial chef received the award for initiating a program and/or activity in response to a need. Shaun identified a need for senior male students, who were disengaged or at risk of dropping out, to have a clear focus and practical outlet as part of their schooling.

As a qualified chef he initiated, developed and implemented the ‘Barista Boys’ program.

The aim was to help these students develop high level and real life hospitality skills, giving them career direction, work placement and life skills.

Barista Boy Lachie Meyer said it was a real achievement for him to make the program as there were only a limited number of places each year.

“Mr Morris has shown great faith in me by giving me a place in the program,” he said.

“I am extremely grateful as it has greatly enhanced my career prospects here on the Sunshine Coast.”

Unity College Principal Greg Myers, who nominated Shaun for the award, said his passion for young people, especially those at risk, made him a highly competent and effective innovative educator.

“Shaun’s passion for engaging with students at risk and his willingness to work with these students to overcome difficulties has been the real life-blood of the program’s overwhelming success,” he said.

Mural captures Catholic Identity

STAR of the Sea School, Cleveland, has created a new mural to highlight its Catholic identity.

Using inspiration from Psalm 147 – 4

“He Counts the Stars and Calls Each by Name”, two local artists set about capturing the image on a school wall through the significant mural.

Parents Cara Bujeja and John Fox designed the mural to highlight the uniqueness of the school’s Catholic identity.

“When conceptualising the design for the school’s mural I wanted to ensure I kept true to the sentiments in the Psalm,” Cara said.

“I was also eager to represent elements of our parish and school’s community.

She said the 26 letters of the alphabet also were symbolised in the stars to acknowledge all children at the school.

“Each star is different to represent the beauty of diversity in our community,” she said.
**Olympic moments celebrated**

CELEBRATIONS at St Columban’s College, Caboolture reached Olympic proportions when current and former students won gold in Rio.

The community first cheered on as former student Evania Pelite scored a try in Australia’s triumph over New Zealand in the women’s rugby gold-medal game in the Rio Olympics.

Those cheers rang out again when Year 12 student Lakeisha ‘Lucky’ Patterson claimed Australia’s first gold medal at the Paralympics.

Not only did the 17-year-old debutant, who has cerebral palsy, win the 400m freestyle swimming (S8) final, she also set a new world record and Personal Best (PB).

She defeated former world record holder and long-time idol, Jess Long, from the US.

The American’s congratulatory words to Lakeisha reflected the spirit of the Games.

“Jess said she was really proud of me and can’t believe how well I’ve done, and I really appreciated that,” Lakeisha said.

“I did not think my first Games would end up like this.”

Lakeisha, who began swimming at age three as a form of physical therapy to help with her cerebral palsy, later scored another gold medal in the Women’s 4x100m Freestyle Relay.

St Columban’s Acting Principal Cathy Galvin said the whole college and wider Caboolture community was proud of Lucky’s achievements.

“She displays great commitment to her swimming and great commitment to her school work,” Cathy said.

“She instils in the college the sense that anything is possible with hard work and determination,” she said.

“She works very hard to balance her school commitments and her sporting commitments.”

Cathy said the win had put the college ‘on the map’ globally.

“We can all share in her achievements - we take some pride in how we have supported her for five years in ways such as our Mentor Academy Program where we support all our high achieving sport/cultural students,” she said.

**New flavour to tuckshop menu**

THE tuckshop menu at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, Springfield Lakes, has taken on a new flavour with Chef David Pilgrim at the helm.

David, a parent at the school, has more than 16 years’ experience as a chef, mainly in a la carte restaurants.

In 2016, David took on the responsibility of running the Mercy Hospitality Centre (tuckshop) at Good Shepherd.

In Term 3, he worked alongside teachers and a number of Year 5 students in the Food Technologies Strand of the Technologies Curriculum (ACARA).

Together they planned, prepared, cooked and served more than 100 meals on the last day of term.

Principal Judith Seery said the students prepared the entire menu for the school day, both morning tea and lunch.

“Along with a variety of fruit, students prepared gluten free sultana muffins and cocoa rock cakes for morning tea,” she said.

“Lunch consisted of honey soy chicken kebabs, sausages and a garden salad.”

She said some of the produce in the salad came from the gardens at Good Shepherd, which were also planned and developed by students.
TWO high achievers from BCE schools were among recipients of this year’s Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education.

The prestigious awards, named after Professor Peter Doherty, a Brisbane-born Nobel Prize winning scientist, recognise students, teachers, support officers, schools and education partners who demonstrated an outstanding and innovative contribution to STEM education in Queensland.

St Peter Claver College, Riverview, student Sahamar Ruben picked up the Outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Senior STEM Award while Griffyn Goodall from Siena Catholic College, Sippy Downs, took home the Outstanding Senior STEM Student Award.

Sahamar said she felt honoured to be nominated and to receive such a prestigious award.

“I was encouraged by many teachers to apply for this award and I am extremely glad I did,” she said.

“I feel very privileged to receive the award and am excited to see how it benefits me in the future.”

St Peter Claver Principal Niall Coburn said it was a fitting reward for Sahamar.

“I could not be more pleased for Sahamar who, as a proud Torres Strait Islander woman, does much to assert the beauty and capability of our young women and young men in the achievement of Mollum Sabe in its fullest context in our college,” he said.

Griffyn said winning the award and the $5000 that went with it inspired him to go further in the STEM area.

Griffyn said winning the award and the $5000 that went with it inspired him to go further in the STEM area.

Griffyn, who plans to study in the electrical engineering area and has a particular interest in mechatronics/robotics, said the $5000 would help with the financial pressure that his, like all parents, experienced when their children went to a University away from their home town.

Siena Maths curriculum leader David Thiess, who encouraged Griffyn to apply for the award, said it was fantastic that students like Griffyn who were gifted in the STEM area of studies did not always get the recognition they deserved.

“Often we are able to give immediate reward to students with sporting/cultural ability when they perform whilst those in the academic tend to have to wait for recognition and reward,” he said.

“Anytime I have the chance to recognise/push/encourage/support somebody to do what I love I will take it.”

David said Griffyn was a gifted, natural mathematical thinker and had a strong work ethic to match.

“He has interests in science and mathematics outside the confines of the school setting.

“He has lead from the front when representing our school in mathematics tournaments and scientific competitions,” he said.
Students meet idols at launch

NEW Guinean captains and coaches, during a launch at Suncorp Stadium.

During the launch the students were involved in clinics, face painting and advertising shoots for the world cup marketing campaign.

Principal Matt Beacroft said it was an amazing experience for the students.

He said the students worked hard during the six-week skills training and were rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime experience which had them kicking bombs with current Queensland and Australian Captain Cameron Smith on the pitch at Suncorp Stadium.

“It was an amazing experience for all the students and hopefully in the 2033 world cup we will see some of our male or female students on the big stage inspired by the day,” he said.

Building relationships in the pool

IN the chilly depths of Term 3, as the Sunshine Coast Secondary Schools Water Polo competition began, three Catholic schools took the opportunity to build interschool relationships between students and teacher coaches to develop water polo skills.

With the support of Kawana Aquatic Centre Manager Steve Miller, students from St Teresa’s College, Noosaville, Siena Catholic College, Sippy Downs, and St John’s College, Nambour, trained and played friendly matches over four weeks leading up to the big event.

Alessia Cerasani of St Teresa’s, who gained Australian representative honours for the past two years, coached drills for beginning players and refereed the friendly games.

The four weeks culminated in the inaugural Catholic Water Polo Cup.

The winner was decided from nine fast-paced 10 minute games between the three school’s open teams as well as a staff team.

Most of the staff had never played before and there was a great atmosphere as students encouraged them from the sidelines.
New team joins BCE community

A NEW team has started with BCEO this year, heralding an exciting evolution for the organisation towards a more contemporary approach to governance and performance practices.

Chief Enterprise Governance and Performance Officer Donalee Moriarty, who began her new role in January, said a key area of activity to-date had been to assemble the new team.

“Our team has a mix of people who have worked for BCE for a number of years and others who are working here for the first time,” Donalee said.

“We bring a range of skills and experience from previous roles, and are looking forward to learning how best to apply these within the wonderful cultural and complex operational context of BCE”, she said.

Enterprise Governance and Performance offers seven services:

- **Governance:** supports BCE to make well-informed and transparent decisions, and to be accountable for these decisions - Donalee Moriarty

- **Insight and innovation:** supports BCE to generate and transform ideas into action through research and innovation - Julie Saunders

**Strategy and planning:** supports the organisation to set its strategic direction and plan well to implement this vision, and includes the school renewal and cyclical review process – Carly Palmer

**Program coordination:** ensures the effective prioritisation, development, management and monitoring of projects and programs of work - Rae Garvey

**Risk management:** provides support in reducing Brisbane Catholic Education’s risk exposure by ensuring full visibility of risk, along with relevant monitoring and reporting – Paula Bentley

**Compliance:** supports visibility and transparency at an enterprise level of compliance requirements for Brisbane Catholic Education - Paula Bentley

**Policy and process improvement:** ensures our policies align to strategy, are easily understood and accessed, and are supported by business process improvement – Julie Lee

BCEO’s Strategic Plan for 2017-20 has been a key initial deliverable for the team.

This will be followed by a range of deliverables over the coming months.

For further information on these deliverables or if you have any questions:

- email the team at EGPmailbox@bne.catholic.gov.au
- sign up to the EGP newsletter by email to the above address
- sign up to the BCE Yammer site for regular updates
- call 3033 7457.

**WANTED - Feedback and story ideas for Education Alive**

BCE’s Communications and Marketing team is available to assist at all times – don’t be afraid to use its professional expertise and advice.

We would love to hear from you at the email address below.

Your view is valid and valuable and we encourage you to share it with us!

**Karl Brien - Editor**

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