



A GREAT WEEK

What a great week we had as a Catholic school recently. Catholic Education Week kicked off this year with a huge honour for our school, being presented with the BDSAC Partnership Award in Ballarat on Friday, May 19 at the 30 Year Service Awards Presentation Night. In front of a large audience of peers and Diocesan leaders, our staff, along with our colleagues from St Malachy's Edenhope and St Joseph's Coleraine, were acknowledged for the ground breaking work we have been doing over the past 18 months to improve educational outcomes in rural schools through our uniquely collaborative and innovative initiatives.



The evening was a wonderful achievement for our teachers, aides, families and students, as our terrific little school communities were congratulated for demonstrating outstanding practice in finding new ways to bring about school improvement in collaboration. We were very humbled to receive the award and remain dedicated in our ongoing commitment to providing quality Catholic education for the families of Casterton and surrounding districts. The three Principals are exploring models of leadership that enables them to share their expertise, grow their leadership capabilities, grow the leadership skills of others and develop sustainable and complementary skill sets across the staff of all three schools. A special thank you goes to the teachers from each school for their ongoing support of the Western Trinity. Thank you for the wonderful support you continue to give us in our work.



On Tuesday, May 23, all students and staff travelled to Edenhope for a Catholic Education Week Liturgy and Indigenous Cultural Day with St Malachy's School Edenhope and St Joseph's School Coleraine. Along with Catholic Education Week, we celebrated National Reconciliation Week.

The excursion was led by Mrs Kealy from St Malachy's Edenhope and the Indigenous Education Team from the Australian Catholic University. Students and staff prayed and sung together and listened to scripture. Aboriginal students from Coleraine blessed each person at the liturgy with a combination of earthly soils and materials. We sung the *Aboriginal Our Father* and listened to stories from Aboriginal elders who work for the Australian Catholic University. After the Liturgy, the students completed a footsteps art activity and a 'Rainbow Serpent' craft activity, which we have displayed at our school.



On Friday, May 26, we celebrated more of Catholic Education Week by hosting a Cuppa for Cancer - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. We welcomed over forty parents, grandparents, parishioners and community members for the morning tea. I would like to thank the parents and staff who supplied a plate of morning tea to share. A special thank you goes to Anna Auld and Judy Green for organising the event. Thank you also goes to Nikki Kent for donating the lucky door prizes. A total of \$324 was raised.

As a part of Catholic Education Week, we also hosted tours for prospective families during our Open Day. Our Student Leaders proved to be great ambassadors during these tours and I thank them for their enthusiastic help.

Evan Wrobel, Principal, Sacred Heart School Casterton