

JOHN LAING AWARDS 2017

Three school leaders from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat have been officially recognised for their dedication to education and professional learning in the annual John Laing Awards for Professional Development, managed by the Principals Australia Institute.

Each of the recipients is an outstanding school leader and has made substantial contributions to education in Victoria through strategic senior leadership roles over a considerable time. They have been responsible for working with other senior educators to build leaders' capacity.

The John Laing Awards acknowledge principals in every state and territory who demonstrate outstanding leadership in providing professional learning in government, Catholic and independent schools. They celebrate the contribution principals make to support the professional learning and development of teachers and other school leaders.



L-R: Joshua McElgunn, Angela Kealy, Evan Wrobel

Set up in 2004, the Awards honour John Laing, a former Tasmanian school principal who worked for PAI (the then Australian Principals Association Professional Development Council). He was the motivating force behind the innovative initiative in the early 1990s to bring principals together for national professional learning projects and programs to support their role as school leaders.

Congratulations to Angela Kealy (St Malachy's School, Edenhope), Joshua McElgunn (St Joseph's School, Coleraine) and Evan Wrobel (Sacred Heart School, Casterton). The Victorian Association of Catholic Primary School Principals nominated this group of creative principals who have pioneered a regional, three-school partnership; focusing on improving student learning outcomes through a shared approach to staff professional learning.

Joshua, Evan and Angela have established a creative and shared professional learning community among the three schools. The schools educate students from across the Grampians region in North West Victoria. This area of Victoria, with small isolated school populations and the tyranny of distance, present particular professional development challenges for schools.

The principals have forged a partnership to enhance learning by embracing these challenges ensuring staff have access to high-level support. Using communication technology, video conferencing, pooling of resources, flexible timetables and combined staff planning meetings the leaders have created vibrant engaged learning for all. The partnership

model has enabled all to share expertise, grow leadership, access cutting-edge school improvement strategies and build the capacity and capabilities of all enhancing long term and sustainable school improvement

Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education said she was delighted to be at the awards ceremony in Melbourne recently and to share in the state-wide recognition of these principal's leadership around the learning of their combined staffs.

<https://www.pai.edu.au/content/victorian-principals-recognised-2017-john-laing-awards>