



Presenters Blurbs

Karen Bergin, Janine Luttick & St Peter's School Staff, Sunshine

Four years ago the staff and students at St. Peter's admitted that Religious Education (RE) was not a great learning experience. Students questioned its relevance to their lives. Teachers agreed that it was the first thing to go in their busy day and the last subject to be planned due to a lack of confidence. Four years on, they have made a complete turnaround. St Peter's staff used the approach 'Normativity of the Future' to scripture. In this approach they explored the biblical text from the viewpoint of the future, as well as the past and the present. Strategies such as Godly Play and bibliodrama have informed their thinking and practice.

Would you please welcome Karen the Principal of St Peter's, Janine the Catholic Identity Consultant at St Peter's (on Friday REL Ide will join them) to speak of their journey

Dr, Roma Aloisi is a Senior Educational Advisor with the Catholic Education Office in Adelaide. She is the State Program Manager for the Catholic Sector for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education, seeking to advance the Reconciliation Agenda and to improve educational outcomes for students. **Jonathan Lindsay Tjapaltjarri Hermawan** Jonathan worked for the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training (DET) as a Senior Teacher and Education Advisor responsible for NT schools in the area of Health, Drug Education & Wellbeing – policy and curriculum development and the implementation of effective teaching and learning strategies for teachers and student alike.

Jonathan currently works for *Red Dust Role Models* as a Male Health Program Manager and as a consultant for his own business, *Fire & Water Consultancies*, journeying with Aboriginal males (youth & adults) and their families to support them to overcome a broad range of issues he similarly faced growing.

Would you please give a warm welcome to Roma and Jonathan.

Narelle Struth came from the community sector into Catholic education in 2010 to take up a position as Family School Partnerships (FSP) Convener with one of 13 school clusters formed through the CEM Smarter Schools National Partnership for Low SES School Communities. From 2010 - 2013 Narelle worked principals, teachers, parents and the broader community across these school communities to develop and implement a range of strategies to strengthen family and community engagement for student learning and wellbeing. For the past three years Narelle has worked in the CEM central Student Wellbeing Team as an Education Officer. Currently, Narelle has responsibility for the family school partnerships portfolio across CEM. This includes providing ongoing support for the 50 schools participating in Family School Partnerships Clusters across the Archdiocese this year.

Anna Schlooz

Anna appreciates the beauty and vital role the natural world plays in the environments we live in. Anna has been active in environmental sustainability education and believes that climate change will impact on the long term future of our students. Anna is always exploring ways to engage others in positive change and sensory appreciation of the natural environment.

Professor Karen Stagnitti currently works as Professor, Personal Chair at the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland. For over 30 years she has mainly worked in early childhood intervention programs in community-based settings as part of a specialist paediatric multidisciplinary team.

In 2003 she graduated from LaTrobe University with a Doctor of Philosophy. Her area of research is children's play. She also has over 90 national and international papers published as well as 20 book chapters (some in press). Her norm referenced standardised play assessment, the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment was published in 2007. Throughout the year, she is invited to present her work on the play ability of children nationally and internationally.

Kevin Cummins is a learning technologies coach for CEO Ballarat, he has expertise as a Google Educator & Masters of IT Education & above all else husband and father of three. Today Kevin will focus his workshop on welcoming new digital technologies into the curriculum.

Would you please make Kevin welcome.

Carmel Hewitt and Cathie Renfrew have travelled from Broken Bay to present at our Conference today.

Carmel is : Education Officer- Parent Engagement with the Broken Bay Catholic Schools office and Cathie Renfrew :Coordinator with the Broken Bay Catholic School Diocesan Parent Council.

They both have great expertise in the area of partnership between parent, school and parish. Today they will explore with us the Broken Bay model of shifting the focus of parent leadership in schools and how this has contributed to building a culture of learning partnerships within school communities.

Would you please give them a warm welcome.

Fr. Barry Ryan was ordained on July 21, 1965, in Warrnambool where he grew up on a dairy farm with his three young sisters. Father Ryan, a vicar general, has worked in various towns including Mildura, Maryborough, Terang, Redan and Ballarat East and Ballarat North. He studied in America at Fordham University in the early 1970s. Though officially retired, Fr. Barry still works for the Diocese a few days a week. He has a passion for ongoing faith education and what it means to be a Catholic Christian in the modern world. Would you please give Fr. Barry a warm welcome.

Helen Davidson is the Director of BEST Program 4 kids, as well as a child and adolescent mental health clinician, family therapist, author, speaker and trainer. We are very fortunate to have Helen with us today, will you please give her a warm welcome.

Fr. Andrew Hayes is the Catholic parish priest of St Mary's Ararat. Earlier this year Father Andrew shared the City of Ararat's Multicultural Harmony Award with another Muslim leader. .

"This recognised a joint collaboration between two Ararat religious groups determined to not only tolerate each other, but to work together to ensure people of all race, colour or religious creed feel included in our society,"

"Father Hayes and Manzoor A Mian Jp have led this movement which has seen a strong friendship formed between Ararat Christians and Muslims, and seen many social events and meals together in Ararat and Melbourne." His most recent fundraiser was a concert of his own music which raised funds to build a new mosque in Ararat.

Priest, poet and songwriter, would you please make Fr. Andrew welcome.

Michael McQueen

Coming from a background in marketing and research, in 2004 Michael founded a consultancy specializing in demographic shifts and social trends called The Nexgen Group. Michael's first book *The 'New' Rules of Engagement* was the culmination of a 3-year study of the **key drivers of youth culture** around the world. With an emphasis on the values and attitudes of **Generation Y**, this 2007 release was designed to help **business leaders, educators** and **parents** better engage younger generations.

In 2009 and 2010, Michael went on to release a range of gift books called *Memento* and *Wisdom* which were designed to bridge the generation gap in families by helping parents pass on their stories and life lessons to the next generation. Michael McQueen is an **award-winning speaker, social researcher** and **best-selling author**.

He has his finger on the pulse when it comes to **emerging trends shaping business and culture**.

Dan Petro

Dan Petro is a Behaviour Analyst and director of Behavioural Resources Australia. Originally from the US, Dan's work in over 130 Australian schools has shown him to be a popular presenter and consultant in a wide range of areas including professional development for staff, implementation of Positive Behavioural Intervention and Supports (PBIS), and designing intervention programs for challenging students.

Dan's academic background includes degrees in both Behavioural Science and Counselling Psychology, and his professional work utilises content from materials he developed as an adjunct faculty member at universities in California. The master's level courses he taught include *Dynamics of Behaviour Change*, *Behaviour Management in the Classroom*, *Advanced Behaviour Analysis*, and *Crisis Counselling*.

Richard Eisenmajer (Richard is a Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years of experience working with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD). Richard is Director of The ASD Clinic and specialises in helping parents, families and teachers to understand and support children with ASD)

Megan Bourke

Megan works with Caritas Australia as Community Engagement— Group Co-ordinator Schools and Universities and Justice Educator Lead—Southern Region

She has worked with Education communities for more than 35 years, amongst students and teacher's across all sectors (primary, secondary, tertiary) in Catholic, Independent and State school systems. Megan worked for many years in as an environmental educator in the Australian mining industry and then with the Global Education Project. Since joining Caritas in 2013, She had worked with excellent Caritas Australia educators to enrich Australian Catholic education audiences' knowledge and skills, enabling them to work for a better world for all. Megan is also a keen scuba diver and nature lover, would you please make her welcome.

Susan Nikakis

Dr Susan Nikakis is employed by the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne as Director of Gifted Programs. Susan leads many gifted and talented education programs for teachers around Victoria. In addition, Susan is also a lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne.

Today, Susan will talk to us about the diversity and challenges facing the education of gifted students.

Shoni Reimert

Shoni has been employed by The Education Office Ballarat for over 20 years in the roll of Education Officer – Psychology.

As well as being a Psychologist, Shoni is also teacher trained. Today Shoni will talk to us on brain development which in turn affects behaviours seen in school settings.

Please make Shoni Welcome.

Nyrelle Bade is an arts therapist who has been in private practice for over 10 years, and is the current President of the Australian Creative Arts Therapies Association. She has a MA in arts therapies and is currently studying Somatic Experiencing: a body centred approach to the healing and resolution of trauma. Nyrelle works in the area of mental health, disability, complex needs, trauma and attachment and works with children, adolescents and adults providing individual, group, or family sessions. Nyrelle also provides professional supervision for counsellors and arts therapists, and has facilitated workshops and presentations both here and in New Zealand on creativity in the promotion of wellbeing.

Joining Nyrelle today is Sheree Gallagher from St Mary's School, Hamilton. Could you please welcome Nyrelle and Sheree