Students from Emmaus College North Rockhampton were engaging minds, igniting hearts and serving others prior to Catholic Education Week as they travelled to Longreach to train primary school students in storytelling, music and dance.

Six Emmaus College students, overseen by staff members Daena Scheuber and Alexia Lally worked with students from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach and St Joseph's, Catholic Primary School, Barcaldine on developing a performance. Visual Arts Professional Development will also be offered online to teachers in the region by Rockhampton arts professional and teacher, Mr Ken Leslie.

The project consisted of a week of training in music, storytelling, documentary-making and set design and construction. Students from Emmaus worked alongside staff, developing skills and gaining valuable experience in arts facilitation.

Coordinator of the project, Ms Daena Scheuber, was inspired by how the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Rockhampton was working to assist Queensland’s western communities facing the ongoing harsh reality of severe drought and wanted to contribute in a practical way.

"I felt that we needed to help, but there didn't seem to be much we could do that was hands-on" she says. "I really hope we can give the children out there a chance they might not otherwise have access to, and that we can get a better understanding of life in the West ourselves."

The purpose of the project was to provide support and opportunities to a region in the Diocese of Rockhampton affected by drought.

"Every student involved got a taste of what that might be like in the real world. It is a great way for our students to act as mentors for younger, and more isolated, students in our Diocese.” Ms Scheuber said.

"For many of our students, it is their dream to work in performing arts; a dream that I am sure would be shared by a number of students we'll be working with.

The students ran the workshops from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 July.