Catholic Education honours long serving staff

A special presentation recognizing four decades of service to Catholic Education followed a Mass of celebration as staff, volunteers and community members from the region’s Catholic schools filled Rockhampton’s St Joseph’s Cathedral last Friday (Jan 22) to mark the commencement of the 2016 school year.

Mrs Del Murphy has seen enormous change over her 40 years’ service to Catholic Education beginning as a volunteer Catechist in 1974 in Monto before taking up a boarding supervisor position at The Cathedral College in 2009 to the present.

“I was humbled and honoured to receive such recognition. I have very much enjoyed my roles with Catholic Education and I really love the students and the opportunities to evangelise and reach out to them and hopefully make a difference,” Mrs Murphy said.

Mrs Murphy said she felt very fortunate to have worked with some wonderful people. She had particularly fond memories of her 33 years in Monto where there was a very ecumenical culture and the whole community were very willing to work together.

Director Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, Leesa Jeffcoat, praised Mrs Murphy for her committed and dedicated service.

“Del has been an inspirational and hard-working volunteer and staff member for such a long time. Many students have experienced her generosity of spirit and her kind and nurturing ways,” Miss Jeffcoat said.

“Del’s contribution and the contribution of many long-serving staff and volunteers in Catholic Education is a real cornerstone of our mission to provide high quality, faith-based, affordable education through our schools and agencies,” Miss Jeffcoat said.

Miss Jeffcoat thanked all long-serving staff for their many years of dedicated service and their ongoing outstanding contribution to school communities.

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Mrs Sally Hebron from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Yeppoon and Mr Barry Cassidy, Mr Ronald Howell and Mrs Rhondda Rasmussen from Emmaus College, Rockhampton were also presented with plaques commemorating 30 years of service with Catholic Education.

More than 17,000 students and over 3000 teachers and staff began the school year at one of 47 Catholic kindergartens, primary schools and secondary colleges across the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton, which includes centres from Mackay to Bundaberg and west to Longreach.

Catholic schools in Queensland educate about 18.5%, or almost 1 in 5 Queensland students. Enrolments in Catholic schools have been increasing by 2-3% over the past decade.

Diocesan Director, Leesa Jeffcoat and Diocesan Administrator, Fr Bryan Hanifin VG, present TCC Boarding Supervisor, Del Murphy with a gift and plaque marking 40 years of service to Catholic Education, following the Rockhampton Opening Year Mass in St Joseph’s Cathedral.