



Students show they care

YOU could hear a pin drop when Catholic Education Week ambassador, Annabel Pike, was sharing her experiences of a Catholic Education and the work that she has done to become an accomplished and recognised nurse at the young age of 23.

Ms Pike was speaking with over 200 secondary college students from across Catholic schools who gathered at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby this week as a part of Catholic Education Week celebrations.

Ms Pike was chosen to be one of the Catholic Education Week ambassadors for 2014 as a past student of Catholic schools and because she entered her nursing course on an Early Achievers Program, was awarded the HESTA Australian Nursing Award in 2012 and was the recipient of a Pride of Australia award in 2013.

"I love the human side of nursing," Ms Pike said.

"It is about caring for people so they can live life in all its fullness."

Whilst the students were inspired by her story, what took their breath away was when Ms Pike shared with them that she was born with bilateral hearing loss, and that it wasn't until her dream of becoming a nurse was threatened that she acknowledged her disability.

"I've had it since birth so I don't know anything different," she said.

"I got to uni and I couldn't hear anything through a stethoscope.

"As I had my heart set on

nursing and only nursing, it was awful."

Given a digital stethoscope to use, Ms Pike continued her journey, graduating from the Australian Catholic University in 2011.

Her experience inspired the 2012 Australia's Outstanding Graduate Nurse to help others with hearing impairments, volunteering and fundraising for the Hear and Say Centre, which helps deaf children hear, listen and speak.

"It's something I'm very passionate about — it's a very good cause that not many people know about," she said.

Ms Pike is planning on going to Cambodia later this year with DocTours Voluntary International Programs.

This inspired the students to

collect together toiletries and create care packs that Ms Pike will take with her to distribute among the patients.

"The 120 care packs that the students put together will make such a difference for these people," she said.

"I know that the little messages which have been included, on cards with a photograph of Mary of the Southern Cross, will also lift the spirits of the patients.

"What the students have done is a great example of what Catholic schooling instils in us.

"To reach out and care for those in need, to enable them to work toward living life in all its fullness."

Ms Pike visited all five Catholic Diocese during Catholic Education Week.



CARE PACKAGES: Students of Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby make care packages for Annabel Pike to take overseas.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



SING IT LOUD: Michael Mangan was joined by Gerry-Lea Riddle, Sonya Perrett, Danielle Musumeci and Amy Colyer from St Joseph's Stanthorpe for the sing-a-long.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Musical talent shines through

MORE than 900 students gathered together at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby last Tuesday to launch Catholic Education Week.

One of the week's ambassadors for 2014, Michael Mangan, led the primary students in an uplifting workshop that had them singing and dancing for over an hour.

"My favourite thing is to see children singing and dancing to the songs I have written," said Mr Mangan. When asked by the children why he decided to become a singer and song writer Mr Mangan said he wanted to teach children songs that shared the message of Jesus.

"I couldn't find any that made the children want to dance with joy and told the story well, so I started writing my own," he said.

It wasn't just the students who were singing and dancing along — the teachers and staff of the Catholic Education Office who came to the concert joined in as well.

"You just can't help but join in!" said Tracey Flint, Policy and Program Advisor at the Catholic Education Office.

"The children continued singing the songs while enjoying a shared lunch and I am sure many parents will have heard the special song Mr Mangan wrote for Catholic Education Week, Come Live Life, being sung by their children around the house."

Mr Mangan visited each of the five Dioceses around Queensland during Catholic Education Week as a part of his role as ambassador.



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