



Tony Haintz

Damascus College, Ballarat

Building Inclusive Catholic Learning Communities

Tony has been responsible for leading the Catholic Identity of Damascus College since playing a key role in drawing together the charisms of its three founding schools in 1995.

Tony always ensures Catholic identity is evident and accessible through presenting school masses and liturgies in ways that are engaging and meaningful to the diverse College community.

He and the team supporting him regularly facilitate best-practice professional learning for Damascus staff and, at various times, other Catholic schools - Damascus College has one of the highest rates of participation in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) program, and Tony always ensures participants are well supported.

Tony has also been instrumental to the writing and implementation of the Awakening Curriculum, and its successive revisions.

He has tirelessly promoted and supported the work of his own parish, St Alypius, and the Diocesan Church, throughout his professional life, including as Chair of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission.

One of Tony's great achievements grew from the City of Ballarat's friendship with the Municipality of Ainaro in Timor-Leste. Tony and a colleague travelled to Timor Leste in 2010 and formed a close relationship with the school community of Santa Maria, Ainairo.

As a result, Damascus College continues to conduct immersion experiences grounded in Catholic Social Teaching for students and staff in collaboration with Ballarat Friends of Anairo.

Tony's work epitomises bringing 'fullness of life to all' through building an inclusive Catholic learning community at Damascus College and beyond.