

NGELA TOPPIN Transformational leader, visionary and culture builder



An innovative and visionary leader and educator with over 30 years' experience turning around under-performing school operations through sound strategic planning, curriculum development, and highly effective communication skills utilised in building trust and confidence internally and externally.

A strong, motivational leader with demonstrated ability to elicit the highest levels of achievement in both staff and students.

Personal Details

Address: PO Box 30, Mareeba QLD 4880

Mobile: 0447 371 297 Home: 07 4092 1297

Email: latoppin@bigpond.com

Skill Set

1986

Financial Management Initiative Championing
Human Resources Management Team Building skills
Project Management Relationship Building
Performance Management Training and Mentoring
Identification of Critical Success
Factors Youth Mentoring
Community Engagement

Computer Skills:

Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook, Publisher School Management System

Media Liaison
Political savvy

Education and Qualifications/Certifications

1973	Diploma of Teaching - Queensland University of Technology
Awards	
2016	Lifetime Achievement Award - Queensland Secondary Principals' Association
2010	Most Influential Women in FNQ - Cairns Post
2009	Leadership in the Profession - Queensland Secondary Principals' Association
2009	Fellowship of Business Educators Association of Queensland
2009	Pride of Workmanship Award - Rotary International
1995	Paul Harris Fellowship - The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
1993	Cairns Corporate Woman of the Year - Cairns Businesswomen's Club
1992	Travelling Fellow for Queensland - Australian College of Education

Bachelor of Education - Queensland University of Technology

Employment Attributes

- Highly motivated leader, with strong sense of loyalty and integrity while being performance and success focused.
- Communicate with dynamism at all levels. Communication is my forté the driver of success
- Clear strategic direction and strong project planning skills from inception through implementation to evaluation
- Rapidly cultivate a high performing team motivated and empowered to take ownership of contribution to organisational success
- Proven ability to effect positive changes and upward development of both organisations and individuals
- Unique problem solving/troubleshooting skills; creative, intuitive and analytical skills result in fresh approaches and uncovering of opportunities for growth that are not always initially obvious.
- Commercial awareness an eye for opportunity, the ability to pre-empt trends, and follow up through shrewd and prudent planning and excellent public relations skills
- Flexibility and adaptability the ability to pre-empt and respond positively to change and ultimately to successfully lead change

Apr 2016 - Current Position:

MAREEBA SHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor

- Ensuring Mareeba Shire Council discharges its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2009; achieves its corporate and community plans; and
- complies with all laws that apply to local governments;
- Respond to residents' queries and investigate their concerns
- Acting as conduit between community and Council
- Effectively communicate Council decisions that affect the community and its residents
- Maintain profound knowledge of issues affecting residents, business concerns, interest groups, schools, health and all organisations within the territory through networking and community engagement opportunities
- Represent the views of the above at Council meetings and lead local campaigns on their behalf
- Actively participate in all community and business events and meetings
- Actively participate in Council meetings, strategic planning, policy development, and decisionmaking, for the benefit of the Mareeba Shire Council area
- Adhere to stringent personal and Council code of ethics
- Maintain an approachable, consultative persona at all times in interactions with community members, business, organisations, other tiers of government and all those I interact with in the course of my duties as a representative of Council

Jan 2011 - Apr 2016 Position:

CAIRNS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal

- Establish and implement energised vision for the school
- Overseeing school administration
- Staff recruitment
- Performance management
- Motivation of entire school community to pursue excellence
- Financial management
- Building relationships internally and externally
- Community and parental engagement
- Curriculum Planning and development, effecting significant improvements
- Learning resources evaluation
- Student counselling and mentoring
- Managing enrolments introducing numerous initiatives to increase enrolments and raise the profile of the school within the community
- Managing school safety and security
- Effective academic progress tracking
- Project management
- Identifying opportunities for students through extensive community involvement and membership of business and community organisations
- Event planning
- Professional development of staff and self

Jan 2003 - Dec 2010

MAREEBA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position:

PrincipalAs above

"Shows clear and relevant knowledge of key issues facing her schools and demonstrates ability to re-vision and up-skill her community towards agreed goals."

Except from Referee Report attached - Colin Allen-Waters, EDSI-FNQ Region (Atherton)

Jul 2000 - Dec 2002

MALANDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position:

Principal

Jan - Jun 2000

ATHERTON STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position:

Acting Principal

Feb 1999

MAREEBA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position:

Acting Principal

Employment History contd...

Jan - Jun 1998 DIMBULAH STATE SCHOOL Position: Acting Principal P-10

1994 - 1999 MAREEBA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position: Deputy Principal

1993 WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Position: **Project Officer**

1989 - 1993 SMITHFIELD STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position: Head of Department - Business/Computing

1991 -1992 SMITHFIELD STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position: Acting Deputy Principal
1980 - 1982 ROMEO'S RESTAURANT
Position: Owner / Manager

14 years MAREEBA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Position: Classroom Teacher

Community Involvement

Current Chairperson Business Liaison Association

Current: Chairperson Regional Arts and Development Funds Committee

Current: Chairperson Arts in the Park Festival Committee
Current Appointed Member James Cook University Council

2014 – 2016 **Board Member** Cairns Chamber Management Committee

2006 - 2010 **Board Member** TNQ Institute of TAFE 2000 - 2006 **Board Member** FNQ Employment

2003 - 2010 Committee Member Mareeba Multicultural Committee
Current Member Cairns Businesswomen's Club
Current Member Mareeba Chamber of Commerce

Current Member Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Tourism Taskforce

Current Member Cairns Chamber of Commerce
Current Member Wet Tropics Consultative Committee

Current Member` Mareeba International Club
Current Member Mareeba Rotary Club

Current Member Mareeba Friends of Hospital Foundation

Current Member Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Community

Consultative Committee

Current Member Australian Institute of Management

Current Chair Dimbulah and Mareeba Health Interest Group

2003 - 2012 Committee Member Qld Secondary Principals' Association Regional Conference

1994 - 2016 Member Qld Secondary Principals' Association 1995 - 2016 Member Association of Women Educators

2000 - 2012 Member Cairns Community Enterprise Committee - Bendigo Bank

2008 - 2009 Committee Member Carols in the Park Committee

2005 - Current Committee Member Mareeba State High School Sports Presentation Night Committee

2004 - 2010 Coordinator Catholic Debutante Ball Current: Volunteer Kuranda Arts Cooperative

Current: Member Mareeba Rodeo Gardening Competition Committee
Current: Member Mareeba State School 125th Birthday Celebrations

Current: Member Kuranda Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Current: Member Kuranda Interagency Network
Current: Member PCYC Sports Reference Group

Assisted with: Dimbulah Lions Festival
Mutchilba Mardi Gras Festival

Anzac Day, Long Tan Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies in

Mareeba and Cairns

Our Lady of the Chain Celebrations
Uniting Church Flower Show (2008 - 2009)
Biboohra State School fete (2004 - Current)

2003 - 2009 Personal Development Coordinator Rodeo Queen Entrants

Current: Volunteer Catholic Church Rosie's Friends on the Street (working with

disenfranchised youth, in particular Indigenous youth)

Professional Bodies / Interests

State Representative Queensland Secondary Principals' Assn on QCAA VET Committee 2005 - 2015 2002 - 2005 Secretary Peninsula Secondary Principals' Association

Women's Council for Rural and Regional Communities (Premier's 1997 - 1999 **Deputy Chair**

1991 - Current Chair **Business Liaison Association** President **Business Educators' Association** 5 terms Convenor Association of Women's Educators 6 terms

3 terms Chair National Association Post Compulsory Education, Cairns

1997 - 1998 Member FNQ Regional Roundtable

> Member Various school Curriculum Technology and Finance Committees

Referees

Mr Stephen Bell Assistant Regional Director - FNQ Region Department of Education Tel: 07 4037 3894

Email: stephen.bell2@qed.qld.gov.au

Mr Nick Loukas President, Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Director, Alive Pharmacy

Mobile: 0412359683

Email: zorbie@alivepharmacy.com.au

Professor Anthony Gray Professor (Law) School of Law and Justice University of Southern Qld - Springfield Campus

Tel: 07 3470 4547

Email: Anthony.Gray@usq.edu.au