

COLLEGE**Matters**



Making strides into Term Two

CHRIST OUR LIGHT



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE
A PROUD ANZAC SPIRIT
REMEMBERING OUR MUMS



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Term 2 is full of learning

A message from our College Principal, Steve Todd.

GREETINGS TO ONE and all for Term 2! The College community has settled into the routines of school life with many activities and happenings already behind us.

During the last week of Term 1, the College connected our ANZAC Day commemoration with the placement of a remembrance plaque for Stephen Aitken in our Memorial Garden. As our College's Foundation Principal (2002-2010), it was indeed most appropriate for us to honour Stephen with a plaque among the special group of staff and a student who have passed away during their time at MacKillop.

The College's leadership teams of staff and students along with members of the Toukley RSL Sub Branch gathered with Stephen's wife, Kerry and a number of family members to honour Stephen with a special ceremony. Fr Vince blessed the plaque and Stephen's granddaughter Abbey Lea placed some flowers in the garden for her Poppy.

Our Memorial Garden also has a special plaque for our ANZACs and the Toukley RSL Sub Branch placed a wreath in the garden on this day. As we pass by the memorial garden, we can pause and pray for Stephen and all those we have lost at this College and for those men and women who have served our country in times of war.

Year 12 have returned after the mid-year exams held at the end of Term 1 and Year 11 have also completed their half yearly exams at the start of this term. Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 have participated in the NAPLAN testing program. Secondary students have also presented High Commendation Awards.

Term 2 is a real business-like term for all students with many learning programs and tasks to give of their best. Our staff are hoping our parents are encouraging their children to focus on their child's learning agenda so they can see positive gains as well as looking at how to meet the challenges ahead.

In conjunction with learning the other important aspects of belonging to this College are linked to our Mission and Wellbeing goals. The liturgies around Holy week and Easter were among the best I have seen here at MacKillop, as I feel we are very blessed to have such talented students with great role models across our K-12 staff.

The middle stages of every year bring challenges for ensuring healthy and happy relationships among the students. There are always a few hiccups for students and we admire the way the students, parents and teachers look to offer a better way forward. I have been speaking to students about shaping their capacities to learn, their emotional wellbeing and for having the most positive relationships with peers, family and with their teachers. The glass is always half full with hope along with a touch of kindness and respect which brings us to appreciate that we are a happy, safe and colourful school.

I would like to thank the many parents and families that promote our College so positively in our local community. We have been talking to prospective Kinder and Year 7 parents for 2018 and we often hear many good things about the College from our new parents. We are indeed grateful to parents for encouraging family and friends to be part of the MacKillop College community.



An eventful Term 2

A message from our Primary Principal, Sue Dietrich.

AS WE RETURN to this new term and the cooler weather it brings, our opening Liturgy gave us the opportunity to reflect upon the Resurrection of Jesus. By doing this, we hope to impart the essential truths of the Easter story – the ‘who, what, why, and how’ of the resurrection. We want our children to know that: Jesus’ tomb was empty because he was resurrected from the dead by the power of God. We hope to illuminate that God is at work in their lives and in the world for a very important reason. Little ones might not be able to grasp that the resurrection is a guarantee, a promise of new life because Christ has defeated the penalty and power of death – but it doesn’t mean that we should stop looking for creative and reflective ways to teach and apply the Scriptures. This liturgy was followed up in classrooms with some activities on the importance of ANZAC day. During this time children were able to think about the importance of the many thousands of men and women who gave their lives during war periods.

During Week 3, children in Year 3 and 5 completed the NAPLAN assessments. When speaking with the children about these assessments, we spoke to them about two words: ‘snapshot’ and ‘showcase’. In this explanation we highlight to the children the importance of showcasing what they do know and that it is vital to do their very best during the assessments. The other aspect is around the fact that NAPLAN assessments are a one-day summary of their learning.... a snapshot. For Year 5 children they will be able to see their growth over these past two years and this is exciting for them, for families and

for the school. There is an extra layer of benchmarking now occurring in Year 9 tests, but this should not cause distress for the children in Primary school. It is important for the children to realize that the scores they get from this test will tell them and us – parents and teachers - how they did on that day, on that day only and in that test, but they will not tell them everything. Assessments cannot tell them that they have improved on trying something they once found difficult. They do not know that their friends count on them to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that they participate in sports, help their Mum and Dad or play with their little brother or sister. The tests do not know that children are caring, thoughtful and that every day they do their best. Because these attributes cannot be tested. It is in finding this balance about knowing the whole child and that one aspect of their development in academic standards that we encourage our children to showcase themselves during this time.

Mother’s Day celebrations were superb once again in 2017. Changing our schedule to hosting a morning breakfast, followed by reading activity time in classrooms, followed by a beautiful Mass was a wonderful community time for the many parents, grandparents and special people in the lives of our children who were able to join us for the morning.

My thanks to all those involved in the preparations for the events we have shared in these past few weeks and we look forward to celebrating many more in the second half of this term.



Term 2 starts at a quick pace

A message from our Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson.

“LEST WE FORGET.” Three very simple words that carry so much meaning and the students at MacKillop truly displayed an understanding of the importance of these words at the College ANZAC Day ceremony held on the last Thursday of Term 1 and again by the group of K-12 students who marched at Toukley for the ANZAC Day March. This comprehension of what this day commemorates and the respect given by our students is a wonderful tribute to them, their parents and to the Staff who continually instill in the MCC students the importance of citizenship, pride and community participation.

Welcome to Term 2 and it has certainly started at a quick pace. Our Year 11 commenced their exams on the first day of term and Year 7 attended camp in the first week. There have been numerous sporting competitions as well as our Athletics Carnival. Year 11 and 12 received their meningococcal vaccinations and Years 7 and 9 sat their NAPLAN exams. Students attended the High Commendation assembly and the

students who received these accepted them with great pride.

This year we held our first Mother's Day breakfast which was a lovely celebration and our Parliament Leaders have run both our assemblies with great aplomb.

This term our Juniors will sit some exams and all students and parents are asked to make appointments to attend the Parent Teacher interviews on Tuesday, 13 June. Information about this has been emailed home to all parents and to the students.

The major event this term is the selection of our new Student Parliament Leaders for 2017/18. Year 11 will be vying for our new College Captains, Cabinet Leaders and House Leaders and all Pastoral classes will vote for their new Class House Leaders. The skills learnt through leadership are life-long and we are always so impressed with the hard work and dedication of our leaders each year.

So, yet another busy term but an exciting one!

Farewell to Helen & Brian

Steve Todd *expresses his appreciation.*

AFTER AN EIGHT-YEAR association with the College, two wonderful members of the Office/Support staff are leaving us. We are so sad to say goodbye to Helen and Brian Young who are moving back to Sydney to be a support to their growing family of grandchildren. With triplets arriving last year, our proud grandparents wish to be closer to their family and to offer them their love and support. We feel this says everything about Helen and Brian and we know they will find much satisfaction in their role as grandparents.

Helen has had a long association with Catholic Schools having worked in the Office at four Catholic Schools. The students know Helen for the genuine care she offers when they have been sick or in need of some support and her ever-constant happy outlook has won her many friends among our staff, parents, Parish and with the students. Helen's wisdom and goodness made her such a go-to person and she leaves a

feeling of great loss for us all.

Brian has been the person who wanders through our College at the end of everyday picking up litter, locking doors and windows, turning off heaters, air-conditioners and fans and then setting the alarms. It is a job and a half and Brian has done that with much care. Brian has also been a great bus driver for us, taking students to all sorts of venues for a variety of activities. He has looked after our bus and ensured that students and staff arrive to and from their events both on time and back home safely again. There is a click between an older man and young children that just leaves a smile on your face.

There is no doubt we will miss Helen and Brian, as they are truly wonderful MacKillop people. We have a special place in their hearts and they too remain in our thoughts and prayers for many happy family times ahead.

Thank you Helen and Brian Young!



The Way of the Cross

Kerry Power *shares in the celebration of Easter.*

HOLY WEEK IS the high point of the Liturgical Calendar. This year Holy Week was the first week of the holidays with Easter falling on the middle weekend. Easter is an opportunity to reflect on the message Jesus provides us during this holy time. That God is beside us, during the best and worst of times and that ultimately the hope of the risen Christ will provide us with the motivation to continue to praise and serve God and each other in all we do. It is so important to break open these stories for our children. The story of the crucifixion - though sad and at times brutal - is a vital part of our understanding as Christians and the message of Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation is integral to our lives as Catholics.

Students in Year 5 & 6 joined the Secondary School in liturgy to respond to the Passion of Our Lord and the Primary School gathered to pray and acknowledge Jesus' journey to the Cross. Holy Week and Easter Masses are an excellent opportunity for us to join in the separate themes of Holy Week from Palm Sunday through to Holy Thursday and Good Friday, culminating in the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. After the holidays the Primary school gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with a special Easter liturgy.

As MacKillop people, our church St. Mary of the Cross is always open for you. As the Eastertide concludes and we acknowledge the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in the coming weeks may we listen to the ways we can activate the Spirit in our own lives.

Peace to you.



Mother's Day - What a Day!

Kerry Power *thanks the wonderful women in our lives.*



SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN our lives are made significant when we recognise them in liturgy. Mother's Day is a day to be grateful to God for being so kind as to bless us with angels in the form of these special carers. . It is the day we stop, remember, and pray for that special person in our life, without whom we would not have been; a day to prove that all their efforts towards making us a complete person, have been worthwhile and make them feel proud of us.

It is also a time to think about the role of Mary the Mother of Jesus, who gave birth to her son, watched him grow and become a very special man. We give thanks to Mary who watches over us as our Mother also.

On Friday 12 May the College gathered to celebrate Mother's Day. The day began with breakfast of croissants, egg & bacon rolls and yoghurt attracting a crowd of around 200 mothers and significant women. It was wonderful to also see some dads present to make tea and coffee. Following breakfast many stayed joining their children's classroom for reading or art or craft activities. Following this many parents and grandparents joined the Primary school for mass in St. Mary of the Cross Church. It was wonderful to see the church overflowing as many children participated with ministries of reading and processions with their mothers. Every student produced a piece of artwork entitled 'My Mum is happiest when...'



Lest we forget

Monica Boyd and Kerry Power *remember our war heroes.*

ON THURSDAY, 6 April the secondary students, and some of the primary students, gathered to commemorate ANZAC Day 2017. This year the service allowed those in attendance to explore the acronym, A.N.Z.A.C. Often used and invoking many emotional responses, the HSIE staff decided to take the opportunity to ensure each of the letters were acknowledged.

The service began with a stirring rendition of the Australian National Anthem in indigenous language which was performed by Shanae Avery; this was followed by a reflection of the service of indigenous members of our defence forces. The choir then performed the New Zealand National Anthem and a number of students with Maori heritage contributed to our service. We were joined by Lieutenant Alisha Reeves who represented the Australian Defence Force and gave a talk to those present on the role and function of an 'army corps', especially why it was necessary for the Australian and New Zealand forces needed to be joined together to form a combined army corps in 1915. The service maintained the ANZAC focus with the keynote address which was delivered by Bailie Stewart. Bailie's speech was part of her most recent assessment in Year Ten Elective History. Carmine Barone from Year 12 combined his passion for History with his love of Malta to inform us of the important support role Malta and its people played during the Gallipoli campaign. We were again honoured to be joined by members of the Toukley RSL

sub-branch who assisted students to lay a commemorative wreath whilst the choir lead us in a reflection of Paul Kelly's 'Meet Me in the Middle of the Air' which was followed by the Last Post being played by a member of the Australian Defence Force Band. I would like to thank all staff and students who supported the service and gave their time and effort to help ensure the students at MacKillop Catholic College never forget the sacrifice and service of our defence force men and women.

PRIMARY REPORT

ANZAC Day is a significant day in the lives of all Australians. It is a day to think locally as each community gathers around its local RSL to pray and give thanks to the many men and women of our military who served our country in times of war and continue to serve in many parts of the war-torn world. Our MacKillop students marched with many other local schools and community organisations to commemorate this special day. Approximately 50 Primary and Secondary students gathered behind our College Banner and joined the parade along Toukley Main Street finishing around the Toukley RSL cenotaph for a beautiful prayer service. It was wonderful to see our College representing us but also serving many other organisations in our area. Our College Captains Samantha and Will placed a wreath on behalf of the MacKillop College community.





Our wonderful Youth Ministry

Liz Kovacic *brings us up to date with the events of our Youth Ministry.*

WELL, A LOT happened throughout the Lenten and, now, Easter seasons! Term One saw MacKillop students involved again through various ministries in the Parish, the height of this being the Year 6 take over of the 5pm Sunday Youth Mass. Students and their families attended in droves, with Year 6 displaying artistic interpretations of the Gospel message, as well as participating as readers, altar servers and welcomers. It was a joy-filled celebration, where all ages came together as a community to express their faith.

Several students also participated in the Year 11 Social Justice incursion, run by Sydney Alliance. Here, we heard the vision 20 of our senior students have for their peers and our College. Forming small groups, our students would have inspired you no-end with their plans to improve student mental health, morale, our local environment and as well as a plan to support each grade through peer-guided study sessions. The future of our community is surely safe in the hands of these individuals!

This term sees the launch of Alpha in both the Parish and High School, with a Friday lunch group having taken off in Week 3 of this term for Years 7 - 10. Lead by senior students, India Kay and Alex Toomey, students are provided a safe space to discuss the questions about faith and life.

Along with this, is the beginning of a Year 10 Youth Ministry Team, which is perfect timing in the lead-up to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival! Year 10's Robbie Vicich was selected to represent our College at the ACYF Music Masterclass where he got to hear from, and compose with, the renowned Fr. Rob Galea! He is "totally fan-girling"! There is a great buzz and sense of anticipation amongst the youth of Broken Bay as we prepare to gather with 15000 other young Catholics to celebrate our faith. Students interested in attending the festival are to see either Miss Kovacic or Mrs Price about the application process. ACYF is going to be HUGE and something students won't want to miss!



Together we applaud success

Anne Lovett shares the celebration of our High Commendation Awards.

IT WAS WITH pride that the Secondary College came together at the end of Week 2, to acknowledge and congratulate students across year groups, subjects and classes for their consistent and repeated application during Term 1.

Every teacher nominated a student in each of their classes. Throughout the term these students demonstrated responsibility and took ownership for their own thinking and learning. Teachers found some of these nominations difficult because a growing number of students were endeavouring to become proactive learners and continue to do so.

Over forty students in each year group received one or more certificates. Award winners did not necessarily receive the highest mark or grade in their assessment tasks. They are keen students who show a mature attitude and willingness to improve their understanding of ideas, topics and concepts. They cooperate with students and teachers and are respectful

of others.

At MacKillop, we think it is important to acknowledge the different ways that students demonstrate success. While we will celebrate academic success for Semester 1 in early Term 3, it is just as important to congratulate the merit of sustained application because in turn, this fosters key strengths and skills for life beyond the boundaries of MacKillop. We want our students to share their gifts and blessings, and thoughtfully contribute to the wider community.

During the assembly, the student body was respectful and embracing of each award recipient. This reflects the communal spirit of good will and generosity that we aim to foster and continue to grow. It was a pleasure to be a part of this celebration. To the parents who attended our assembly, we say thank you.



Steps in progress and development

Mel McGuinness *discusses NAPLAN 2017.*

ON 9-11 MAY our students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 along with all students in Australia, sat for the NAPLAN tests. The first day consisted of a Language Conventions test, followed by a Writing test. On Wednesday 10 May, the students completed the Reading test which was followed by the Numeracy tests on Thursday 11 May. This year NAPLAN testing has taken on a new level of significance. In order to strengthen the Higher School Certificate, NESA which was previously known as the Board of Studies, has now introduced some changes. There is now a minimum standard which is a prequalification for the HSC. This means that students in Year 9 who achieve a Band 8 in Reading, Writing and Numeracy, pre-qualify to be eligible for the award of the HSC.

Our students were remarkable in the way in which they conducted themselves and applied themselves to the testing across three days. They are to be commended for their conduct and efforts irrespective of the results they may have achieved. They showed life skills which will stand them in good stead in the long term. Their patience, diligence and co-operation as well as their willingness to share their resources was truly a joy to see.

As we continue the journey into this new era of minimum standards we believe it is important that we support our students in each and every stage of their growth and development so that they are able to see NAPLAN not as something to be endured but as another step in their progress and development. We will continue to support the long term development of our students on a K-12 continuum. We encourage our community to see each milestone as a part of a greater journey in life-long education.



Successful iBelieve Program

Marilyn Fraser *talks about the wonderful initiative.*



THE IBELIEVE PROGRAM is valuable to our Indigenous Students for a number of reasons. The students learn about Aboriginality, self-esteem, self-harm, depression, career goals and dreams, decision making good and bad, what type of learner they are and public speaking all in a culturally sensitive safe way. Students engage with cultural rich knowledge and practical activities which help shape their unique identities and develop their personal skills to deal with lifelong challenges.

Essentially the iBelieve Program reinforces the importance of schooling and motivates students to set high standards and realistic goals for themselves. The program is successful because Dominic Dates from Wollotuka Institute at the Newcastle University is so passionate and empowers our students to make educated choices about their future aspirations and pathways.

Celebrating Family Reading Month

Jackie Crowe *talks about our love of reading and pizza!*

MAY IS NATIONAL Family Reading Month. We celebrated this wonderful initiative with our Family Reading and Pizza Night @ the Library on Wednesday, 17 May. Over 65 families joined us to share together the love of reading (and pizza!). Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Not only is it positively linked to Literacy-related benefits like comprehension, vocabulary and grammar but it also increases general knowledge, empathy and understanding of other cultures. It was a privilege to host this event which saw so many parents, grandparents, carers and children come together to enjoy time to read for pleasure. A massive thank you to everyone who came and a special thanks to our fabulous MCC Library team, our Family Liaison Officer Natalie Tunstead, teachers Mavis Gyamfi and Angela Dunn, students Zara Barrett, Trinity Young, Blake and Shakirra Escott, Abbie McDonald and ex-student Ebony McGovern. We have a wonderful community at MacKillop and with your help and support we were able to distribute 250 pizza boxes to hungry readers in under 10 minutes!



“Is Shakespeare Dead?”

Kathy Yates *talks about the wonderful performance from Bell Shakespeare Players.*



ON 3 MAY the English Faculty were delighted to host the Bell Shakespeare Players at the College. The Players performed for Years 8, 9 and 10 and gamely put forward the case that Shakespeare's plays are as relevant in our modern, fast paced, digital world as they were in Shakespeare's time.

In a one hour performance they shared with the audience some of Shakespeare's creative language that we use today without even knowing- dead as a doornail -as well as some of his language that didn't quite take on, for instance smilet. They taught the audience how to insult someone with Shakespearean flair, 'Thou bootless knotty-pated coxcomb' and how to start a good old fashioned brawl, 'I will bite my thumb at them, which is a disgrace to them.'

We also found out what it was like in Shakespeare's time, drinking beer instead of water because the water was polluted, watching bear baiting instead of television and throwing tomatoes at actors on stage if you don't like the performance. But most of all we found out why Shakespeare was still relevant today. Shakespeare wrote about issues that are still important to us today: young love, fights with friends or parents and the corruption of kings and people in power.

In the students' words:

'The acting parts were the best part of our incursion; it was really cool to see how much they remembered and how professional they were.' - Iona

I especially liked when they got Mr Webster to be the role of the queen in one of the performances. - Jasmine

'I learnt a lot in the performance...75 characters got killed in war, were poisoned or shot...' - Diana

'By breaking the story down Bell Shakespeare made the story easier to understand.'- Lachlan

'Battle of the Chefs' 2017

Kath Ardern *shares our students cooking skills.*

ON FRIDAY 12 May, three Hospitality students, Alana Robertson (Year 12), Matthew Borg (Year 11) and Sean Evans (Year 11) competed at St Peters Catholic College Tuggerah in the third Diocesan Battle of the Chefs competition against six other diocesan schools.

All schools had the same menu to prepare, which needed to be completed within the three-hour time allocation. The menu comprised of Entrée – Roast Pumpkin, Rocket and Asparagus Salad with Sesame Dressing; Main Course – Shallow Poached Chicken Breast with Chive Cream Sauce (accompanied with Sweet Potato, Corn and Beans; and Dessert – Lemon Tart with Chantilly Cream. Two portions of each course were to be presented, one to the judges and the second to the attending guests. The judges for the competition were from TAFE and a local reputable establishment.

In order for the students to be successful, workflows & standard recipe cards needed to be developed, knowing that the judges would be checking that the work flows/recipe cards were being followed on the day. Teamwork, organisational skills, workplace hygiene, safe work practices and correct methods of cookery, as well as final product were all assessed.

Mackillop students were highly professional in their application of the menu. Upon judging, they did not place this year but were given positive feedback from the judges. The day was extremely well organised and a signed Julie Goodwin cookbook was given to all student participants. It is envisaged that this competition will be an annual event and are looking forward to entering again in 2018.



Primary sports success

Kellie Denneman *gives the results of CCC Cross Country and Polding Winter Trials.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 100 students who represented MacKillop at the CCC Cross Country at Mt Penang in Week 1 this term. Your commitment to achieving personal best and striving to represent your school with pride was evident. Well Done! Our school finished 9th place on overall points in this event.

We applaud the following 10 students who have progressed to represent the CCC Cluster at Broken Bay Cross Country at Fagan Park on 23 May - Elise Arthur, Keely Swaysland, Emily Sanders, Zoe Henderson, Emma Jones, Connor Hibbard, Sebastian Varndell, Josh Hyland, Brandon Whitmore, Zack Goddard

Mackillop had 5 students representing the Broken Bay Diocese at Polding Winter Team Trials in Bathurst during Week 1 this term – Zoe Henderson, Isaac Zappala, Will Barr (Soccer), Thomas Taylor (Rugby League) & Emma Jones (Hockey). Unfortunately, Jack Dedman was unable to take his place in the 11Yrs League team due to injury. We congratulate Will Barr (Yr 6) on being selected into the Polding Boys Soccer Team. He will now participate in the NSWPSA Carnival in Armidale in August this year.

Great results in Secondary Sport

Duncan Black *shares the sport results with us.*

THIS TERM HAS started with some great results for students and staff in sport.

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all the Year 7–10 students who participated in the College Cross Country Carnival on Thursday, 30 March. The students ran the course at Soldiers Beach before torrential rain and wind set in. Congratulations to those students who participated in the events and then went on to represent the College at the BBSSA Cross Country. Thank you to the PDHPE staff and students for your cooperation and support.

- Champion House - Alma
- Under 12, Caleb Pantos and Trinity Young
- Under 13, Zachariah Waddell and Kaitlyn Norris
- Under 14, Ethan Falconer and Mia Middleton
- Under 15, Brock Ray and Shae Slattery
- Under 16, Jamison Costa and Victoria Coppen

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Tuesday, 16 May the Secondary College had their Athletics carnival. 900 students and staff were transported to Mingara Athletics Centre by bus. The first race started at 9.15am with the 1500m run. All students went off to their chosen events throughout the day with each giving their all in every event.

I would like thank those students who participated and cheered their fellow class mates on and staff that attended their event stations for the day in the heat. Thank you to the hospitality department, for providing great food and refreshments to the staff.

- Champion House Alma
- Age Champions
- Under 12, Megan Hulbert and Lachlan Bishop
- Under 13, Kaitlyn Norris and Ethan Jeffrey
- Under 14, Samara Ross and Ashley Wilson
- Under 15, Carissa Harrison and Kaleb Daley
- Under 16, Georgia Ray and Nathan Ward
- 17 plus, Jordyn Toms-Wedge and Jarryd Walter

BBSSA SPORT

Touch

Under 13/15 Boys/Girls– selection

Due to weather conditions the gala days were cancelled for both our under 13 boys and girls team and under 15 boy and girls teams. An Under 15 selection day replaced the gala and several students attended.

Milla Evans (Year 9) was selected into the Broken Bay team.

Open Boys and Girls

The boys and girls Open touch football teams played in the recent touch championships at Frenchs Forest, with both teams finishing 3rd. Congratulations to Teearna Langbridge (Year 11) on her selection into the Broken Bay team.

SOCCER

Open Boys and Girls

Both teams played extremely well, making it through to the semi-finals. Stella Maris and St Edwards College were the stronger teams on the day.

Congratulations to Jordan Toms-Wedge (Year 12), Jade Kroemer (Year 10), Hannah Pratt (Year 10), Jake Racz (Year 12) and Joshua Iannazzo (Year 12) who were selected into the Broken Bay Soccer teams.

BBSSA CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the students who travelled to St. Ives Showground for the annual BBSSA Cross Country. Well done to our under 12 boys' team who came 3rd in their events.

Congratulations to William Enraght Mooney, Jamison Costa and Georgia Ray for being selected to compete in the NSW CCC cross country in June.

NSW CCC AND NSW ALL SCHOOLS SPORTS

Congratulations to the following students who have trialled and been selected for NSW CCC and NSW All Schools.

NSW ALL SCHOOLS

- Nathan Ward - Swimming
- Jack Taylor – Softball

NSW CCC

- Milla Evans – Netball,
- Pyper Denneman – Girls AFL
- Annika Boyd – Golf
- Kelsey Collins-Brown – Baseball
- Ella McKay – Swimming
- Tyson Scicluna – Swimming
- Nathan Ward – Swimming

COMMUNITY SPORT

Congratulations to the following students who have competed at an elite sporting level outside of school:

- Demi Evans (Year 12) - Under 19s Australian Netball team
- April Hart (Year 11) - Sydney Royal Easter Show – 6th
- Darcy Heffernan (Year 9) - NSW State Sporting Championship – Overall place 4th, Sydney Royal Easter Show – Team Sporting – 5th Place, Aberdeen Inter-School – 14 year old Champion rider, Scone Interschool – 15 year old Champion rider.



Artist of the month

Jillian Young showcases Year 9 Visual Arts students.

HOWARD ARKLEY INSPIRES Year 9 to paint their suburb.



Healthy Harold visits

Kylie Huggins *talks about the visit from the Life Education mobile van.*

HEALTHY HAROLD VISITED MacKillop recently and by all accounts, the students had a great time learning about leading a healthy life. Life Education has been empowering children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education for more than 35 years.

The programme reaches over 640,000 children across all seven states in Australia, with over 100 mobile learning centres and 95 specially trained educators. By placing preventive education at the core of their work, Life Education aim to instil in children the confidence to make safer and healthier choices now and in the future.

Programmes are designed that are relevant to children and young people, as well as their families and communities. Programmes focus on issues around food and nutrition, personal safety, physical activity, cyber safety and safety with medicine and legal drugs; tobacco, alcohol and caffeine.

When visiting the Life Education mobile van the students engage in problem solving activities that enable them to develop strategies and practice the skills required to avoid the harms associated with an unhealthy lifestyle.

The highlight of each visit is, of course, a visit from Healthy Harold. This life like giraffe has been entertaining the students of MacKillop for many years now and is always a big hit with the younger students.



Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Michael Rickards *talks about a great few days.*



ON THE FIRST day of school this term, Year 7 gathered early in the morning in the Science area to embark on our trip to The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens for the Year 7 camp. The eagerness and excitement was obvious as this was our first overnight event for the group, with another camp scheduled in Year 9 and retreats in Years 10 and 11.

The main reason for our Year 7 camp is to get to know each other better as a cohort as we will be spending a lot of time with each other over the next 6 years of schooling. It was fantastic from the teachers' perspective to see the students step outside their comfort zone and form new friendships. The Great Aussie Bush camp activities, instructors and events have always been of a very high standard and the students always come away tired but with the satisfaction of achieving something. Some highlights of the camp include the giant swing, group challenges and night contests.

I would really like to thank Mrs Black, Mrs Symons, Mrs Briggs, Mr Hughes, Mrs Martin, Mrs Williams, Mrs Cotter and Mr Moore for giving of their time to be available for the camp.

Finally the area I was most proud of as a Year Coordinator was the students' behaviour and support of one another when engaging with each of the outdoor activities. I hope this will be an attitude that continues to grow and develop throughout our years.

Celebrating women in our lives

Natalie Tunstead *shares the celebration of Mother's Day.*

I HOPE ALL mothers, grandmothers, aunts, friends and other special people in our students lives enjoyed a wonderful day on Sunday, 14 May. Our Mother's day stall in Primary went well thanks to a large number of volunteer parents who helped with this process.

This year at the request of many working parents we decided to try a Mother's Day Breakfast instead of morning tea. The breakfast was followed by an opportunity to spend time in the children's classrooms and then a special Mother's Day Mass. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the morning and we hope that it was enjoyed by all who attended.

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our next Parent Forum on Monday, 5 June at 7pm in the staff lounge. Refreshments will be provided.



Primary shares their drawings

Kerry Power *shows some wonderful work from Primary.*

